

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
DATE: **THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2015**
REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT: **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015/16**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To review the contents of the Improvement Plan 2015/16 to inform the final approval by Cabinet and County Council on 23 June.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan. It is a statutory requirement for the County Council to adopt the Improvement Plan.

2.02 Improvement Objectives and an accompanying Improvement Plan were first set and adopted by the Council in 2011. For 2013/14 the Council thoroughly reviewed the priorities to streamline them and reset them with clearer outcome based aims. A revised set of eight priorities supported by a structure of sub-priorities was adopted.

2.03 The Plan presentation also changed providing detail for each of the priorities which were to have the most impact during the year. This has helped the organisation to concentrate on the outcomes where most immediate attention was needed.

2.04 The WAO in its Corporate Assessment report of March 2015 said that *“the Council has established a wide-ranging set of clearly-stated priorities that have a broad base of support within the Council and among partners”*.

In addition the report commented on: *“The Council sets out its vision clearly within its Improvement Plan, as required by the Local Government Measure 2009 (the Measure). For 2014-15, the Council’s coherent set of eight strategic priorities is underpinned by more detailed sub-priorities, some of which are identified clearly as areas of particular focus during the year. Though wide-ranging, the Council’s vision demonstrates a clear commitment to continuous improvement, reflected by targets for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its services, particularly those associated with its in-year Improvement*

Objectives.”

The format and content of the Plan was also commented upon: *“The Council has worked hard to improve the quality of this key plan and the Improvement Plan for 2014-15 is a clear and accessible document that sets out far more clearly than before what the Council plans to do and how its success might be measured and evaluated.”*

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 For 2015/16 a review of the current priorities and sub-priorities has been undertaken to set: -

- priorities that continue into 2015/16 for sustained attention;
- priorities that can now be removed as completion of a time-limited piece of work e.g. review of Social Services Transition Service or merger of Flintshire and Denbighshire Procurement Units;
- priorities which could be broadened e.g. Business Sector Growth in Deeside to become Business Sector Growth;
- priorities which could be merged e.g. Road Safety with Transport Infrastructure and Services;
- emerging priorities for 2015/16 e.g. Enabling Resilient Communities.

Sub-priorities have also been set to take into account Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny priorities, priorities of partners, public views and service demands and national policy and legislation.

3.02 For each sub-priority which continues to be high profile for 2015/16 there has been a review based on: -

- the reasoning for the priority status;
- what we will do and how we will measure achievement; and
- the risks that will need to be managed.

3.03 The Improvement Plan in totality is presented as 2 documents that are inter-related; firstly the ‘public’ version of our statements of intent around the 8 priorities (Appendix 1) and secondly the document that describes the targets and milestones on which achievement will be measured (Appendix 2). This is the document that is used by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees to monitor progress during the year.

Appendix 1 is the core content of the 8 priorities; the final document will have more contextual information plus information that is required to be in the Plan as part of the Measure.

3.04 The working draft documents have been considered by Members attending a workshop on 29 May alongside the proposed targets and

classifications for the statutory national performance indicators. Appendix 3 describes the key issues raised by Members at the workshop along with a response.

- 3.05 The final Improvement Plan will be available as a web-based document published on the website by the end of June.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members to review the contents of the Improvement Plan 2015/16 to inform the final approval by Cabinet and endorsement by County Council.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is aligned to resource these priorities.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 Poverty is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2015/16.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 Environment is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2015/16.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 Equalities will be taken into consideration through any policy changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 Any personnel implications will be considered through any relevant changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Feedback on the Improvement Plan is invited to assist with both contributing on our priorities and further improvement in presentation and format. This feedback is encouraged from the public, workforce, our key partners and businesses.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 The Chief Officers and senior officers have contributed and helped shape the Improvement Plan 2015/16. In addition the Wales Audit Office has been informally consulted.

11.02 Members were invited to comment on the Plan and its contents alongside the proposed targets and classifications for statutory national performance indicators at a workshop on 29 May.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 **Appendix 1: Working draft of Improvement Plan 2015/16**

Appendix 2: Improvement Plan 2015/16 “How we measure our achievements”

Appendix 3: Feedback and response from Members’ Workshop 29.05.15

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer: Karen Armstrong
Telephone: 01352 702740
Email: karen.armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk