

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
HEAD OF FINANCE

SUBJECT: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 For Council to approve the annual governance statement.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 For each financial year the Council is required to produce an annual governance statement (AGS) as part of its final accounts. This statement explains how the Council has complied with its code of corporate governance and it also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010.

2.02 For the financial year 2011/12 the AGS has been prepared in a different way to previous years. The preparation of a draft AGS has been coordinated by the Corporate Governance Officer Working Group who have reported to the Chief Executive, the Section 151 officer and the Monitoring Officer on its work. The core membership of that working group is shown in appendix 1. Each of the three service Directors also has a senior officer who is the designated lead for that Directorate on corporate governance issues.

2.03 The preparation of the AGS has been informed by the corporate governance self-assessment undertaken by each of the Council's Heads of Service for their service area. Where appropriate this assessment received a light touch challenge from the Corporate Governance Working Group.

2.04 The draft AGS was prepared in compliance with "Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities: A Framework" published jointly by CIPFA and SOLACE. It was then submitted to the Chief Executive, the Section 151 officer and the Monitoring Officer for their observations.

- 2.05 The draft AGS was reported to the Audit Committee meeting of the 17 July when it was approved subject to two amendments. The first amendment was to indicate at the start the five sections of the statement. The second was to include at the start of section 2 reference to staff and other resources. These amendments have been incorporated into the AGS which is at the end of the statement of accounts attached to the previous item.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 In accordance with “Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities: A Framework”, the governance statement is divided into five numbered sections namely:-

1. Scope of responsibility
2. The purpose of the governance framework
3. The governance framework
4. Review of effectiveness
5. Significant governance issues.

- 3.02 At its meeting the Audit Committee members were requested to consider:-

1. Whether the statement accurately reflects the governance framework in place in the authority.
2. Whether the committee were satisfied with the overall review of effectiveness, and
3. Whether the committee agreed that the significant governance issues facing the authority are as described in the statement.

- 3.03 A lot of detailed work has gone into the production of the AGS and if a Member believes it to contain any inaccuracies or has any queries about it, it would be helpful if this could be raised prior to the meeting itself so that issues can be properly researched prior to the meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 For Council to approve the AGS.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 With appropriate senior officers and Audit Committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The preparation of the AGS involved consultation with all Heads of Service and with the Chief Executive, the Section 151 officer and the Monitoring Officer. It was also considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on the 17 July 2012.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Membership of the Working Group

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

Contact Officer: Peter Evans
Telephone: 01352 702304
Email: peter.j.evans@flintshire.gov.uk