

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**                 **18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**REPORT BY:**         **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SUBJECT:**           **IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES REVIEW**

**1.00   PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01   To begin a review and resetting of the Improvement Priorities for the new Council for the period 2012-2017
- 1.02   To agree to receive the Improvement Plan 2012 – 2017 at the next Cabinet meeting prior to presentation for adoption at the County Council in October 2012.

**2.00   BACKGROUND**

- 2.01   It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and to publish an Improvement Plan.
- 2.02   The Improvement Objectives were adopted by the County Council as the Improvement Plan in June 2011.
- 2.03   These priorities have been shaped by Councillors in the previous Council across the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions and provide continuity for past, present and future performance against which the Council can be judged this level of engagement led to widespread ownership of the priorities for further planning. The Improvement Priorities were then re-adopted for ongoing review by the new Council in July 2012.
- 2.04   The Improvement Plan and the progress reporting document the Annual Performance Report are audited by the Wales Audit Office as part of the annual Corporate and Performance Assessments respectively.

**3.00   CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01   The current set of 10 Council priorities (the Improvement Objectives), are extensive and are supported by a more detailed set of secondary Improvement priorities and are detailed within the Improvement Plan 2011/12.

3.02 They are also set out in the three Directorate plans for Community Services, Environment and Lifelong Learning, and in the corporate governance plans. The corporate governance plans are the Improvement Plan, the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) and the four business plans for the corporate resources the Asset Plan: the ICT and Customer Services Strategies: the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan: the People Strategy.

3.03 Progress against all the priorities has been regularly reported via the themes - Quarterly Performance reports and twice annually as a complete set.

3.04 The Improvement Priorities:

- reflect what is currently important in Flintshire e.g. housing
- cover the areas where we need to modernise and improve e.g. HR
- fit well with Welsh Government social policy and the Programme for Government e.g. social care reform
- fit well with local partner priorities e.g. health reform
- fit well with the priorities for regional collaboration
- fit well with the Programme for Change of the new Leadership.

The Improvement Priorities framework is proving effective. The framework:-

- guides management to concentrate on what is important
- provides a fit between the 'bigger picture' at corporate level with the detail of Directorate plans and team plans right down to appraisals at service level
- guides the allocation of resources both at annual budget-setting time and in-year
- influences the priorities of key partners.

Above all, the assessment shows that the Council has a good record of achievement against the Priorities as detailed in the Cabinet report in July using the 'traffic light system'.

3.05 Given this sound basis the Improvement Priorities are being built upon and added to by the new Council, with local political priorities including:

- Social enterprise
- Apprenticeships and Youth Unemployment
- Community Development and Events

The Improvement Plan for the period 2012 – 2017 which includes the priorities will be brought to the next Cabinet meeting and presented for adoption by the County Council in October 2012.

3.06 The priorities will be subject to any on-going review by the Council

and subject to change by local choice, Welsh Government policy and the economic and social context. The priorities may be changed due to the intensions of the Administration or the full Council or through the budget process.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 To begin to review and re-set the Council's Improvement Priorities for 2012 – 2017.

4.02 To agree to receive the Improvement Plan 2012 - 2017 at the next Cabinet meeting for adoption by the County Council in October 2012.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None directly related to this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None directly related to this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None directly related to this report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None directly related to this report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None directly related to this report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.1 Consultation will be undertaken as part of the continual review of these priorities.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.1 The priorities have been shaped by all Councillors in the previous Council across the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions and been subject to review by the new Council and Corporate Management Team.

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

**None**

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

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Improvement Plan 2011/12

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