

Report to: Standards Committee

Date of Meeting: 7th June 2013

Lead Officer: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Title: North Wales Standards Committees Forum

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with feedback from the meeting of the North Wales Standards Committees Forum held on 20th May 2013.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As Members are aware, the North Wales Standards Committees Forum has been in existence since April 2011. The Forum is attended by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Standards Committees of North Wales authorities together with their Monitoring Officers.

2.2 The Forum meets on a quarterly basis and is facilitated by Conwy County Borough Council.

2.3 Unfortunately, the Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer of Denbighshire were unable to attend the last meeting of the Forum on 20th May 2013.

2.4 Feedback has been obtained from Conwy County Borough Council and it is hoped that the minutes of the meeting will be available to be circulated prior to the Committee's meeting on 7th June.

2.5 The Forum received a summary of the feedback obtained in respect of the Standards Conference held on 19th April 2013.

2.6 The Forum also discussed the way in which it would organise its meetings in the future.

2.7 It was agreed that the Forum would rotate its meetings across the region in order that each member authority would host a meeting in turn. The arrangements for the collation of agendas etc. will continue to be organised by Conwy County Borough Council. Each authority will provide a minute taker in respect of a meeting of the Forum which it is hosting.

- 2.8 It will no longer be an expectation that all the Monitoring Officers attend each meeting. Instead, the Monitoring Officer of the authority hosting the meeting will attend and provide advice to the Forum. The Monitoring Officer will liaise with colleague Monitoring Officers prior to the meeting on issues to be discussed and provide feedback following the meeting.
- 2.9 It was agreed that each meeting of the Forum will involve an element of training for the Chairs and Vice Chairs.
- 2.10 There will be a Forward Work Plan for the Forum to assist in focusing the work of the Forum.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the report and comment on the proposed new working arrangements for the Forum.