

CABINET MEETING

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 13 October 2015
Report Subject	Outcome Agreement 2014/15
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Outcome Agreement was a three year agreement (2013/14 to 2015/16) between the Council and Welsh Government. It was based on five strategic themes, drawn from the Welsh Government's 'Programme for Government'.

This report presents the end of year self-assessment of progress against the Outcome Agreement for the second year (2014/15).

The assessment is based on two components; (1) outcomes and (2) corporate governance. The self-assessment reveals full compliance with both parts and subject to Welsh Government concurring with the self-assessment, it is expected that Flintshire will receive 100% of the grant; approximately £1.458M.

Welsh Government have written to all Local Authorities to advise that as part of simplifying funding arrangements, the grant which currently supports Outcome Agreements will be rolled into the Revenue Support Grant for 2016/17 onward; formally bringing this initiative to an end in March 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

1	Cabinet to note the progress made against the Outcome Agreement for 2014/15.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE OUTCOME AGREEMENT										
1.01	Outcome Agreements were initially introduced by Welsh Government to identify how we work toward improving outcomes for local people against the Government's National priorities.										
1.02	<p>The current Outcome Agreement was a three year agreement (2013/14 to 2015/16) based on five strategic themes from the Welsh Government's 'Programme for Government'. One broad outcome was selected from within each theme. The themes and outcomes were agreed by Welsh Government and approved by Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and Sustainable Jobs (Supporting the economy and business) • Education (Improving school attainment) • 21st Century Health Care (Ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives) • Welsh Homes/Supporting People (Welsh Homes, Improving Quality) • Tackling Poverty (Improving the skills of young people and families) <p>The themes and outcomes are reflective of some of the Council's Improvement Plan sub-priorities.</p>										
1.03	The annual assessment of the Outcome Agreement is no longer based solely on the achievement of outcomes. The structure of the current Outcome Agreement framework comprises two distinct components: Part 1 - outcomes; and Part 2 – corporate governance. The Outcome Agreement Grant is also split in two parts; 70% for the delivery of better outcomes and 30% based on standards of corporate governance arrangements within the Authority.										
1.04	<p>For assessment of achievement of Part 1 the authority is required to provide a self-assessment of the extent to which it has delivered against agreed outcomes. Scoring each outcome as fully successful (two points), partially successful (one point) or unsuccessful (zero). The points credited to each outcome are totalled and the proportion of Outcome Agreement grant (70%) awarded is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="592 1715 1086 1906"> <thead> <tr> <th>Score</th> <th>Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8 - 10</td> <td>Full payment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 or 7</td> <td>75% payment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 or 5</td> <td>50% payment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less than 4</td> <td>No payment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Score	Grant	8 - 10	Full payment	6 or 7	75% payment	4 or 5	50% payment	Less than 4	No payment
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1.05	<p>The Authority is not required to make a submission for assessment of Part 2. This is based on standards of corporate governance as reported by the Auditor General for Wales. Consideration is taken as to whether:</p> <p>a) The Auditor General for Wales has made any statutory recommendations to the Welsh Ministers to provide assistance to</p>										

	<p>the Authority through improvement assessment letters or reports following any special inspections; or</p> <p>b) The Auditor General for Wales has made any statutory recommendations to the Welsh Ministers to give direction to the Authority through improvement assessment letters or reports following any special inspections; or</p> <p>c) The Authority has already had some, or all, of its corporate governance functions removed from the Authority, i.e. the Authority is already subject to statutory intervention.</p>																														
1.06	The total possible grant for the Authority is approximately £1.458M.																														
1.07	<p>The second year's performance (2014/15) is complete and taking into consideration performance against the actions and measures for each outcome theme, all 5 themes were fully successful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Flintshire County Council Outcome Agreement Self-Assessment 2014/15</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Basis</th> <th>Evaluation</th> <th>Max Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Outcomes</td> <td>Growth and Sustainable Jobs</td> <td>Supporting the economy and business</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">Fully successful: 2 points</td> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Improving school attainment</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">Fully successful: 2 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21st Century Health Care</td> <td>Ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">Fully successful: 2 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welsh Homes / Supporting People</td> <td>Welsh Homes, Improving Quality</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">Fully successful: 2 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tackling Poverty</td> <td>Improving the skills of young people and families</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">Fully successful: 2 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">External Review</td> <td colspan="2">Statutory recommendations from the Auditor General for Wales to the Welsh Ministers to your Local Authority?</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">No</td> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Existing intervention or formal tailored support programme?</td> <td style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Basis		Evaluation	Max Grant	Outcomes	Growth and Sustainable Jobs	Supporting the economy and business	Fully successful: 2 points	70%	Education	Improving school attainment	Fully successful: 2 points	21st Century Health Care	Ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives	Fully successful: 2 points	Welsh Homes / Supporting People	Welsh Homes, Improving Quality	Fully successful: 2 points	Tackling Poverty	Improving the skills of young people and families	Fully successful: 2 points	External Review	Statutory recommendations from the Auditor General for Wales to the Welsh Ministers to your Local Authority?		No	30%	Existing intervention or formal tailored support programme?		No
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1.08	<p>Welsh Government have recently written to the Chief Executives of each local authority to advise that as part of simplifying funding arrangements <i>“the Minister for Public Services decided that the £30m grant which currently supports Outcome Agreements will be rolled into the Revenue Support Grant for 2016-17 onwards, thus formally bringing this initiative to an end in March 2016”</i>.</p>																														

1.09	Flintshire's completed self-assessment and associated documentation has been forwarded to Welsh Government for review. As in previous years, the level of grant paid is dependent on their assessment and the extent to which they assess individual agreements have been delivered.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Should Welsh Government's assessment not concur with Flintshire's self-assessment, the level of the grant paid against part 1 may reduce.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Local Service Board will be informed of any collaborative or joint arrangements for achievement.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	See paragraph 2.01 above.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Detailed self-assessment report – Theme 1
5.02	Detailed self-assessment report – Theme 2
5.03	Detailed self-assessment report – Theme 3
5.04	Detailed self-assessment report – Theme 4
5.05	Detailed self-assessment report – Theme 5
5.06	Welsh Government letter to Local Authority Chief Executives

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Outcome Agreement 2013-2016 Guidance</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicki Robarts Performance Team Leader</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 701457</p> <p>E-mail: vicki.c.robarts@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Outcome Agreements: exist between each individual local authority and the Welsh Government. They aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an outcome focused approach to local and national performance; aligned to Welsh Government's 'Programme for Government', whilst retaining a local focus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a more effective accountability framework by incentivising improvement and the delivery of quality local outcomes. • Streamline and strengthen relationships between the Welsh Government and local government, reducing the administrative overhead and facilitating the delivery of efficiency savings.
7.02	<u>Programme for Government:</u> Welsh Government's plan of action, representing its commitment to delivery, measured by the impact government is actually having on people's lives.
7.03	Corporate Governance: the system by which local authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities. It is founded on the basic principles of openness and inclusivity, integrity and accountability together with the overarching concept of leadership. It is an inter-related system that brings together the underlying set of legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes.
7.04	Auditor General for Wales: Appointed by the Queen and independent of government the Auditor General for Wales is the statutory external auditor of most of the Welsh public sector.
7.05	Revenue Support Grant (RSG): is paid to each Council to cover the cost of providing standard services less the Council Tax income at the standard level.