

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **21 APRIL 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

SUBJECT: **NORTH WALES REGIONAL SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT SERVICE (GWE) – CHANGES TO
CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek approval for changes to the membership of the GwE Joint Committee in response to the adoption of the National Model for Regional Working.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The guidance document – National Model for Regional Working was published by the Welsh Government in February 2014. The 6 partner Councils in North Wales resolved in the Spring of 2014 to:

- Approve the National Model for Regional Working in Wales in relation to School Improvement.
- Adopt the National Model for Regional Working on School Improvement and develop a business plan with the intention that the additional services listed in the Model be incorporated into the GwE regional model, in phases, subject to a satisfactory business case for each and a supporting transition plan to ensure service continuity and performance.

2.02 At its meeting of 6 November 2014, the Joint Committee gave detailed consideration to a revised governance structure in response to the National Model. The revised structure reflected the arrangements set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The current delegated functions of the Joint Committee are considered sufficient to address the requirements of the National Model.

2.03 Appendix 2 sets out revisions to the membership of the Joint Committee and establishment of an Advisory Board and Management Board to support the Managing Director and Senior Management Team in the management of GwE.

2.04 As part of the Joint Committee review it is suggested that Gwynedd Standing Orders are adopted in relation to quorum which would mean, in the case of the Joint Committee, that three voting members would

need to be present to effect a quorum. The current quorum of five elected members is considered too high and practically difficult to manage.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Advisory Board membership and functions reflect the “Executive Board” concept in the National Model but with powers of recommendation.
- 3.02 The Management Board will have decision making powers and the apportionment and delegation of functions are set out in the Table in Appendix 3. This approach was adopted as a result of independent legal advice that there was sufficient uncertainty about delegating decisions to the Advisory Board to favour an alternative model.
- 3.03 The model also formalises the supportive role which the Directors of Education have provided in supporting the GwE management team and provides a forum for providing input from the six authorities on more operational matters which has facilitated decision making.
- 3.04 The Management Board can also act as an authorising body for financial decisions at an intermediate level below the Joint Committee.
- 3.05 As a result it is recommended that the members of the Management Board attend the Joint Committee in an officer function in future as opposed to being members of the Committee.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet approves the amended governance arrangements for GwE, the North Wales Regional School Improvement Service in order to comply with the requirements of the National Model for Regional Working.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a direct result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a direct result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a direct result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a direct result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a direct result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a direct result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 These changes have been considered and approved by the Joint Committee of North Wales regional school improvement service.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 - Proposed Structure
Appendix 2 - Membership
Appendix 3 - Functions of Advisory and Management Board

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

National Model for Regional Working - Welsh Government Guidance 2014.

Report to GwE Joint Committee 29.9.2014 - " GwE Governance Arrangements"

Report to GwE Joint Committee 6 November 2014 - "GwE Governance Arrangements"

Contact Officer: Ian Budd
Telephone: 01352 704010
Email: ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk