

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER, GOVERNANCE**

SUBJECT: **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To consider the recommendation from the Constitution Committee for a new Overview & Scrutiny Committee structure.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 At the Annual Meeting last year, it was resolved that there was a need for a review of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny committees and that the Chief Executive should prepare a scoping report for the Constitution Committee.

2.02 The scoping report, which contained a series of suggested design principles for a new structure, was considered by the committee at its meeting on 15th October. It was agreed that a range of options, observing those design principles should be prepared for the 28th January meeting.

2.03 Following initial consideration of the options by the committee at that meeting, a politically balanced working group comprising Councillors Aaron Shotton, Bernie Attridge, Marion Bateman, Clive Carver, Robin Guest, Ron Hampson, Tim Newhouse and Mike Peers was established. This was to consider the issues and make recommendations to a future meeting of the committee.

2.04 The working group met on 4th March and after identifying a preferred model, invited the officers to prepare draft terms of reference for the committees within the proposed new structure. A further report, containing the preferred model, together with terms of reference for the six committees within that structure, was then considered by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 15th April.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The model which the working group had identified as its preferred option is at Appendix 1. It was approved by the Constitution Committee for recommendation to the Council. This model was preferred because it reflects the Council's current operating model, includes an Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee and removes the inefficient reporting lines which had occurred since the adoption of the new operating model.
- 3.02 The proposed terms of reference are attached as Appendix 2 to this report. These were approved unanimously by the Constitution Committee for recommendation to the Council.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That the Overview & Scrutiny committee structure at Appendix 1 be adopted with immediate effect.
- 4.02 That the terms of reference which are contained in Appendix 2 be approved.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The proposals are cost neutral.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None arising directly from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There will still be a specific committee which covers environmental issues.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None arising directly from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 The new structure will require the same staffing levels as that which it is to replace.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 No further consultation is required.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Throughout this process, consultation has been carried out with the Constitution committee, group leaders, the Constitution Committee working group members, the Chief officer team and senior officers.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed new Overview & Scrutiny structure.

Appendix 2- Terms of reference for the proposed new Overview & Scrutiny committees.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1. Report to the Constitution Committee – Scoping the Review of the Overview & Scrutiny Structure – 15th October 2014 and resultant minute.
2. Report to the Constitution Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Structure – 28th January 2015 and resultant minute.
3. Report to the Constitution Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee Structure – 15th April 2105 and resultant minute.

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