

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND
IMPROVEMENT SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek Cabinet approval for the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Joint Committee to be established following the earlier decision to accept the Full Business Case and establish a new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service. .

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The six North Wales Local Authorities resolved in March 2012:
- (a) To support and approve the Full Business Case for the establishment of a Regional Schools Effectiveness and Improvement Service by April 2013.
 - (b) To support the North Wales Education Programme Board's recommendation that a Joint-committee with a Host Authority be adopted as a model of governance.
 - (c) To agree a Host Authority (subsequently Gwynedd Council) for the Regional Service.
- 2.02 The Chief Executives' Group for the six Local Authorities subsequently approved Gwynedd Council as the Host Authority for the Regional Service.
- 2.03 Following a detailed options appraisal the recommendation in the Full Business Case was that a governance model based on a Joint Committee / Host Authority approach be adopted. The project plan for establishing the Service is on track.
- 2.04 The Partnership is to be underpinned by a formal agreement ('Inter Authority Agreement') which gives effect to the decision of March 2012 to establish the Service. The Inter Authority Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the Partners and the Hosting Authority as well as governance arrangements. As part of that process the Full Business Case identified an outline structure for the Joint Committee however, the specific details of membership and Terms of Reference were to be the subject of further consideration and work. This report now recommends the formal terms of reference and membership of

the Joint Committee based on the Full Business Case and further Legal advice.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 **JOINT COMMITTEE**

The possible membership structure of the Joint Committee was set out in the Business Case together with an acknowledgement that this would need to be further refined. The Full Business Case as accepted also outlined the scope of the proposed service and the function of the Joint Committee within that structure. The Joint Committee will be governed by the Procedure Rules of the Host Authority.

3.02 **JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The proposed membership of the Joint Committee set out below reflects the structure outlined in the Full Business Case. The key change is in relation to the voting rights of the Co-opted members. There is a legal constraint which means that Co-opted members of the Joint Committee may not vote on resolutions*.

The quorum necessary for a Joint Committee meeting shall be five voting (5) members of the Joint Committee. The Agreement will also provide for the attendance of a deputy if required.

Voting Members	Officer Members –Non Voting
6x Education Portfolio Members <i>one from each NW LA</i>	6x Statutory Chief Education Officers <i>one from each NW LA</i>
Co-opted Non-voting Members*	Officers in Attendance
1x Diocesan Representative <i>nominated from across the Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor Diocese, on a rotating bi-annual term</i>	1x Legal Representative from the host authority
1x Primary School Representative 1x Secondary School Representative 1x Special School Representative	1x S151 Representative from the host authority

1x Governor Representative	Other specialists as requested
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As provided for in the Full Business Case the RSEIS Schools and Governors User Group would nominate a Secondary, Primary, Special and Governor representative to take the respective seats on the Joint Committee.

3.03 **JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED FUNCTIONS**

The Inter Authority Agreement will also define the governance arrangements for the Joint Committee, including its Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers. In doing so it will also identify which matters are specifically reserved to the individual partner authorities to determine. The proposed terms of reference and delegated powers of the Joint Committee are:

- I. to promote joint working in the delivery of the Service through:
 - facilitating constructive partnership working;
 - engaging with key interested bodies and stakeholders when appropriate; and
 - carrying out such other activities calculated to facilitate, or which are conducive to the successful delivery of the Service; and
- II. to oversee the management of the Service and ensure that the Service is provided and performs in accordance with the expectations of the Partner Authorities as reflected in the Full Business Case, Inter Authority Agreement and agreed Annual Business and Commissioning Plans;
- III. to approve the budget for the Service on an annual basis’;
- IV. to approve the business plan for the Service on an annual basis;
- V. to monitor and manage the risks associated with the Service;
- VI. to ratify requests from the Service for additional budget funding from individual Councils;
- VII. to approve the staff structure of the Service;
- VIII. to appoint the Chief Officer of the Service;
- IX. to decide on disciplinary action against the Chief Officer; and
- X. where required, to determine or arrange for the determination of appeals in relation to Human Resources matters.

3.04 The following matters are specifically reserved for individual Cabinet decision:

- I. approval of inter-Council partnership governance arrangements;
- II. increase of budget over agreed Council contributions;

- III. procuring the necessary audit and assurance checks; and
- IV. termination of the Partnership.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Cabinet is requested to:

1. Confirm the establishment of the Joint Committee in accordance with the report.
2. Appoint the Cabinet Member for Education to represent the Authority on the Joint Committee.
3. Approve the Terms of Reference and Delegated functions of the Joint Committee as set out in paragraph 3.03 and 3.04 of the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

There are no new anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There are no new environmental implications arising from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

No additional consultation is required in relation to the governance of the service. Consultation is ongoing in relation to operational and staffing arrangements.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has been undertaken in relation to the Full Business Case (including Governance) for the service.

12.00 APPENDICES

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Full Business Case for the Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service.

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