

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Tuesday 6th March 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader), I.M. German, D.M. Holder, R.W. Hughes, G.M. Kensler, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts, W.R. Webb, K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers - Councillors M.LI. Davies, S. Drew, P. Douglas, F.D. Jones, M.M. Jones, J.A. Smith and W.G. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk and Corporate Director: Resources.

1. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following items which in his opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972:-

- (i) Minutes of the Emergency Cabinet meeting held on 28.02.2001;
- (ii) School Catering - Meat Supplies;
- (iii) The Leader of the Council submitted a report for external advertisement of a Planning Officer: Social Services Directorate, and
- (iv) Denbighshire Local Health Alliance Paper - for circulation only.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 22 February 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 February 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

The Minutes of the Emergency Cabinet held on 28 February 2001 were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

The Chief Executive explained that the Emergency Cabinet meeting had been convened in order to make an Order regarding the Foot and Mouth Disease, which had been followed by an amendment to the original Order made by MAFF and NAFW, the effect of which was to close all rural footpaths and land beyond to the public. The Chief Executive informed Members that the Order had reflected the need not to inhibit unduly the movement of those who reside adjacent to footpaths.

The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services updated Members on the Control Centre at Caledfryn which was open initially for a month, although Denbighshire had no outbreak. Collection of refuse from farm yards had ceased as had school transport to farm yards. Contract Services had produced the signs which had been made available to farmers to restrict access to land and were available from the One Stop Shops, Council premises and the website. Publicity leaflets had been distributed to schools. The cost to date was less than £10k and would be met from the Emergency Code. The Council's publicity trailer was stationed at Caledfryn and would be the base for the eventual issue of cattle movement licenses.

The Emergency Planning Officer said Denbighshire was carrying out advanced contingency planning and was in contact with other Counties. Advice on the holding of meetings was being examined.

Councillor R.W. Hughes said she was impressed with the way in which the team was working and had attended the Members Briefings. Councillor Hughes wished to record the Cabinet's thanks to the team.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 February 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3 SCHOOL CATERING - MEAT SUPPLIES

Councillor K.E. Wells, Cabinet Lead Member for Lifelong Learning submitted the report seeking Members' agreement to alternative arrangements for the provision of meat supplies for school meals during the Foot and Mouth Crisis. Consultations had been carried out with Contract Services and the Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Organisation.

RESOLVED that Members approved to substitute beef, pork and lamb with chicken or turkey if 'home killed' beef, pork and lamb were unavailable or the shortage dictated considerable price rises.

4 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) to determine whether Members would attend the LGA Conference in July 2001 at Harrogate and to also note agreement with the WLGA Reception arrangements at the LGA Conference.

Councillor W.R. Webb pointed out that the LGA Conference was always held on the same week as the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and suggested Denbighshire should not be represented.

Councillor D.M. Holder suggested the Chief Executive should attend. The Chief Executive said given the size and cost of the LGA Conference it would be more worthwhile to attend the WLGA Conference.

Councillor E.W. Williams said the cost of conference attendance would have to come from Members' Budget and no Members' expenses would be paid. This would curtail attendance at any other conferences during the year.

Councillor G.M. Kensler agreed with Councillor Webb and suggested that Denbighshire ask for copies of the Conference papers.

RESOLVED that Members agreed not to send a representative to the LGA Conference in July 2001 at Harrogate which would mean no attendance at the WLGA Reception at the Conference.

5 RECRUITMENT

The Leader of the Council submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking approval for external advertisement.

Tenant Participation Officer: Scale 5 Personal Services Directorate ~ Housing Services
Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety): PO1 Environment Directorate ~ Food Safety
Clerical Officers: Scale 2 Lifelong Learning Directorate ~ Education Services ~ TWO Posts
Temporary Clerk/Typist: Scale 1 / 2 (Local Land Charges) ~ Chief Executive's ~ County Clerk's Dept
Part Time Administrative Assistant: Currently being evaluated ~ Chief Executive's ~ Best Value

Planning Officer: PO 2 Personal Services Directorate ~ Planning Section (circulated at the meeting)

RESOLVED that the external advertisements of the above posts be approved. Members agreed the Part Time Administrative Assistant: Chief Executive's ~ Best Value post should be bilingual.

6 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Leader of the Council submitted the report and appendix (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the Corporate Objectives of Denbighshire Council for 2001-2002.

The Corporate Director: Resources indicated that there was a need to agree a direction for the Council for the coming year and the report reflected the discussions held at the Henllan Awayday. Service Plans would be produced based upon these Corporate Objectives. Councillor E.A. Owens said C2 needed to include open transparent government as one of the key objectives.

Councillor E.W. Williams questioned the lack of involvement of non-Cabinet Councillors, as all Councillors are to carry out the Council's work.

The Chief Executive said the Corporate Objectives reflected the Council's overall vision and priorities, and these Corporate Objectives indicated how these priorities would be established over the coming year.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked that C4.3 be amended to include the relationship between the Cabinet / Corporate Directors and Councillors / Corporate Directors.

Councillor E.W. Williams said he supported the report but asked for a timetable of the next stages and a clarification of the involvement by Council. The Corporate Director: Resources outlined that service plans would be developed in the next month and these would form the basis for the business plan/best value performance plan to be prepared by the end of June. The Chief Executive explained that the report covered the priorities that Cabinet suggested this year which would need to be endorsed by Council.

RESOLVED that Members approved the Corporate Objectives of Denbighshire County Council for 2001-2002 as outlined in the attached Appendix.

7 DENBIGHSHIRE CCTV SERVICES - FUNDING

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Resources submitted the report and appendix (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the 2001-2002 revenue budget and a 'one off' capital allocation for the County Council's CCTV service. Two permanent operators are required 24 hours a day, seven days a week to operate the service.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Contract Services explained that the service had transferred to Contract Services recently and he had since been in contact with other Authorities to assess their CCTV provision. The 7 year old Denbighshire CCTV needed updating and enhancing and it was hoped to market the service. He explained that the majority of revenue income came from other services, Railtrack and the North Wales Health Authority. No provision had been made by the North Wales Police to any Local Authority in North Wales.

Councillor E.W. Williams detailed a recent presentation given at the LGA Rural Commission meeting he had attended on community safety which had included CCTV on mobiles in rural areas. He also requested that a similar presentation be provided for Cabinet at a future meeting.

Councillor G.M. Kensler said there was a need for CCTV cameras in Denbigh which would particularly help small businesses. Councillor E.A. Owens said the cost of an optic link for Denbigh was currently beyond the Council's budget but expansion of the facility could be considered when the capital budget was greater.

RESOLVED that the gross revenue budget for the Council's CCTV service for 2001-2002 be approved at £207k (net budget £188k) with a 'one off' capital allocation of £30k.

8 SETTING UP OF A JOINT WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW CAPITAL PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to agree Council Member representation on the joint working party to review existing Capital Planning and Project Management Procedures. This would be in the form of a task and finish joint Member / Officer group appointed for approximately 2 months. Councillor Owens suggested that Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property and herself as Lead Cabinet Member for Resources along with 1 Independent and 1 Labour Member should form the Member's part of the group.

Councillor D.M. Holder suggested the number of Members in the group be increased to 6. Councillor Owens said membership should be limited to 4 as the group would only meet for two months. It was suggested that the Independent and Labour Members be taken from outside the Cabinet membership. Councillor E.W. Williams felt that a Best Value representative should also be included.

***RESOLVED** that four Members be appointed to the joint working party; Councillor E.A. Owens and W.R. Webb together with one Independent and one Labour Member.*

9 BEST VALUE - CORPORATE APPROACH TO THE "4 CS"

Councillor E.W. Williams submitted the report and Appendix (previously circulated) seeking approval of the proposed Corporate Statements on the four elements of Best Value: Challenge, Compare, Consult and Compete.

Members had undertaken to agree a formal approach to the four elements of Best Value resulting from the District Audit's Statutory and Detailed Report on the County's BV Performance Plan 2000-2001.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet approved the statement presented in the attached Appendix.*

10 LIVERPOOL BAY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION BY DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to adopt the Liverpool Bay Shoreline Management Plan and agreement to participation in its implementation and monitoring. The Plan provided a basis for a sustainable coastal defence policy and set objectives for the future management of the shoreline. Council had accepted the draft Plan in September 1999, subject to minor amendment.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet adopt the Liverpool Bay Shoreline Management Plan and agreed to participate in its implementation and monitoring.*

At this juncture (11.15 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

***RESOLVED** under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

12 PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICE CONTRACTS

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to amend the termination date of 7 local bus service contracts from 31 March 2001 to 31 August 2001, as the contracts are funded from the Bus Subsidy Grant which had been extended to 31.03.04.

RESOLVED that Members approved the extension of the local bus service contracts due to expire 31.03.2001 to 31.08.2001 and that the contract with Transport Marketing to produce promotional material for the Clwydian Ranger network for the summer of 2001 be extended.

13 SHORTLISTING FOR THE HEAD OF PERSONNEL

The Chief Executive welcomed to the meeting Mr. Tim Lewindon of Riley's Consultants who had been engaged in the recruitment process for the post of Corporate and Assistant Directors and Heads of Service.

Mr. Lewindon briefed Members on the recruitment process and the preliminary interviews that had been held with candidates.

On the basis of the interviews, candidates were shortlisted and arrangements were agreed for final interviews for the Head of Personnel by Cabinet on 20 March 2001.

RESOLVED that the candidates selected by Cabinet be interviewed by Cabinet on 20 March 2001.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor E A Owens

DATE: 22 March 2001

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET 2000/01

1 Decision Sought

That in the light of the latest projections of the final outturn for the current financial year as detailed in the attached appendix, members note the position and instruct officers to ensure all possible action is taken to minimise the final deficit.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

The need to comply with the Council's agreed Recovery Plan which highlighted that the final deficit for the current year should be no more than £2m.

3 Cost Implications

N/A

4 Financial Controller Statement

Failure to minimise the level of negative balances at year end will reduce the resources available for services next financial year and endanger the Recovery Plan.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Lead Cabinet Members are consulting in an ongoing manner with Heads of Service to agree remedial actions and prevent recurrence in 2001/02.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The level of funding available to services together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council.

7 Recommendation

That Lead Cabinet members continue to liaise with Heads of Service to ensure the final deficit for 2000/01 is as low as possible and that current pressures do not recur in 2001/02.

APPENDIX 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANALYSIS OF PRESSURES 2000/01	Items likely recommended as allowable £000	Items likely recommended for penalty £000	Offsetting Savings £000	TOTAL £000	Movement since the last report £000
<u>Live Long Learning</u>					
Education					
- Transport	125			125	
- S E N	500			500	
- Advisors		70		70	
- Other		58	-52	6	
sub total	625	128	-52	701	(+35)
Culture & Leisure					
- Leisure	32	121	-72	81	
- Pavilion Theatre	32			32	
- Resorts & Attractions	23	66	-11	78	
- Countryside		12	-10	2	
- Leisure Man DSO	50			50	
sub total	137	199	-93	243	(+75)
Environment					
- Design etc			-55	-55	
- Property & Community		175		175	
- Planning	18	73	-35	56	
sub total	18	248	-90	176	(+35)
Personal Services					
- Children s	841			841	
- Adult - provider		376		376	
- Adult - purchaser			-241	-241	
- Strategic Planning			-356	-356	
sub total	841	376	-597	620	(-60)
Chief Executive					
- Policy & Secretariat	21			21	
- Legal & Admin	60			60	
- Other			-20	-20	
sub total	81	0	-20	61	0
Finance - Revenues					
sub total	115			115	(+15)
Total position for Services	1817	951	-852	1916	(+100)
Corporate					
- Youth Offending team	90			90	
- Precepts	80			80	
- Restructure of Senior Management	130			130	
- Capital Finance Charges	-200			-200	
Total Corporate	300	0	0	100	(-200)
TOTAL	2117	951	-852	2016	(-100)

Note.

Balances brought forward from last financial year were less in deficit than had previously been anticipated by £319k. This is the only funding available for the costs of the recent flooding incidents. It is hoped to recover most of the costs in excess of the Bellwin threshold of £209k from the Assembly. A further spell of severe winter weather later in the year will impact upon Highways, Property & Social Services Budgets.

2000/2001 BUDGET

	1900/2000 Overspend £000	2000/01 Validation £000	Other £000	CUTS £000	TOTAL £000	Projected Outturn £000
Education	1171	-429	-526	503	719	680
Social Services	13		-912	895	-4	276
Technical Services	394	-391		650	653	333 171
Leisure	713	-500		118	331	351

LEISURE AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES - BUDGET 2000/01

<u>Service</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Cost/Saving as at</u>			<u>Commentary</u>
		<u>31/01/01</u>			
		<u>£k</u>	<u>£k</u>	<u>£k</u>	
<u>Community Leisure</u>					
Underachieved Cuts	Closure/Externalisation Leisure Centres NNDR at St.Asaph	27 <u>5</u>		32	
Pressures	Corwen Leisure Centre Rhyl Leisure Centre Prestatyn Leisure Centre Llangollen Leisure Centre	32 63 6 <u>20</u>		121	Backdated NNDR Revaluation Under achieved income in Planet Pulse, Membership down. Shortfall in income Shortfall in income relating to STEAM gymnasium
Savings	Royal International Pavilion Management & Admin Restructuring Denbigh Leisure Centre Ruthin Leisure Centre	-41 -15 -7 <u>-9</u>		-72	Backdated Rates Reduction net of Costs Additional Employee Savings Increased income, decreased expenditure Increased income, decreased expenditure
					81
<u>Pavilion Theatre</u>					
Underachieved Cuts	Increase Recharges to Technical Wages Production Account	7 <u>6</u>		13	
Pressures	Increased Energy Costs Underachievement on Production Account Catering function Confectionery Costs	9 5 36 <u>8</u>		58	Additional Electricity Costs Unachievable Break Even Budget Underachieved income
Savings	Management & Admin Salaries Supplies & Services Technical Wages Theatre Bars Wages	-7 -17 -13 <u>-2</u>		-39	Reduction of Box Office/Admin Salaries Reduction in Establishment Costs Reduction in Overtime and Establishment
					32
<u>Resorts & Attractions</u>					
Underachieved Cuts	Ffrith Festival Gardens Occupancy	<u>23</u>		23	
Pressures	Leisure Facilities	<u>66</u>		66	Cost of Externalisation and Unfunded Emp Costs
Savings	Resorts & Amenities	<u>-11</u>		-11	Over Achieved Income
					78
<u>Leisure DSO (DLS)</u>					
Pressures	Leisure DSO	<u>50</u>		50	Anticipated loss on final year's trading. Sun Centre income down due to late opening and early closure, due to repairs to roof
					50
<u>Countryside Services</u>					
Underachieved Cuts	Moel Fammau Car Park	<u>9</u>		9	
Pressures	Loggerheads	<u>3</u>		3	Additional costs following floods
Savings	Warden Service	<u>-10</u>		-10	Grant Income
					2
<u>PROJECTED VARIANCE 2000/01</u>				<u><u>243</u></u>	

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE - BUDGET 2000/01

<u>Service</u>	<u>Detail of Pressure/Saving</u>	<u>Cost/Saving</u> <u>as @ 31/1/01</u>		<u>Commentary</u>
		<u>£k</u>	<u>£k</u>	
<u>Design & Construction</u>				
Underachieved Cuts	Budget transfer from Schools	50		
Savings	Reduce property maintenance	-50		Maintenance reduction in line with available budget
	Rate savings	<u>-55</u>		One off saving re appeals on office premises
			-55	
<u>Property & Community</u>				
Unidentified Cuts	Budget shortfall	253		
Underachieved Cuts	Full year effect of cuts not realised	19		
Pressures	Car Parks	46		Unachieved income re seasonal expectations
	Waste Disposal	99		Increased waste through CA and landfill sites
	Valuation Services	5		Difficulty in achieving income target
Savings	Office Accommodation	-80		Appeals by rating valuer on office premises
	Refuse Collection	-71		Additional income £38k & savings £33k (bags/vehicle leasing)
	Support Costs	-27		Reduction in support staff at Caledfryn.
	Coast Protection	-11		Reining back of expenditure budget
	Ground Maintenance	-11		Reining back of expenditure budget
	CCTV	-3		Reining back of expenditure budget
	Sanddrift	-2		Reining back of expenditure budget
	Administration	-15		Savings on equipment & I.T. budgets
	Car Parks	-19		Successful Rating Appeals/Electricity Refund
	Housing Enforcement	<u>-8</u>		Additional Income
				175
<u>Highways & Transportation</u>				
Underachieved Cuts	Full year effect of cuts not realised	11		
Pressures	Winter Maintenance/Emergencies	55		Effects of above average winter maintenance demands and pre - Bellwin flooding
Savings	Reduce maintenance	-39		Reining back of expenditure budget
	Leasing	-7		Reduction in equipment leasing charges
	Support Costs	<u>-20</u>		Reduction in support staff at Caledfryn
			0	
<u>Planning Services</u>				
Underachieved Cuts	Increased Fee Income	22		
Pressures	Development Control	9		Reduction in Planning Fees
	Building Control	29		Reduction in fee income-lack of major projects
	Appeals	18		Tower Beach, Prestatyn
Savings	Development Plan	<u>-22</u>		Reduced 2000/01 Inspection Payment
			56	
<u>Economic Development</u>				
			0	
<u>PROJECTED VARIANCE 2000/2001</u>			<u>176</u>	

PERSONAL SERVICES - BUDGET 2000/01

<u>Service</u>	<u>Details of Pressure/Saving</u>	<u>Cost/Saving as at</u> <u>28/02/01</u>	<u>Details Of Remedial Action</u>
		£K	
		£K	
		£K	
<u>Childrens & Families Services</u>			
	Underachieved cuts	48	
	Out Of County Placements	546	
	Fostering	<u>285</u>	Reduction In Out Of County Placements
		879	
<u>Adult Services - Provider</u>			
	Underachieved cuts including Residential & Homecare	317	
	Residential Income reducing	150	
	Community Care	65	
	(Includes S117 After Care)		
	Mental Illness Residential	15	
	Staff Savings	-92	
	Savings	<u>-30</u>	Residential Work / Care Management Posts not filled
		425	
<u>Adult Services - Purchasing</u>			
	Physical Disability Sensory Impairment	45	
	Learning Disabilities	107	
	Quality Initiatives	-55	Budget not utilised
	Staff Savings	-101	Social Work / Care Management Posts not filled
	Drugs & Alcohol	-16	
	Services to Older People	<u>-251</u>	Residential / Nursing Homes
		-271	
<u>Strategic Planning</u>			
	Galro - Increase in numer of Cases	49	
	Henllan Centre	65	
	Administration/Operational Savings	<u>-527</u>	Backdated NNDR Revaluation Vacancies within Strategic Planning not filled + Profitable year for Cefndy Enterprises
		-413	
<u>PROJECTED PERSONAL SERVICES OUTTURN 2000/01</u>			<u>620</u>

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

<u>Service</u>	<u>Details of Pressure/Savings</u>	<u>Cost/Saving</u>			<u>Commentary</u>
		<u>as at 31/01/01</u>			
		<u>£k</u>	<u>£k</u>	<u>£k</u>	
Individual School Budgets	No projected overspend				
Non School Funding	No projected overspend				
Library & Information	No projected overspend				
One Stop Shops	No projected overspend				
Heritage & Culture Archives	loss of income and additional travel expenditure following start of Gaol project			10	Unavoidable costs/loss of income, because of temporary move out of permanent premises.
School Funds Held Centrally					
SEN	Current cost of Special Education statutory needs in excess of budget provision.	500			A complete review of this service is in progress
School/College Transport	Additional cost of Education transport following retendering of contracts. Additional Secondary School contracts Jan/Feb. Bad weather alternative provision	125			No remedial action possible without change of policy for future years
Advisory	Increased cost of joint Curriculum Support Service with Flintshire, Wrexham & Conwy and delay in receipt of income for Advisory Team due to delay in the commencement of teachers pay restructure proposals	70			Review of Advisory Service & Curricular Support Service being undertaken. CSS is subject to a joint Best Value review with Flintshire, Wrexham & Conwy
Client Services	Compliance with HSE Prohibition Notice in respect of replacement cookers following accident at one of the County's High Schools	18			
	Insufficient budget to meet significant increase in repairs & maintenance costs for kitchens equipment - projected figure to March 2001	30	743		
	Staffing and Good Housekeeping savings	-27			
	Reduction in Free School Meals numbers	-25			
				-52	
				691	
				<u>701</u>	

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E EDWARDS, LEADER

DATE: 22 MARCH 2001

SUBJECT: COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON LEISURE CENTRE USER FORUMS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To appoint member representatives to Leisure Centre User Forums.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Last year Cabinet agreed to introduce new Leisure Centre User Forums for all seven Leisure Centres. A copy of the Terms of Reference and agreed membership of the Fora is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Arrangements are in hand to hold the inaugural meetings, and it is necessary for the Council to appoint their representatives.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 Not applicable.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 The membership and terms of reference of the Leisure Centre Users Forums were subject to extensive consultation last year.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Leisure Centre Users Forums are an important component of Best Value.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To appoint member representatives to the seven Leisure Centre User Forums.

DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE CENTRE USERS FORUM

CONSTITUTION AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Introduction

1. Successful management of both dual use or standalone Leisure Centres requires interaction with the wider community and users, and co-operation and partnership with key stakeholders in the facility and the services it provides. Leisure Centre User Forums are intended to achieve this aim. They will be non-executive bodies which will bring together representatives of all the main interests.
2. Best Value legislation also requires the County Council to consult with and to involve key interests in the delivery of services. Leisure Centre User Forums also have an important role to play in this.
3. Leisure Centre User Forums are proposed for all Council controlled Leisure Centres. These are:
 - Corwen Leisure Centre
 - Denbigh Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 - Llangollen Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 - Prestatyn Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 - Rhyl Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 - Ruthin Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 - St Asaph Leisure Centre (Dual Use)

Terms of Reference

4. The Terms of Reference for each Leisure Centre Users Forum are set out below:

To bring together those organisations with an interest in the Leisure Centre with representatives of users and the local community to:

 - (i) **Provide a forum for discussion and exchange of views on issues affecting the centre.**
 - (ii) **Build consensus and partnerships to develop and enhance the centre and the services it provides for users and the local community.**
5. The membership arrangements for each site will vary according to the key interests in the centre. Typically, they will include the County Council, the school (on dual use sites), Town/Community Council, and Denbighshire Sports Council, together with other users of the facility. Appendix A sets out the membership proposals for each centre. The number of members has been set at a level which seeks to balance the need for the effective operation of the group and yet be representative of all the main interests.
6. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum shall be selected at the first meeting of the group and subsequently annually. Members of the Forum shall serve for two years and will be subject to reselection after this period.

Meetings

7. Each Leisure Centre Users Forum will meet at least once a year, subject to a maximum of three meetings a year. Additional meetings may be called in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Secretariat, or if 50% of the members of the Forum agree that a meeting should be called. The Secretariat for the meetings will be provided by Denbighshire Leisure Services, who will be responsible for calling meetings and distributing agendas and papers in advance of meetings. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and circulated by the Secretariat.
8. Members who cannot attend a meeting can nominate a substitute to attend on behalf of their organisation. The Secretariat should be notified of substitutes in writing at least two days in advance of a meeting.
9. At least a quarter of members (or their nominated substitutes) should be present at meetings to constitute a quorum. The meeting will be abandoned if a quorum is not present.
10. Other relevant officers of the County Council and Sports Council for Wales may attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

Voting

12. As a body which embodies the principles of co-operation and partnership it is hoped that the collective view will prevail and a consensus will be reached. However, where there is a clear difference of opinion on an issue a vote can be taken to establish the majority view. Each of the permanent members of the Forum (or their nominated substitute) has a vote. Where the votes are even the Chair shall have the casting vote.

Alteration of Constitution and Working Arrangements

13. The constitution and working arrangements for the Leisure Centre Users Forum may only be amended by the County Council following consultation with all parties.

AJH/AJ

August 2000

LEISURE CENTRE USERS FORUM : MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

1. Corwen Leisure Centre	2 County Councillors 2 Corwen Community Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 School User Representative 1 Centre Manager 9
2. Denbigh Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Denbigh Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 Centre Manager 12
3. Llangollen Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Llangollen Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 Centre Manager 12
4. Prestatyn Leisure Centre	4 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Prestatyn Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Centre 2 User/Club representatives 1 Centre Manager 13
5. Rhyl Leisure Centre	4 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Rhyl Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 Centre Manager 13
6. Ruthin Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Ruthin Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 Centre Manager 12

7. St Asaph Leisure Centre

- 3 County Councillors
 - 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff)
 - 2 St Asaph Town Council
 - 1 Denbighshire Sports Council
 - 2 User/Club representatives
 - 1 Centre Manager
- 12**

AJH/AJ

August 2000

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 22 MARCH 2001

SUBJECT: FORMER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVENUE GRANT

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To agree a basis for allocating former SDS Revenue Grants.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

It was agreed at the Cabinet meeting on the 6 July 2000 to advertise the former SDS Revenue grant and we have received expressions of interest from organisations requesting £457,726 for 43 projects from an available sum for allocation of £194,577.

The basic position with regards to the grant is as follows:

Total former SDS Revenue Grant	£194,577
Existing commitment	£48,333
New commitment	£20,000

(This is for a Tennis Centre Development Officer post as agreed by Cabinet on 6 July 2000 to be funded over two financial years).

The total available for allocation therefore £126,244

Existing recipients have made applications as follows

Denbigh Youth Project	£56,591
Glyndwr Women's Aid	£38,700
West Rhyl Community Strategy	£40,000

Total requested £135,291

To implement the Cabinet's previously agreed strategy of using these funds to bring forward new projects rather than providing long term support to established projects, but without wishing to prejudice the viability of established projects by the sudden withdrawal of funding, it is proposed that a tapering arrangement should be introduced subject to the continued availability of these funds as follows: and that in future following the ending of existing commitments, no project should receive funding for longer than 2 years.

Project	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
% of cash contribution For 2000/01	100	100	66.7	33.3	0
Denbigh Youth Project	40,450	40,450	27,100	13,470	0
Glyndwr Women's Aid	32,000	32,000	21,345	10,656	0
West Rhyl Community Strategy	40,000	40,000	26,680	13,320	0
Total	112,450	112,450	75,125	37,446	

In view of the funding situation, it is proposed the new commitment for the Tennis Officer's post be reduced for 2001/2002 to £10,000.

This should release funds to enable new projects to be supported as follows

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
Existing recipients	112,450	75,125	37,446	0
Existing commitments	48,333	32,333	16,333	0
New commitments	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000
Available for new projects	23,794	115,452	153,131	184,577
Total	194,577	242,910	226,910	194,577

The allocation of funds to new projects will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in due course.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

The proposal is cost neutral to the Council

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

No comment needed, no additional costs.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Voluntary Services Council, Assistant Director Lifelong Learning, Head of Housing Services, Head of Strategic Planning and Support Services.

6. IMPLICATION ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

Assists with the implementation of the Council's economic development Objective One and anti-poverty strategies.

7. RECOMMENDATION

To approve the arrangements set out in the report

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR RHIANNON HUGHES, LEAD MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM

DATE: 22 MARCH 2001

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE CARD AND 2001-02 LEISURE CHARGES

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To introduce a new Leisure Card to replace the former Passport to Leisure scheme, and to set new charges for leisure facilities for the coming year.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Leisure charges, arrangements for encouraging disadvantaged residents to use our facilities, and providing incentives for loyal customers are all clearly interrelated. An integrated approach is required to balance the Council's corporate objectives of financial recovery whilst still tackling the social exclusion and health inequality agendas, as well as seeking to improve the overall quality of life for all residents.

2.2 Last year the Council agreed to undertake a review of the Passport to Leisure scheme, which was not achieving its primary objective of encouraging socially excluded residents to use our facilities. The scheme had become one which primarily rewarded loyal customers rather than targeting the groups at which it was aimed. This review has now been completed and a new Leisure Card is proposed which serves a dual purpose of providing significant discounts for targeted socially excluded groups, and also providing a reward for loyal customers. However, differential rates of discount apply to provide greater benefits for the targeted groups. Details of the scheme are set out in Appendix 1. If the new scheme is agreed there will be a need to promote take up of the Leisure Card, particularly in our most deprived communities, and further thought will be given as to how this might best be achieved. Clearly there will be a need to monitor the effectiveness of the new card in achieving social objectives and to keep the scheme under review.

2.3 In setting charges for the Council's leisure facilities it is necessary to have regard to:

- financial recovery objectives
- equal opportunities and other social objectives (the proposed Leisure Card will help address this issue)
- market conditions, and competitors/neighbouring authorities charges.
- customer reaction
- the need for consistency across the County.

With these in mind, a proposed new scale of charges for 2001-02 is set out in Appendix 2.

2.4 The review of charges had demonstrated that many of our tariffs are significantly cheaper than neighbouring authorities. Given the current emphasis on financial recovery, it is proposed that we move closer to our neighbours charges, although there is a balance to be struck to ensure that we do not discourage local people from participation. A survey of Leisure centre users carried out as part of Best Value last year showed that 85% considered our charges to be fair and good value, and it will be necessary to continue to monitor customer reaction to our charges.

2.5 Two areas where we are significantly cheaper than neighbouring authorities are seasonal hire of grass pitches and bowling greens. The proposed charges have therefore been restructured and increased for these facilities for the coming year, but they still fall far short of our neighbours charges. For example, for a 20 match senior season on our grass pitches the proposed new charge is £150 (50% increase over 2000-01), but the cost in neighbouring

authorities is between £450-£530. the differential on bowling season tickets is even greater. It is proposed to phase the introduction of more realistic charges for these facilities over a 5 year period to reduce the impact on existing users.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 At this stage it is very difficult to gauge the impact on income arising from the introduction of the Leisure Card. This will become clearer following a period of operating the scheme and it will be important to monitor this aspect as well as the effectiveness of the card in achieving its social objectives. However, as the scheme is primarily designed to encourage those who would not otherwise use our facilities, and to reward increased use by existing customers, it is hoped that the impact on revenue will not be significant. Members should be aware however that income derived from leisure charges is substantial (around £600k pa), so even a small shift in income patterns can potentially have a large impact on revenue budgets.

3.2 It is also difficult to project the impact of the new charges on income generally, but many of the increases are in excess of the budgeted 2.5% increase on all income for 2001-02. This will assist with achieving financial recovery and help bring leisure spending in line with budgets.

3.3 The cost of implementing the new Leisure Card and charges will not be significant. It is estimated that the direct additional costs will be around £1,000, but this will be absorbed by the Leisure budget. Administration of the Card will be simplified over the existing Passport to Leisure scheme, and the recent introduction of programmable electronic tills at all Leisure Centre will also ease implementation.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 The impact of the scheme will need to be regularly reviewed to prevent an adverse effect as detailed in 3.1 although the content of 3.2 above suggests the position should be contained within the budget.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Discussions have been held with the Lead Cabinet member for Finance and Leisure Centre Managers. User surveys carried out at leisure centres during 2000 show that 85% of users consider existing charges to be fair and good value.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Principal impacts relate to the Council's financial recovery plan, social inclusion and equal opportunity objectives. Increased use of leisure facilities by deprived communities will also help address health inequalities and promote enhanced quality of life.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That a Leisure Card scheme be introduced in 2001-02 to replace the former Passport to Leisure.

7.2 To approve the attached Leisure Charges for 2001-02.

DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE CARD

Denbighshire's Leisure Card offers reduced prices for local residents to use a range of leisure facilities throughout the County.

Centres and Facilities operating the scheme

Corwen Leisure Centre	Botanical Gardens, Rhyl
Denbighshire Leisure Centre	Coronation Gardens, Prestatyn
Llangollen Leisure Centre	Lower Park, Denbigh
Prestatyn Leisure Centre	Riverside Park, Llangollen
Rhyl Leisure Centre	North Wales Crown Green Bowls Centre, Rhyl
Ruthin Leisure Centre	Indoor Bowls Centre, Ffrith Beach, Prestatyn*
St Asaph Leisure Centre	Nova Centre*

Eligible Activities

Swimming
Badminton
Bowls
Tennis
Squash
Table Tennis
Climbing Wall
Sauna

- Cardholders will also enjoy 7 day priority booking for facilities and hire equipment with no deposit.

Note: Discounts do not apply to Season Tickets

What will the Card Cost?

Two types of card are available to Denbighshire residents, according to personal status - Standard and Pathway.

Standard Card - Cost £5 for adults (age 18-59), £3 for children (age 4-17) senior citizens (age 60+), and £12 for a family (up to 4 persons). The card will be valid for 12 months and will allow residents to obtain a 10% discount off the cost of eligible activities. E.g. almost 20p off each adult swim.

Pathway Card - FREE for qualifying residents and their dependants for 12 months. The Pathway Card will entitle residents to a 33% discount off the charges for eligible activities. E.g. 60p off an adult swim.

Qualifying residents or their dependants include those in receipt of Housing Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support, Family Credit or Incapacity Benefit, or are Registered Disabled. Students in full time education are also eligible.

How to Apply

Applications can be made at all leisure centres and at the Council Offices, Russell House, Rhyl. Applicants should bring with them proof of identity and residency; a passport size photograph (this can be a current photograph cut to size); and the fee or proof of qualification for the Pathway Card. Please note that for Pathway applicants we can arrange photographs by appointment at a nominal charge of 50p.

- subject to negotiation with the proposed new Leisure Trust.

LEISURE CHARGES 2001-02 COUNCIL OPERATED FACILITIES

A) LEISURE CENTRE CHARGES
(Rhyl, Prestatyn, St Asaph, Denbigh, Ruthin, Corwen and Llangollen Leisure Centres)

	Current 2000/01		Proposed 2001/02	
	Adult £	Junior £	Adult £	Junior £
(i) Sports Hall (per hr)				
General Hire Full Hall	19.20	13.80	20.50	14.50
Half Hall	9.60	6.90	10.00	7.20
Badminton per court	4.60	3.10	5.00	3.50
Table Tennis per table	3.10	2.10	3.50	2.50
(ii) Swimming Pool				
1 x Admission	1.70	0.90	1.80	1.00
Season Ticket - 6 months	45.00	25.00	50.00	25.00
Junior Splashtime Fun Session	N/A	1.00	N/A	1.10
Lessons (per ½ hr) 10 lessons (block)	2.30	1.45	2.50	1.80
Club Booking	24.00	24.00	28.00	28.00
“ “ (Splash Time)	28.00	28.00	31.00	31.00
Armband/Float Hire	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Swimming Birthday Party	30.00	30.00	31.00	31.00
(iii) Health/Leisure Suite				
Sauna(General 1 hr) (½ hour)	---	---	1.60	1.60
Health Suite (Monthly ticket)	23.80	23.80	25.00	25.00

		Current			Proposed				
		Single £	Couple £	Family £					
(iv) Fitness Suites									
Planet Pulse, Rhyl									
Per Session		3.90	---	---	4.00	---	---		
Monthly		30.00	45.00	---	31.00	46.50	---		
Annual		306.00	450.00	612.00	315.00	462.50	630.00		
Annual (all inclusive)		342.00	513.00	684.00	352.00	527.50	700.00		
Joining Fees: (Casual £12.00)		30.00	45.00	60.00	31.00	46.50	85.00		
Steam, Llangollen									
Per session		3.00	---	---	3.20	---	---		
Monthly		21.00	36.00	---	21.50	37.50	---		
6 Monthly		110.00	---	---	112.50	---	---		
Annual		199.00	---	---	205.00	---	---		
First Time Induction (Casual users only)		10.00	---	---	10.50	---	---		
		Current			Proposed				
Bodyz, Corwen									
Per Session (9a.m. - 6 p.m.) (6 p.m. - 10 p.m.)		3.00 4.60							
		Gold	Silver	Corporate		Gold	Silver	Corporate	
				Gold	Silver			Gold	Silver
Monthly									
3 Monthly		50.00	30.00	26.00	19.00				
6 Monthly		85.00	65.00	73.00	52.00				
Annual		160.00	120.00	136.00	94.00				
		310.00	230.00	262.00	178.00				

	Current		Proposed	
	Adult £	Junior £	Adult £	Junior £
(v) Other Facilities				
Squash (per 40 mins)	3.60	1.85	4.50	2.50
Climbing Wall	2.90	1.80	3.00	2.00
Children's Parties (Hall & Room)	---	23.00	---	24.00
(vi) Other Room Hire (per hour)				
Gymnasium	13.00	8.00	13.50	8.50
Activities Room	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50
Meeting/Function Room	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
(vii) Outdoor Facilities				
Artificial Pitch Small (per hr)	16.50	9.00	17.50	12.00
Full size (per hr)	32.00	32.00	35.00	33.00
Grass Pitch	23.00	23.00	25.00	25.00
Grass Pitch per season (20 matches)	individual	sites	150.00	150.00
Tennis Courts (per court) - Singles	3.20	2.20	3.80	2.80
Doubles	-	-	6.00	4.00
(viii) Equipment Hire				
Squash Racket	0.85	0.85	1.00	1.00
Badminton Racket	0.85	0.85	1.00	1.00
Football	0.85	0.85	1.00	1.00
Table Tennis Bat	0.85	0.85	1.00	1.00
(ix) General				
Showers	0.60	0.60	1.00	1.00
Spectators (Free to Passport to Leisure Holders)	0.50	0.30	0.50	0.30

B) TOWN HALLS

(i) Rhyl Town Hall				
	Current		Proposed	
	Per Hour £	Min. Charge £	Per Hour £	Min. Charge £
Daytime Hire (up to 6.00p.m.)	28.00	54.00	28.50	55.50
Evening Hire	32.50	102.50	33.00	104.00
Refreshment Area	19.00		19.50	
Conference Room	23.00	45.00	23.50	46.30
(ii) DenbighTown Hall				
	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire	
Main Hall	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £
Daily Rate	81.00	82.00	158.50	160.00
Morning Session	34.50	35.50	61.50	63.00
Afternoon Session	34.50	35.50	87.00	88.50
Evening Session	43.00	44.00	108.50	110.00
Council Chamber	13.50	14.50	13.50	15.00
N.B. Kitchen facility charges are £20.00. If a licensed bar is required then an additional £35.00 is levied.				
(iii)Ruthin Town Hall				
	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire	
Market Hall	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £
Daily Rate	59.50	60.50	107.50	109.00
Morning Session	24.00	25.00	53.50	55.00
Afternoon Session	24.00	25.00	53.50	55.00
Evening Session	29.50	30.50	67.00	68.50
Council Chamber				
Morning Session	24.00	25.00	45.00	46.50
Afternoon Session	24.00	25.00	45.00	46.50
Evening Session	24.00	25.00	56.50	58.00
Assembly Hall				
Morning Session	43.00	44.00	71.00	72.50
Afternoon Session	43.00	44.00	71.00	72.50
Evening Session	54.00	55.00	89.00	90.50

(iv) Neuadd Edeyrnion						
The Hall	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire			
	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £		
Daily	30.50	31.50	64.50	66.00		
Morning Session	14.50	15.50	28.50	30.00		
Afternoon Session	20.00	21.00	40.50	42.00		
Evening Session	20.00	21.00	40.50	42.00		
N.B. An additional charge of £14.00 per hour is proposed (current £13.50) for each hour of hire after 11.00 p.m.						
(v) Corwen Pavilion						
	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire			
	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £		
Morning Session	19.00	20.00	---			
Afternoon Session	29.00	30.00	---			
Evening Session	52.50	53.50	---			
Daily Rate (no chairs) (with chairs)	97.50 197.50	98.50 198.50				
Under 500 persons	----		350.00*	350.00		
Above 500 persons	----		650.00*	650.00		
Above 900 persons	----		850.00*	850.00		
Subsequent Days	72.50	73.50	---			
Stage Lighting (if required)	21.50	22.50	---			
TV Rights	----		250.00	300.00		
Bar/Catering Facilities	46.00	47.00	10% of audited takings			
* Minimum charges; actual charges to be subject to negotiation.						
(vi) Llangollen Town Hall						
	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire		Private Hire	
	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £
Morning Session	*		*		*	
Afternoon Session	*		*		*	
Evening Session	*		*		*	
Daily Rate	*		*		•	
Daily Rate (with sub let)	*		*		*	

	Local Organisations		Commercial Hire		Private Hire	
	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £	Current £	Proposed £
Hourly Rates (2 hours or less)						
Morning Session	2.25	*	---	*	---	*
Afternoon Session	3.00	*	---	*	---	*
Evening Session	6.50	*	---	*	---	*
After 11.00 p.m.	13.00	*	16.25	*	16.25	*
	Current £			Proposed £		
Council Chamber (per Session)	5.75			*		
<p>* Charges currently set by agreement with the Llangollen Town Hall Management Committee. Proposed charges for next year are yet to be negotiated, but in my view some of the rates should be increased to realistic levels to more adequately cover costs.</p>						
<p>Rehearsals and preparation receive 50% reduction. Block bookings receive a 10% reduction for four or more sessions. Saturday surcharge £35.00 per day time booking.</p>						

C) PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

(i) All Leisure Services Sites				
	Current		Proposed	
	Adult £	Junior Senior Citizen £	Adult £	Junior Senior Citizen £
Bowling (per hr)	1.50	1.00	1.60	1.10
Bowling Season Ticket (April-Sept)	20.00	14.00	40.00	28.00
Weekly Ticket			11.50	7.00
Hire of Woods	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00
Hire of Green (per hr)	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.50
Tennis Courts (per hr)				
- Singles) per	3.50	2.50	3.80	2.80
- Doubles) court	4.80	3.50	6.00	4.00
- League (all courts, Denbigh)	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
Hire of Balls (3)	0.60	1.60	1.00	1.00
Hire of Raquets	0.70	0.70	1.00	1.00
Ball Deposit (returnable)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Putting (per hr)	0.80	0.60	1.00	0.80
Ball Deposit (returnable)	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00
Crazy Golf (per hr)	0.80	0.60	1.00	0.80
Ball Deposit (returnable)	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00
	Current £		Proposed £	
Hire of football pitches (with changing and shower facilities)				
Football - per match Juniors	14.00		25.00	
- per match - Seniors	14.00		25.00	
- per season - Senior	100.00		150.00	
- per season - Junior	60.00		100.00	
Hire of football pitches (without changing and shower facilities)				
Football - per match Juniors	11.00		15.00	
- per match - Seniors	11.00		15.00	
- per season - Senior	70.00		100.00	
- per season - Junior	45.00		75.00	

Cricket		
- per match	14.00	25.00
- per season (Adults) - 10 games	100.00	150.00
- per season (Juniors) - 10 games	70.00	100.00
Hire of rounders pitches		
- per match	11.00	12.00
- per season	100.00	110.00
Note: Charges at Middle Park, Denbigh to be discounted by 33% for 2001-02.		

DL/SB-Charges01/02

E. COASTAL FACILITIES

FACILITY	2000	Proposed 2001
	£	£
Deck Chairs		
Hire	1.00	1.50
Deposit	0.50	1.00
Caravan Rallies (on Council owned land)		
Per Unit, per night	4.50	5.00
MARINE LAKE		
Boat Launch Ramp - Includes car parking and water facilities.		
Car & Trailer	5.22	6.00
Season Ticket	26.13	27.30

BARKBY/FFRITH BEACH PRESTATYN		
Pitch & Put		
Per Person	1.59	2.00
Lost Ball	0.38	1.00

DL/Charges 01/02

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR RHIANNON HUGHES, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM AND COUNCILLOR DAVID MORRIS, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: **22 MARCH 2001**

SUBJECT: **SCALA CINEMA : POSITION STATEMENT**

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To update Cabinet on the current position with regard to the Scala, and to endorse decisions made to make the building safe and to stabilise the structure.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Members will be aware that the Scala was closed on public safety grounds last December on the advice of the Council's structural engineers. This was reported to Cabinet on 21 December (See min 884).

2.2 Since this time a number of measures have been taken or are proposed to address the problem. These include:

- Setting up an internal multi-disciplinary Technical Group to co-ordinate activity.
- Holding a public meeting to keep local people informed (over 300 people attended). Appendix 1 is a summary of the issues raised at the meeting.
- Organise an extensive public consultation survey exercise to gauge local opinion on the future of the Scala. The closing date for the survey is 16 March, and the findings will be reported at your meeting.
- Established a Scala Advisory Group made up of representatives from a range of partner organisations and interested groups to develop a partnership approach to redevelopment of the Scala. Appendix 2 sets out the Terms of Reference and Constitution for the Advisory Group.
- Taken action to make the building safe and to stabilise the structure pending redevelopment. Appendix 3 is a summary of the consultant structural engineers findings in respect of the building and the action taken to prevent further deterioration of the structure.
- Set up a mobile cinema facility to provide a limited interim service for the local community.
- Drawn up a brief to appoint consultants to undertake a Feasibility Study to fully explore the options open to the Council for redevelopment of the Scala, and secured funding from the Arts Council for Wales Lottery Fund for the study. The cost ceiling for the study is £20,000, and a substantial grant has been secured. The study will involve further public consultations on the favoured proposals, and will pave the way for further grant applications to take the agreed scheme forward.
- Issued regular news releases to keep local people informed of events.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The net cost of the Feasibility Study to the Council is within the £10,000 special financial allocation for the Scala which was agreed by Cabinet on 21 December.

3.2 The cost of the necessary measures to stabilise and make the building safe are around £43,000. In the interests of public safety there has been no alternative other than to incur this expenditure. It is requested that this unplanned expenditure be met from the capital programme.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

If Members approve the expenditure of £43k to make the building safe the costs will need to be built into the first revision of the 2000/01 Capital Programme which will be produced in the late spring .

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Established internal Technical Group with representatives from a number of departments. Set up an Advisory Group which includes a wide range of external groups. Arranged a public meeting to keep local people informed. Undertaking a survey of local opinion on the future of the Scala. Further public consultations planned.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 No significant impacts.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To endorse the actions taken to date in respect of the Scala.

7.2 To authorise expenditure of £43,000 from the capital programme to finance measures taken to make the building safe and to stabilise the structure.

APPENDIX 1

SCALA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING, 7.30 P.M., NOVA CENTRE, 15 FEBRUARY, 2001

NOTE OF ISSUES RAISED

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllr Elwyn Edwards, David Davies, Phil Pearce and Cllr Peter Newell.

The Chair (Cllr Neville Hugh-Jones) opened the meeting. A series of short presentations followed. These were by Cllr Rhiannon Hughes, (Lead Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism) Rod Bowden (Head of Design and Construction), Ann Gosse (Assistant Director: Culture and Leisure), and Gary Jones (Scala Manager).

Sandra Pitt was invited to present the 'Save our Scala' petition to the Chairman (over 3,000 signatories at the time of the meeting).

QUESTIONS/ISSUES RAISED

- Gerald Stevenson : Will it be something we can afford or will it impact on Council Tax? (AG)
- Mrs Handel : Is the problem with the structure to do with ground water levels and recent abstraction? (RB)
- David Alexander : Arts Lottery or Arts Council funding? (AG)
- George Green : Timing of Advisory Group Meetings too early. (Agreed to make 7.00 p.m.) (RH)
- Mrs Crumb : With previous consultations the Council (Rhuddlan) have ignored us, will this happen again? (RH)
- Veronica Wells : When will the mobile cinema be up and running? (AG)/(GJ). Which days/venues?
- Veronica Wells : Will Gary and his staff be the ones to go into the new facility? (AG)
- Sandra Pitt : Why can't we have a static cinema at the Ffrith? (AG)
- Mike Gibson : Is there a Scala Committee and who will be on it; can the public be represented? (NHJ/RH)
- Norma Holt : Why have cracks appeared in Scala and not in adjoining buildings? (RB/NHJ)
- David Alexander : Will the feasibility study consider alternative management arrangements for the Scala, i.e. a Trust? (RH)
- Anita Lloyd Williams : Will the Scala be relocated and where might it go? (AG)
- Gerald Stevenson : We are suspicious of the Council's motives as you have not taken account of our views before; will it impact on Council Tax payers? (RH/NHJ)
- Mr King : Can we have an assurance that nothing will be done until people have an opportunity to put their views.
- Kevin Ottley : What is the truth in rumours that Tesco have bought the site? Have all the equipment, seats etc been removed? Do Denbighshire have a strategy for dealing with its crumbling buildings? (AG/RB)
- Mrs Cooper : Concerned about slanderous remarks made by some members of the public. (NHJ)
- Laura Williams : We were going to do "Annie" with the Church Players at the Scala, but where do we go now? (Nova? - Yes)
- Peter Bezodis : The preferred option is to rebuild on the same site.
- Nick Looker : Town Centre location is vital, but the more complex the project becomes the greater the delay in getting a replacement.
- Valerie Lloyd : Want to see facility kept in town, but why will the Feasibility Study cost £10,000 and where will the money come from? (AG)

- Anita Lloyd-Williams : Why are the Town Councillors keeping quiet?
- Don Clegg : Query on costings, and why does lime mortar take a long time show cracks? (RB)
- Ian Heard : Does Prestatyn have the support of all County Councillors including those in Llangollen and elsewhere? (RH)
- Gwyn Clague : Disappointed that the Chair/Vice Chair of the County Council not present. Are we talking about a new cinema or a performing arts centre; is there a 'smokescreen'? (NHJ/RH)
- Sandra Pitt : How long will it take before we get the redevelopment, and what about our heritage? The Scala should stay where it is and the frontage should be restored. (AG)
- Brendan Murphy : Disappointed that there are no 'ballpark' estimates of cost; concerned that the County Council cannot afford the capital or running costs. (AG)
- Peter Bezodis : National revival of cinema market, and customer preference for smaller cinemas rather than 'multiplexes'. (GJ)
- Karen Beattie : The Scala is not fully accessible; the redevelopment/renovation must address this.
- Ann Walker : Fear that if it becomes a private facility it may close; must be retained as a publicly owned and operated community facility.
- John Morris : The Town Council are involved in the Advisory Group.
- Mrs Crumb : Can the Scala accommodate two screens? (GJ)
- Kevin Ottley : Concern that mobile cinema proposal will not have the 'best ' films; and hope that reduced attendance figures will not affect proposals for replacing the Scala. (GJ)
- ? : How long will Feasibility Study take? (AG)
- Ivor Davies : Need to ensure that the Green Room is accessible to all. (AG)

Note: Initials in brackets refer to the Cllr/Officer responding to the question/issue.

Written Submissions were also received from: Prestatyn Tenants and Charge Tax Payers; Michael Sheard; and the Prestatyn '57 Group.

Attendance The attendance register recorded 189 persons present, but a head count showed that there were approximately 300 present on the evening.

SCALA ADVISORY GROUP

Terms of Reference and Constitution

Introduction

1. The County Council are committed to working in partnership with the local community and key groups to secure a new future for the Scala following its unplanned closure on safety grounds. The Advisory Group has a central role to play in this process.

Terms of Reference

2. **To bring together the various authorities, agencies and organisations with an interest in the Scala with representatives of the local community to consider and advise on redevelopment of the Scala, and in particular:**
 - **To assist the consultants carrying out the Feasibility Study.**
 - **To review and comment on options for redevelopment.**
 - **To advise on public consultation measures.**
 - **To build consensus and partnerships to take forward the most appropriate development option.**
3. The Scala Advisory Group is an advisory body and has no executive powers.

Membership

4. The organisations represented on the Group are North Wales School of Dancing, Friends of the Scala, Prestatyn Church Musical Players, Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council, Denbighshire Access Group, Arts Council for Wales, Welsh Development Agency, Rhyl College, Prestatyn Business Association, Denbighshire Head Teachers Federation, Prestatyn High School Pupils (2), Prestatyn Town Council (2 members), and Denbighshire County Council (3 members).
5. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be selected from the Group.
6. The Group will be assisted by appropriate County Council Officers and the Clerk to Prestatyn Town Council. Further support will be provided by a multi-disciplinary internal Denbighshire Technical Group made up of professional officers

Meetings

7. The Secretariat for the Group will be provided by Denbighshire County Council and Prestatyn Town Council Officers, who will be responsible for calling meetings and distributing agendas and papers. A note of proceedings will be prepared and circulated.
8. Meetings shall be held in public.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTANTS REPORT

Consultants W S Atkins, St Asaph

- November 1999** Identified distress in the auditorium walls and historic movements in the fly tower and green room.
- Recommended. Further monitoring over twelve months.
- December 1999** Further report on the arches to the auditorium side walls. Confirmed that all arches had suffered significant movement probably as a result of additional loading of the roof tiles.
- February 2000** Recommended temporary support to the right hand side arches as a short term measure but suggested preferred option to be demolition and rebuilding of the auditorium.
- Temporary support not pursued following further inspection and suggestion of increased costs to support arch / balcony. Balcony closed. Fittings / Furniture removed.
- December 2000** Further inspection of south flank wall revealed further movement. Bricks dislodged . Cause probably from spreading of the roof.
- Recommended closure of the auditorium.
- February 2001** Further regular inspections to the buildings revealed additional movement to the south flank wall.
- Recommended immediate support work to the wall.

Summary of Present Condition of the Auditorium

It is our view that either demolition of the auditorium should be pursued or temporary support to the roof installed to relieve the loading on the outside walls.

It is now our preferred option that temporary support should be installed immediately. A demolition option would not show any savings to this proposal.

Whilst we are comfortable that the front terrace and fly tower are at present stable there is a small element of risk with demolition of auditorium and this is another reason for pursuing the temporary support option.

We would further recommend that a purchase option of the scaffolding is pursued rather than a rental arrangement. It is likely that the scaffolding could be in place for possibly twelve months or more when the purchase option is more economical than hire.

We are of the opinion that the auditorium does not have the structural integrity and that the building adaptations adopted are not acceptable. For these reasons we would be very concerned at any refurbishment option.

We are also of the opinion that this option would be uneconomic for the following reasons.

Certainly from our existing investigations the roof tiles would require replacement. The south flank wall would need replacing. Underpinning to the walls would probably be required. The structural integrity of the building would need to be established with an internal steel framework.

Therefore a more cost effective solution would be to rebuild the auditorium. The time to do this would be during any major works tot he complex if the option to remain on the existing site is pursued.

It should also be noted that the existing layout would not comply with building control standards.

The building complex does not meet current standards and any future alterations will require compliance to these standards.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor K E Wells
DATE: 22 March 2001
SUBJECT: ICT Best Value Service Review

1 DECISION SOUGHT

For Cabinet to approve the ICT Best Value Service Review methodology and ICT Action Plan for 2001-2004 noted in Annex A in the format specified by the Best Value Officers.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

It is necessary to report to Cabinet on the Service Review carried out in ICT before inspection. A great deal of work is put into the continual review of ICT, which works from April to April. To avoid significant additional work, it is important that ICT be inspected at this time so that the Action Plan resulting from the review can commence from 1st April 2001.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Cost implications for 2002 onwards, resulting from the Action Plan have been previously reported to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the budget planning exercise.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Any proposals for increased costs resulting from the review will need to be considered as part of the 2002/03 Budget exercise, which will commence in late summer.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Cabinet Member for ICT and Best Value Scrutiny Member assigned to review ICT have been an integral part of the Service Review Process. Consultation has been carried out with Best Value and Resources Scrutiny Panels.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The ICT Action Plan should significantly improve services in all areas.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note and approve the ICT Service Review methodology and Action Plan to enable the service to be inspected.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

For:-	Cabinet
Date:-	20th March 2001
Provided By:-	Cabinet Member for ICT
Subject:-	ICT Best Value Service Review

1. **Scope of the Review**

1.1 The Service Review Team has had to take account of two areas, the performance of the ICT Department itself and how it is progressing with its business plan in support of Council objectives. However although ICT is the core enabler it cannot be responsible for the overall delivery of the corporate priorities.

e.g. It is the Directorate's responsibility to take a key role in the development and implementation of e-Government projects and to ensure that these are sustainable and deliverable in line with the Modernising and Best Value agendas

2. **Project Team**

2.1 The Service Review Team is made up of the following representatives:

- Head of ICT
- ICT Customer Services Managers (Client side of ICT)
- Network Officer ("On the ground" staff representative)
- Unison representative
- Best Value Policy Officer (To be a pseudo BV Inspector)
- Cabinet Member for ICT / e Government
- Best Value Scrutiny Panel Member (ICT)

To ensure it is a success the norms of the group state that there is no seniority and it is important that all members are free to put over a clear and honest perspective as part of the review.

2.2 The group have developed and reviewed all of the documents in detail which provide a detailed account of where the ICT service is, its strengths and weaknesses, where it is going and how it is going to get there. This has been done by following the Challenge, Compare, Consult and Compete methodology and by focusing on the priorities of the Council.

2.3. A diagram which shows all of documents relevant to the process and their relationship is included at Appendix 1. All documents are available in paper form from the ICT Department, Block 6, Ruthin or on the Denbighshire Intranet.

3. **Service Profile**

3.1 The ICT service goals are directly linked to the County's Missions and Goals and it is accepted that an ICT service is critical for the effective and efficient delivery of services to the Stakeholders of Denbighshire.

- 3.2 The department is responsible for the County Data and Voice networks which include the support of over 1250 PC's, 600 printers, 40 Network Servers, 7 central Computers, 8 main telephone switches, 22 high speed data lines and over 200 dial in users. The department is also responsible for the maintenance of over 140 systems and packages. In support of these the department has Service Level Agreements with all County users.
- 3.3 The budget for the Department has fallen year on year since 1997 and currently stands at £1,146,235. The department has shown continuous improvement over the last four years by supporting a four fold increase in the amount of equipment and systems supported with a falling budget and reduced staffing. The Department's establishment comprises 28 professional ICT staff, 2 Modern Apprentices and 2 Administrative staff, which accounts for about 85% of the budget.
- 3.4 The department was reorganised in September 2000, as part of the 2000/2001 Action Plan, to take into account the change in emphasis and culture of ICT delivery. The reorganisation was instigated in part to address identified weaknesses, staff shortages and heavy workloads, by integrating networks and operations with a view to having a larger pool of multi-skilled staff for greater flexibility.
- 3.5 For a more detailed information please see the ICT Department Service Profile dated January 2001. (available from the ICT Department or on the Denbighshire Intranet)

4. SWOT Analysis

4.1 A detailed SWOT analysis was carried out with all staff in ICT contributing. A summary of this analysis is detailed below. The full SWOT with references to supporting documentation is available on request.

4.2 Weaknesses

4.2.1 Weaknesses were identified in several key areas across all sections of the department, including:

- ▼ Help Desk system in Customer Services
- ▼ Management and Control of ICT equipment
- ▼ Corporate Network support
- ▼ Project and Time management in Systems Section

4.2.2 A particular weakness was exposed by the SOCITM (Wales) benchmarking exercise of 2000 which, although a corporate issue, has a direct impact on ICT performance. It was identified that, as in all the authorities, user training in the use of ICT was poor.

4.3 Strengths

4.3.1 The strengths identified in the Service review included:

- ▼ The staff, in their dedication, age profile, low turnover and customer service culture
- ▼ ICT Strategies past and present have put in place a sound infrastructure
- ▼ Good communications structure
- ▼ The SOCITM (Wales) Benchmarking exercise conducted in 2000 showed Denbighshire's ICT to be in the top third of Welsh authorities on average across all KPI's.

5. **Challenge**

- 5.1 The Challenges for ICT have been divided into two sections: the first are the standard challenges which are carried out each year and the second are the specific challenges resulting from the weaknesses exposed in the SWOT.
- 5.2 The fundamental challenges that are considered by ICT annually as part of Best Value cover the following areas:
- ▼ ICT being provided at all.
 - ▼ ICT being provided by an in-house team.
 - ▼ ICT being provided from a central “corporate” team.
 - ▼ The way the ICT Department provides the service.
 - ▼ ICT Structure
 - ▼ Partnership with Other Counties for the provision of ICT
- 5.3 From the SWOT analysis and benchmarking exercises, some weaknesses in the way ICT is delivered to the County were noted. As part of Best Value, where possible these areas must be challenged to ensure that the service is relevant and, if so, whether changes are required in the delivery method.
- 5.4 The areas where challenge was deemed to be required were the following:
- ▼ Provision of an ICT Help Desk ICT network support
 - ▼ Management and control of ICT Equipment
 - ▼ Procurement strategy for ICT
 - ▼ Recruitment of trained and reliable staff
 - ▼ Project management and time management in Systems
 - ▼ Effective and efficient use of Office productivity suite licences
 - ▼ Service delivery to One Stop Shops

6. **Consult**

- 6.1 As a service department, the whole of ICT’s customer base is internal to the Authority, there being no direct contact with the public. ICT firmly believe in a process of continuous consultation and to that end a number of groups have been established and processes put in place. In addition, we conduct periodic consultations with our users in the form of questionnaires.

6.2 **Continuous Consultation Process**

Continuous consultation is carried out by means of:

- Information Systems Strategy Group (ISSG) - This is the main steering group for ICT, comprising ICT and Heads of Services.
- Electronic Information Group (EIG) - This group of users have the responsibility for the consistency and timeliness of data across the Authority.
- e-Government Steering Group - This group consists of the Director of Resources (Corporate responsibility for e-Government and Best Value), Head of ICT, Cabinet Member for ICT (Responsibility for e-Government), Cabinet Member for Best Value, Best Value Officer and Economic Development Manager.
- Departmental Development Group (DDG) - This internal group of senior officers from ICT has been set up primarily to seek constant better performance through improvements in morale and motivation.
- Service Level Agreement (SLA) - These are developed and agreed individually with each user department.

- Customer Services Meetings - These are ad hoc meetings with Service Heads to determine current service levels and future requirements.
- Help Desk Follow Up - Users are consulted after at least 50% of solved help desk calls to ensure that the problem has been solved to the Users requirements.
- Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees - ICT regularly consult with members via their specific lead member and scrutiny member, bringing reports, presentations to the relevant areas to ensure that members are involved in the strategic process.

6.3 **Periodic Consultations**

IT user questionnaires - Users were consulted in 1999 by means of a User questionnaire as part of a MAPIT Welsh User Satisfaction survey. It is intended to take part in the MAPIT IT User Satisfaction Survey Series 5 in the Summer of 2001.

7. **Compare**

- 7.1 ICT does not have any statutory Performance Indicators. To enable proper comparison with other IT providers Denbighshire ICT has been amongst the leading councils in the Society of IT Managers (SOCITM Wales) in the definition of Performance indicators. These KPI's are agreed measurements for Local Government ICT services and the data is published and monitored by the District Audit.
- 7.2 To be able to complete these KPI's, data from all aspects of Denbighshire ICT activities has to be collected and monitored. This has led to the development of 24 local Performance Indicators data for which can be found in the ICT Best Value Performance Plan which is available from the ICT Department, Block 6, Ruthin or on the Denbighshire Intranet.
- 7.3 Comparisons are with two main areas:
- Other Local Authorities - via District Audit, SOCITM and MAPIT
 - Private Industry - National Computer Centre surveys and Computer Weekly annual Survey
- 7.4 The results indicate that Denbighshire is in the top 10% in terms of customer satisfaction and in the top 25% for help desk service. While overall, the comparison shows Denbighshire ICT services in the top 50% for all other services.

8. **Compete**

- 8.1 Consideration has been given to outsourcing the service. We have contacted various major outside organisations who specialise in this area, with the option to outsource the whole or just parts of the service, all with the same response. Every organisation states that they cannot meet the basic objectives, which are to meet the existing service levels and reduce costs. They all feel that they are unable to make sufficient contribution and decline to submit even outline proposals because their costs would be significantly higher than the current costs and it is not worth their while to do so.
- 8.2 ICT will continue to examine the marketplace by such means as the computer press and membership of bodies such as SOCITM and CIPFA Competitive Advisory Service (CAS). The Marketplace trends quarterly report produced by CIPFA CAS monitors all Local Government IT outsourcing with comments on content and limitations and shortfalls.
- 8.3 Our skills in house are limited, largely because of recruitment & retention problems, and may not be able to keep up with the pace of change. Therefore, we may need to outsource to move the risk out to people who can. To that end, a tender for the support of the network infrastructure is currently in preparation and consideration is being given to possibly outsourcing internet security.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 In conclusion, it is accepted that an ICT service is essential for the effective and efficient delivery of services throughout the Authority. At present, the delivery of those services for Denbighshire is the responsibility of the in-house ICT Department. The ICT Department has demonstrated that it has delivered a continually improving service over the past four years and has a realistic Action Plan to maintain that improvement and address the weaknesses indicated in the SWOT and by comparison with other Authorities.
- 9.2 Under the prevailing market conditions, we can see no reason to change fundamentally the current service delivery from being in-house based. Nevertheless, we will continue to seek to outsource and form partnerships where it is best value for the Authority.

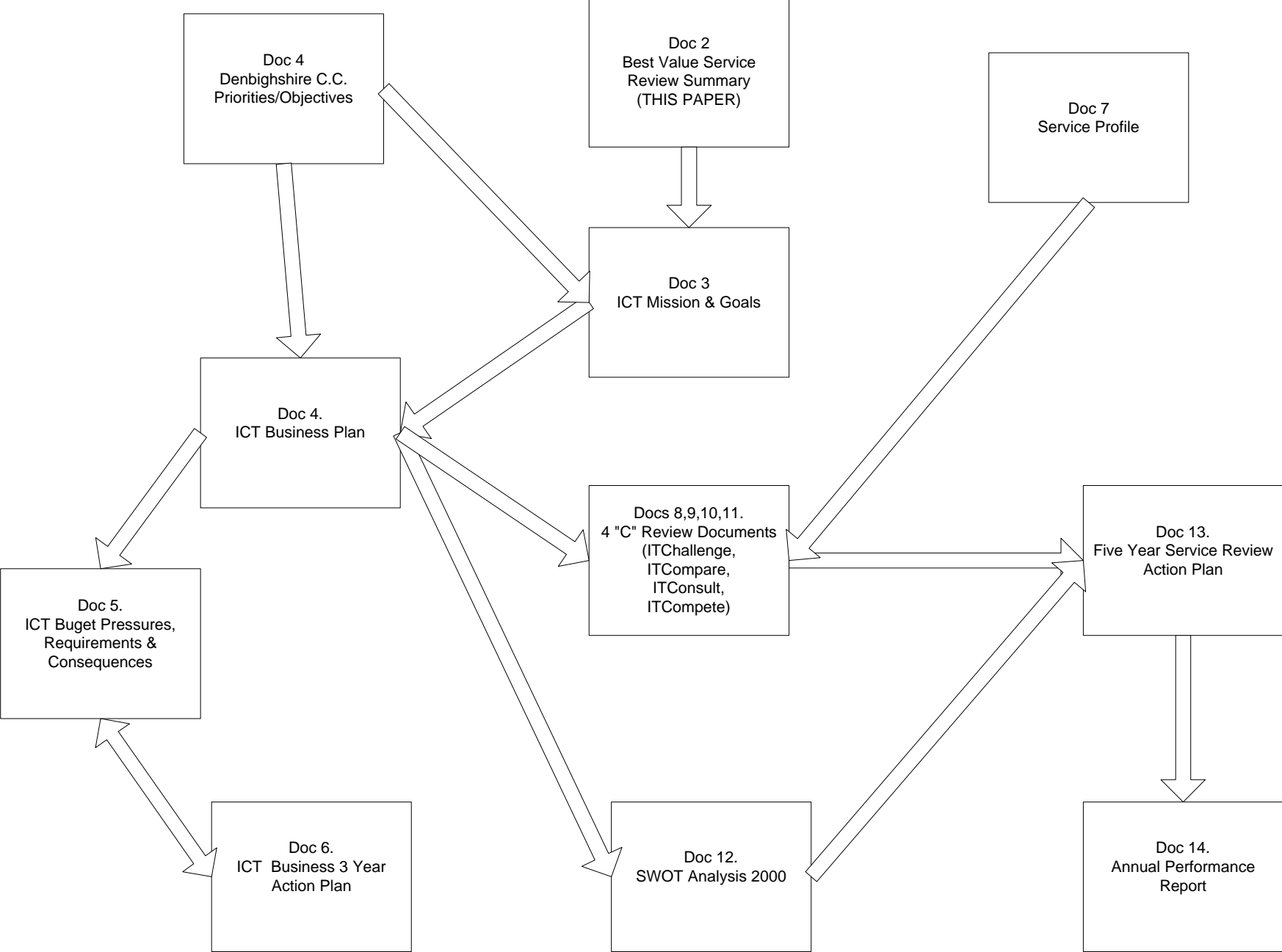
10. Recommendations

- 10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the methodology of the ICT Best Value Service Review.
- 10.2 A three year Action Plan has been drawn up to detail how ICT plan to support the County's Aims and Objectives. This is considered a key document and as such is included in Appendix 2 and requires approval.
- 10.3 In particular, referring to the weaknesses specified in the review, actions have been included for 2001/2002 which are to evaluate Help Desk packages (including inventory control), implement Project and Time control in Systems Section, to go out to Tender on Network support and to consult with Corporate Personnel over training. Approval is sought for these actions.

Appendices

- 1 ICT Best Value Document Diagram.
2. ICT Action Plan 2001-2004

APPENDIX 1 - A map of all documents and their relationships, which make up the Complete ICT Service Review



NB. All documents are available on request from the ICT Department, Block 6, Station Rd, Ruthin or on the Denbighshire Intranet

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

This Action Plan details how ICT plan to test the four “C” and carry out their service reviews over the next Three years. It has been drawn up based on the situation as it is now and is linked to the global Strategic Action Plan, which details ALL of the targets ICT are working towards, this is found in the Business Plan.

Please note that ICT is continually changing and adapting, as is the drive in the Information Society, which means that as that adapts so should the Action Plan. The Authority itself will also influence and dictate prioritisation on this plan, as ICT is the enabler in the Authority's drive towards delivering a better and more effective service, not the driver. As such the ICT Action Plan will be reviewed annually and submitted to Cabinet for approval on an annual basis.

Resource allocation is not clear at this stage. This is again dependent on the extent Denbighshire wish to progress in particular areas.

ICT Action Plan					
Actions & Projects With Best Value Criteria	Milestone measures and dates			Resource Allocation	Corporate Priority
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004		
e-Government Strategy & Action Plan (Hot Link to Paper) (KPI 11 & KPI 12) Best Value Criteria met: Challenge, Consultation, Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the framework for an e-Government Strategy and Action plan in conjunction with the e-Government Corporate Director. • Draw up plans for a dedicated e-Government unit with staffing resources at a corporate level to finalise and oversee the implementation of the strategy, ensuring coordination and synergy of effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Government Unit start up and drive the strategy and Action plan to and achieve Government Targets to provide better and more effective services to the public of Denbighshire. (This will be in the e-Gov Units Action Plan) • To support e-Gov Unit in delivering its priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support e-Gov Unit in delivering its priorities. 	Given the strategic importance of the development of electronic services and the role they will play in transforming public services, communication and consultation, the Council must consider devoting resources appropriate to the potential impact of the same. These will be detailed as part of the initial business plan for an e-Government Unit or equivalent.	Capital Strategy, Objective One Corporate Strategy, Implement new constitution, To improve service performance and service standards, To review full range of corporate agendas, Human Resource Strategy, including organisational development, ICT and Information Strategy, Develop effective partnerships.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Re-focus and review ICT Strategy from an all encompassing document to work in parallel with new e-Government Strategy.</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-focus and develop ICT Strategy to deliver the tools required to enable progression with the new e-Government Strategy. ICT Strategy will run in parallel with e-Government Strategy. Work cannot begin here until the e-Government Strategy takes form. • Re-visit the “continual improvement of operational support” (doing more for less) to ensure they link with business aims of the Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually review the strategy in line with the business aims of the Authority (e-government Strategy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually review the strategy in line with the business aims of the Authority (e-government Strategy) 	<p>As per e-Government Strategy above.</p>	<p>Capital Strategy, Objective One Corporate Strategy, Implement new constitution, To improve service performance and service standards, To review full range of corporate agendas, Human Resource Strategy, including organisational development, ICT and Information Strategy, Develop effective partnerships.</p>
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INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Electronic Information Strategy</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consultation Challenge Compare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with meeting the targets within the strategy within current budgets. • Implement agreed recommendations of the Information Coordinator Report. • Seek to resource the continuation of the Information Coordinator's Role with the essential work of promoting and driving the Information Society objectives of the Authority. • Implement Lotus Notes R5 and progress to Browser based access for all workflows. • Continue with development of workflows, collaboration systems to diminish the need for paper and increase efficiencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with development of EI standards within current budgets. • Prove Returns on Investment of making the Information Coordinator a full time post within the Authority and progress this accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with development of EI standards within current budgets. 	<p>This strategy's aim is to realise maximum returns in investment of our current technology investments. As such there is no additional technology costs and all work will be done within current budgets.</p> <p>However, there may be a requirement, depending on bids for external funds, to part fund the Information Coordinator in order for her to continually drive the Information Society initiatives, keep the web site fresh, updated and generally drive the strategy for the good of the Authority and the people of the area.</p>	<p>This strategy supports ALL corporate priorities.</p>
<p>Staff Resource to deliver Action Plan</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of senior technical vacancies in Networks & Operations and Systems is essential for ICT to have the capacity and resource to deliver the targets of this Action Plan. <p>Invest in National</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Budget Pressures and Requirements Document (Doc 5) - there will be a requirement for at least two additional posts in this year in order to adequately support the existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Budget Pressures and Requirements Document (Doc 5) - there is a requirement for at least three additional posts in this year in order to adequately support 	<p>In order to deliver e-Government targets laid down by central government and meet cabinet priority. This will also support the major growth in ICT resulting from such targets. e.g. New Social Services System, Document</p>	<p>Capital Strategy, Objective One Corporate Strategy, Implement new constitution, To improve service performance and service standards, To review full range of corporate agendas, Human Resource Strategy, including</p>

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

	Advertisement and relocation packages to try to attract the right skills to do the jobs.	service and for developing and supporting the additional new services.	the existing service and for developing and supporting the additional new services.	Image Processing and Verification in Revenues Costs c. £60K 2002/02 c. £90K 2003/04	organisational development, ICT and Information Strategy, Develop effective partnerships.
DCC Web Site Development Best Value Criteria met: Compare Consult Challenge Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and implement payments online pilot. • Implement recommendations from detailed 2000/01 reviews - Information Coordinator and SOCITM Services. • Ensure integration between web and Notes databases is smooth. • Carry out performance tests and consider external hosting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and integrate web site with backend system. • Implement changing web promotion. • Develop methods of attracting citizens to the web channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress continued development of this service channel. 	Likely to be a requirement for approximately £15,000 for specialist security software and testing for financial interface. (Payments online etc).	Financial Solvency Objective One New Constitution Improve service performance / standards Corporate agendas ICT and Information Strategy Develop effective partnerships Tourism strategy

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Integration Strategy</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Compare Challenge Consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete secure integration infrastructure pilot. Notes to all backends. • Develop pilot application to move data to and from Notes to backends. • Investigate and complete detailed long term integration strategy including decisions on development platform, middleware and application middleware compatibility standard. • Develop associated action plan with target dates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress strategy. • Begin pilot integration. • Focus on outside partnership - e.g. Change of Address? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress strategy 	<p>Progress of pilots and developing best strategy will be done within ICT budgets. However, financing, will be dependent on the progression the Authority wishes to make with e-Government and also the priorities coming from individual services. There will be no separate financing directly for this project.</p>	<p>This strategy supports ALL corporate priorities.</p>
<p>Document Image Processing</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Competition Consult Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with selection and implementation of Revenues DIP project (corporate pilot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend corporately as required, keeping to standard. 		<p>Finance will be required for this project but bid for by the benefiting services who decide to use this option for savings.</p>	<p>Capital Strategy. Review of Property Portfolio. To improve service performance and service standards.</p>

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Customer Relationship Management</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult Challenge Compare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider implications and support a corporate strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver as per government targets Consider contact center strategy 		<p>Dependent on Authority's requirements - again this will not be a project led by ICT.</p>	<p>This strategy supports ALL corporate priorities.</p>
<p>Review and Consult with Users of in-house developed systems to ascertain User medium term requirements</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Challenge Consult Compare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the possibility of change of development platform (see integration) - from SB+ Draft transition strategy and action plan drawn up. Evaluate and consider database strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress with targets. 		<p>It is hoped that this can be progressed within existing budgets. However, an overlap transition between "old" and "new" may incur cost in the region of £25K. However, .return on investment timescales would be short.</p>	<p>To improve service performance and service standards. ICT and Information Strategy.</p>
<p>Assist in User Departmental Best Value Reviews.</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Challenge Consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in developing ICT Strategies for User Departmental Best Value Reviews. Assist in Challenging service delivery and alternative ICT delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in developing ICT Strategies for User Departmental Best Value Reviews Assist in Challenging service delivery and alternative ICT delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in developing ICT Strategies for User Departmental Best Value Reviews Assist in Challenging service delivery and alternative ICT delivery 	<p>Within ICT Budget</p>	<p>To improve service performance and service standards.</p>

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Learningstream</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the minimum infrastructure requirements for NOF, e-Gov 2001-2003 and Schools. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review network requirements based on use. 	<p>As per Priority One measure for new growth from Education, Culture and Information - £335K Capital 2001/2002 £180K revenue into ICT from 2001/2002 onwards. Some of this should be clawed back.</p>	<p>ICT and Information Strategy.</p>
<p>NOF - The People's Network</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult Compare Challenge Competition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement major changes in Libraries by installing 79 public access, internet enabled PCs with printers and scanner across all Libraries. Also develop secure links for teleworking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress with the development of Libraries as all encompassing focal points in the communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress with the development of Libraries as all encompassing focal points in the communities. 	<p>External funds will be used for this. However, future progression in this area is also linked to various other strategies. It is envisaged that no extra funding will be required on the whole, but more of a redirection of funding.</p>	<p>This supports ALL corporate priorities.</p>
<p>Schools</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement caching infrastructure around learning centres (dependent on Learningstream) Help Education with the development of schools portal for children, teachers and parents. Improve liaison with Middle Lane "Curriculum" ICT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress as per Schools and Education targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress as per Schools and Education targets. 	<p>External funds or schools budgets as per there priorities.</p>	<p>To improve service performance/service standards</p>

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Take part in Review of Policies</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update information security policy • Develop personnel policies around improving recruitment and retention within ICT • Assist with the development of new procurement policy (e-Procurement). • Assist with policy making on payments online. • Assist in the development of a Teleworking policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with update of policies as per the priorities of the County and legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with update of policies as per the priorities of the County. 	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>This supports ALL corporate priorities.</p>
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INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Continual Improvement of ICT - improving KPIs.</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met:</p> <p>Challenge Consult Compare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop PC replacement strategy to formalise control on purchases and replacements. (Lower unit costs KPI 4) • Develop Office Productivity suite strategy, including tie up of user classification. (Lower unit costs KPI 2,4,6,7,11)) • Develop better formal project management process on systems projects (KPI 3) • Try out Voice over IP to integrate small office site into mail telephone system (KPI 5) • Investigate and implement new integrated Help Desk system. (KPI 1, 2) • Implement ZENWorks which will control desktops, introduce software distribution, remote control and inventory - lowering Total Cost of Ownership.(KPI 1,2,4, 6, 7,8) • Expand Citrix Terminal Server system to cater for remote users and slower links. (KPI 6) • Centralise control of applications (Citrix) for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Server Platform Evaluation. • Server Operating System Review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop Operating System Review • Review Backup Strategy 	<p>Improvements within the ICT Service will be done within allocated budget. However, as the use of ICT grows (five fold since 1996) so should the overall budget. ICT will provide year on year that cost per unit will decrease.</p>	<p>This supports the corporate priorities.</p>
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INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

	remote workers (KPI1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11)				
Teleworking Best Value Criteria met: Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put forward and develop teleworking pilot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress as per Council policy. 		Should not incur additional funds overall but require a redirection of funds.	To improve service performance/service standards. Human Resource Strategy. Review Property Portfolio.
Assist and respond to Property Review Demands Best Value Criteria met: Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist and help with delivery of property review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement recommendations. 		Unknown	Review Property Portfolio.
Tenders Best Value Criteria met: Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Service partner 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCs and associated hardware. 	Within ICT budget	To improve service performance and service standards.
Staff Development/Improvement Best Value Criteria met: Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop formal Network Procedures Documentation. Develop and improve ICT induction process. Implement recommendations on ICT Database sort out. Implement ICT Training Plan Maintain IIP 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review IIP 	As per Council policy - within ICT budget.	Human Resource Strategy.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Voice Network Improvements</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met:</p> <p>Challenge Consult Compare Compete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate CLI integration with databases Investigate call processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement call processing standard Develop voice network strategy - considering implementation of Voice over IP and VPNs. 		<p>Unknown</p>	<p>To improve service performance/service standards,</p>
<p>Assist in Project Management of PFI</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met:</p> <p>Consult</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in Project Management and Implementation of PFI Project for temporary accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in Control and management main new build PFI project. 			<p>Property portfolio</p>
<p>Security Requirement</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met:</p> <p>Challenge Compare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement DA's minimum recommendations as per BS7799 review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain security standard including self assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain security standard including self assessment 	<p>The Council is at risk if it does not ensure that it's systems are secure and comply to government security standards. As such there may be a requirement at some stage for limited finances to help in this area. Non compliance is not an option.</p>	<p>To improve service standards.</p>

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN 2001-2004

<p>Objective One</p> <p>Best Value Criteria met: Consult Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with progression of Objective One proposals for Learning Centres and Networking SMEs. • Continue with partnership approach with BT/HSBC, Welsh Assembly with BetterBusinessWales project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with strategy 		<p>External Funding.</p>	<p>Objective One</p>
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REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Alby Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services

DATE: 22 March 2001

SUBJECT: Options for the Future of the Council's Housing Stock

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the progress of the Housing Options Working Party and confirm arrangements for establishing a Shadow Board of the prospective Community Ownership Housing Organisation.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Cabinet and full Council confirmed at their meetings on 23rd and 28th of November 2000 that there should be informal consultations with all tenants on the possibility of establishing a Community Ownership Housing Organisation to take ownership of the Council's Housing Stock to enable the investment required in repairs and improvements. Other options were to be kept under review and further consideration given before formal consultation and any ballot of tenants commenced.

2.2. The Housing Options Working Party has held two further meetings on the content of an outline proposal to be put to consultation.

2.3. The timetable for consultation must allow adequate time for explanation and response. A number of basic assumptions must be made to assist in explaining the proposal, these can be varied following the responses but it is difficult to explain a complex subject without some starting position. The timetable must fit around events such as the General Election, Summer Holiday period, etc. and it therefore currently anticipated that the first newsletter to tenants will be issued in May 2001 with further newsletters and tenants meetings to follow.

2.4. A presentation was given to the Working Party by Mr James Sparrow of FPD Savills Surveyors who carried out the Stock Condition Survey of a 10% sample of the homes last year. He confirmed the previous view that major investment in repairs and improvements was required beyond the capacity of the Council. Savills had profiled the work required to improve the properties and to maintain them to modern standards over the next 30 years at a total cost of £131 million (at today's prices). This was somewhat higher than the £107 million suggested by HACAS Consultants in 1998 and depended on standards set, schedules of rates and life cycles of components but was believed to be a realistic figure. Further information was awaited from the National Assembly on future rent guidelines before the impact of the revised costings on valuation and transfer price could be assessed.

2.5. The Working Party received a report on other options apart from Stock Transfer to a Community Ownership Housing Organisation (COHO). There do not appear to be any other viable options at present but this will be kept under review. It was agreed that the preferable form of a COHO would involve registration as a Company Limited by Guarantee, non-profit making and a Registered Social Landlord regulated by the National Assembly. The ownership would be 1/3 for the Council, 1/3 for Tenants and 1/3 Independents. The COHO would be managed by a Board of 15 members; 5 nominated by the Council, 5 Tenants and 5 Independent People.

2.6. After consideration of a number of options the Working Party suggested the COHO should be named **Dyffryn Community Housing**.

2.7. To make progress it is suggested that a Shadow Board be established as soon as possible to take forward the work of the Working Party. This would provide a realistic basis for the consultation and ensure that tenants were aware of how the new organisation would be run and

by whom; and that Shadow Board members are involved in setting the policies and procedures. The Council would continue to nominate 5 Members. Eventually Tenant representatives could be directly elected but at this stage they would continue to be nominated by the Denbighshire Tenants' and Residents' Federation. Independent members would be appointed initially by the Council and Tenant representatives following advertisement for people with an interest in housing in Denbighshire and hopefully providing a range of skills on the Shadow Board. Advice has been received from the Legal Consultants on avoiding conflicts of interest for Council and Tenant representatives and officers.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The costs of investigating the Options have been included in the HRA Capital budgets for 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 with 50% support from the National Assembly. The overall financial implications of any possible transfer of the stock will be considered further.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed transfer is currently the only feasible option for addressing the large backlog of repair works to the stock. The HRA Capital Programme allows for the best estimate of costs involved. A capital receipt may result from the stock transfer although the size has yet to be identified.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Housing Options Working Party includes representatives of the Denbighshire Tenants' and Residents' Federation. The process will involve major consultation with all tenants including a formal ballot before any final decision can be made.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Stock Transfer would have a major impact on many areas of the Council including Community Governance and Budget.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1. That the Cabinet note the progress of the Housing Options Working Party in developing the consultation process and establishing a Shadow Board of Management for the prospective COHO "Dyffryn Community Housing".

7.2. That the Council be asked to nominate 5 Members to the Shadow Board.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services

DATE: 22 March 2001

SUBJECT: Better Homes for People in Wales

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the Consultation Paper "Better Homes for People in Wales" issued by the National assembly and endorse the response of the Council.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The National Assembly for Wales has issued a consultation paper "Better Homes for People in Wales" as its proposals for a National Housing Strategy. This is an important document covering a wide range of issues on housing and it is felt important that the Council should welcome the principle of a National Strategy and comment on the detailed proposals.
- 2.2 The Executive Summary of the document is attached together with a draft of the Council's response which must be submitted by the end of March.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

N/A

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Consultation will be carried out with the Denbighshire Tenants' and Residents' Federation but it has not been possible to involve them within the time scale.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The development of a National Housing Strategy will impact on the local Housing Strategy and Operational Plan and the involvement of housing issues in the Community Plan.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet endorse the attached response to the consultation paper.

Appendix 1 not available in electronic form

Better Homes for People in Wales

The National Assembly for Wales - "Proposals for a National Housing Strategy"

Response of Denbighshire County Council

1. Purpose of this Consultation Paper

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council welcomes the principle of a National Housing Strategy for Wales. The timescale for response to the detailed proposals is short and this paper will address only certain major issues. Consultation within the Council and with Tenants' Groups and other interested bodies will continue and could influence the Strategy as it is developed further.
- 1.2 The development of a National Housing Strategy must be an inclusive process involving all those affected by housing issues. It must influence primary and secondary legislation and regulation for the benefit of everyone in Wales and especially those who are unable to control their own housing options.

2. The Process of Developing a National Housing Strategy for Wales: Key Milestones

- 2.1 A new Housing Strategy for Wales should fit into the overall strategic plan Better Wales in the same way as Local Housing Strategy and Operational Plans should fit into Community Planning.
- 2.2 The Strategy should build on the Framework issued in July 1999 and the work of the Housing Strategy Task Groups, but give priority to the major issues and resource implications. It must build on current proposals and seek to give proper priority to housing in comparison to other functions of the Assembly.

3. The Role of Housing in the National Assembly's Strategic Plan - "Better Wales"

- 3.1 The impact that poor housing can have on health, education, employment and social inclusion issues is recognised. Linking of housing to programmes for these functions including Communities First is essential to promoting the aims of the Assembly and the Council.
- 3.2 The 2010 Benchmarks and 2003 Results are welcome as specific targets, but need to be monitored up to those dates to ensure adequate resources are being devoted to achieve them.
- 3.3 The Budget Proposals include welcome increases for Community Purposes and Rough Sleeping, however they fail to resolve a number of fundamental funding problems. In particular Capital Funding for private sector renewal and public sector investment are inadequate and there is little improvement on the issue of Housing Benefit Subsidy removal in the H.R.A. There is a need to sustain S.H.G. and S.H.R.G., there could be a shortfall on S.H.R.G. in 2001/2002 with the introduction of new homelessness categories, but new funding available only from 2002/2003.

4. A National Strategy to Guide Local Action

- 4.1 The review of the H.S.O.P. process should lead to a more inclusive strategy involving the Council as a Strategic Housing Authority, but also in operational terms administering Council stock, Housing Benefit and Improvement Grants as well as the private sector, Housing Associations, builders, funders, etc.
- 4.2 The H.S.O.P. must fit into the overall Community Strategy, and should include an Operational Plan to ensure that the policies and strategies are delivered into practical programmes.

5. Strategic Role of the Local Authority

- 5.1 Partnership and Policy Agreements must not be too prescriptive with maximum flexibility devolved to Local Authorities to deploy resources according to local priorities.
- 5.2 The separation of the strategic and operational roles of a Local Authority could lead to duplication and confusion. Adequate resources would be required in the General Fund to support a strategic policy function at a senior level, given that the function is currently funded substantially from the H.R.A.
- 5.3 Community Housing Agreements should be developed to ensure public funding for R.S.L.s is used to further the national and local housing strategies.

6. Regenerating Our Communities/Tackling Social Disadvantage

- 6.1 It is important that the wide range of initiatives and funding support programmes are integrated to avoid duplication. To this end the long-term nature of the Communities First Programme is welcomed, but this approach should extend to all areas of need.

7. Meeting Housing Need and Demand

- 7.1 The Assessment of Housing Need at a national level may be a costly exercise, but it is essential that the National Assembly takes an informed view of needs and is prepared to publish its position given that resource allocation will depend on it. The use of an Interview Survey would need to be shown to be adequate to inform that process and the first review should not be delayed beyond 2001/2002.
- 7.2 The Council supports the proposal for a Local Housing Needs Assessment every three years with an interim annual review and calls on the Assembly to continue to offer 50% direct funding.

8. Sustainable Home Ownership

- 8.1 Home ownership is seen as the tenure of choice for many people but not all. The availability of funding for Low Cost Home Ownership Schemes especially Homebuy is seen as one way of providing support for appropriate groups.
- 8.2 Research is needed on the impact of Right to Buy on access to housing and affordability. Difficulties in the resale of former Council properties and lack of investment in repairs and maintenance present problems in some areas.

9. Thriving Private Rental Sector

- 9.1 The Council fully supports the proposal for Licensing of H.M.O.s in particular and the whole private sector in general. H.M.O. Registration is being introduced, but a statutory Licensing Scheme with adequate fee scales would lead to substantial improvements in housing which is currently well below safety and quality standards.

10. Quality Rented Homes for the 21st Century.

- 10.1 The backlog of investment required in repairs and improvements to Council housing is the most immediate housing issue for Denbighshire.
- 10.2 The introduction of Resource Accounting based on Capital charges will not in itself solve the backlog of investment. The principle of removal of rent rebates from the H.R.A. is supported as the assumed surpluses in the H.R.A. are caused only by the restriction of capital and revenue spend and amount to a tax on Council rents. Whilst some Authorities would gain more than others there should not be a pooling system for assumed surpluses nor should current

Capital Credit Approvals be used to fund rebates. Rebates for Council tenants should be funded on exactly the same basis as those for Housing Association and private sector tenants.

- 10.3 A Major Repairs Allowance would be welcome if it were set at an adequate level to tackle the backlog within a ten year period, but this could not be achieved from existing resources, especially at the same time as removing rent rebates from the H.R.A.
- 10.4 Stock Transfer is currently seen by the Council as the only viable option of bringing in the necessary investment, but it is an expensive and complex process which will need full support from the Council, Tenant Representatives and from the Assembly to ensure tenants have adequate information to vote in a ballot. The concept is not readily understandable or popular and, if it is the only realistic option, then it will need to be presented in a positive manner.
- 10.5 Best Value and Tenant Participation policies should be developed steadily to ensure improved performance and involvement.
- 10.6 A single form of tenure in Social Housing would be welcomed. Current differences are fairly limited, but there is a perception that a Secure Tenancy is significantly better for tenants than an Assured Tenancy.
- 10.7 Issues of access to housing and allocations must now balance the rights of individuals with community safety and exclusion policies about those responsible for anti social behaviour are likely to be extended. In areas of high demand, housing need must continue to be the most significant factor in allocating scarce resources.
- 10.8 It is acceptable that Local Authority rents might rise steadily to R.S.L. Benchmark levels, but only if the additional funding generated can be spent on properties and not taken as assumed surplus in reducing Housing Benefit Subsidy. Housing Benefit, especially in its current form, cannot resolve all questions of affordability and gross rents must be kept within reach of those on low wages.

11. Providing Quality New Homes

- 11.1 Stock condition information is required across all tenures. Understanding the backlog of work required will inevitably lead to further pressure to provide resources to tackle it. Support the reduction of V.A.T. on repairs, improvements is welcomed and the Assembly is asked to continue to press the Treasury for this reform.

12. Meeting the Needs of Specific Groups

- 12.1 Arrangements for the administration of "Supporting People" in Wales needs to be clarified as soon as possible. The possible transfer of the S.H.R.G budget to Local Authorities should be reconsidered to ensure funding is genuinely allocated to these local schemes with greatest need. Urgent research is needed on the impact of Supporting People in Sheltered Accommodation, to protect the excellent service enjoyed by Local Authority and Housing Association tenants in schemes in Denbighshire.
- 12.2 The Care and Repair Services needs assurance of continued support for basic costs as it expands its services for elderly and vulnerable people.

13. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- 13.1 Increasing the range and quality of services to homeless people and rough sleepers will assist in social inclusion, but needs long term funding from the General Fund to ensure that voluntary sector programmes such as Rhyl Night Shelter can be sustained.
- 13.2 The Council supports the concept of independent advice services and funds Shelter Cymru to offer a local service, but would welcome new standards for advice services.

13.3 The Rhyl Foyer project is being reassessed on the dispersed cluster model.

14. Housing Benefit

14.1 It is disappointing that the Green Paper did not go further in reform and simplification of the Housing Benefit system. Further research on the system as it operates in Wales would be useful in promoting more extensive reform.

14.2 The single room rent restriction for under 25's should be abolished as it works against other policies to support young people.

15. Housing and Community Safety

15.1 Issues of Anti Social Behaviour and Neighbour Nuisance are the most serious day to day problems for landlords and tenants. Any new effective initiatives would be welcome.

15.2 The Council has introduced a scheme of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to be signed with young people to seek their co-operation and avoid the need for more formal action through possession proceedings or Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Member for Education

DATE: 22nd March 2001

SUBJECT: School Organisation Plan

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To provide comments on the attached School Organisation Plan for forwarding to County Council. Any comments made will then be considered as part of the consultation process and may be included in the final version of the plan.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- Section 26 of The Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998 (the 1998 Act) requires each Local Education Authority (LEA) to prepare a school organisation plan for its area. The School Organisation Plan is a contextual document. It is subject to public consultation and draws conclusions about the need to add or to remove school places within a Local Authority area. Once adopted, the plan help the LEA, schools, promoters, parents and local communities to understand the need for school places, and establish future demands. It provides a basis on which the LEA, the National Assembly for Wales and others can consider proposals for opening, closing or changing the character of schools.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- Any costs identified i.e. New schools etc., will need to be considered within the bidding process for projects of a capital nature and inclusion in a capital programme will be subject to funding being available.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- Funding proposals as they arise will be considered as part of the process of agreeing and revising the Capital Programme on an on going basis.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The plan is currently out for consultation at schools, libraries, neighbouring Authorities and other appropriate Education Establishments

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- None at this stage.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- That Members provide comment on the attached the draft School Organisation Plan for forwarding to County Council.



CYNGOR
Sir Ddinbych
Denbighshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

Sioned Bowen
Corporate Director - Lifelong
Learning

INTRODUCTION

Section 26 of The Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998 (the 1998 Act) requires each Local Education Authority (LEA) to prepare a school organisation plan for its area. The School Organisation Plan is a contextual document. It is subject to public consultation and draws conclusions about the need to add or to remove school places within a Local Authority area. Once adopted, the plan helps the LEA, schools, promoters, parents and local communities to understand the need for school places, and establish future demands. It provides a basis on which the LEA, the National Assembly for Wales and others can consider proposals for opening, closing or changing the character of schools.

The Education (School Organisation Plan) (Wales) Regulations 1999 contains specific requirements and these requirements are also detailed in Welsh Office Circular 26/99.

This draft Plan has been updated to take account of changes following the publication of Denbighshire's first School Organisation Plan which was published in March 2000. As part of the consultation process the undermentioned Organisations are being consulted.

- the Governing Body of each school maintained by the Authority;
- the Diocese of St Asaph Education Committee;
- the Diocese of Wrexham Education Committee;
- the Board of Mission of the Church in Wales;
- Awdurdod Cynwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales);
- the Welsh Joint Education Committee;
- the Welsh Language Board;
- the Further Education Funding Council for Wales;
- the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- the National Assembly for Wales;
- neighbouring local education authorities; i. e. Flintshire, Conwy & Wrexham, Gwyned
- the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;
- the Denbighshire Teachers Joint Negotiating Committee;
- N.A.S.U.W.T.
- U.C.A.C.
- N.U.T.
- N.A.H.T.
- S. H. A.
- A. T. L.
- local further education institutions;
- the local Training and Enterprise Council (TEC);
- the Careers Service;
- their local association of school governors;
- the Parent Teacher Association of Wales;

- the Wales' Primary Schools Association;
- the Wales' Secondary Schools Association;

The draft Plan covers a five year period and will be reviewed and updated annually so that it continues to look ahead for five years.

There is no compulsion on LEAs or governors to make proposals to meet needs identified in the School Organisation Plan. Where the plan identifies a shortfall of places, the LEA needs to consider whether to make statutory proposals so as to meet its duty to secure sufficient school places in its area.

Any query regarding the contents of this draft School Organisation Plan should in the first instance be addressed to:

Mr John Williams
Asset Services Manager
Directorate of Lifelong Learning
Denbighshire County Council
C/o Phase 4
County Hall
Mold
CH7 6GR

Tel: 01824 706712

Sioned Bowen
Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning

For the purpose of consultation this draft Plan is published in English only. The final version of the Plan will be published bilingually.

**INTRODUCTION
&
LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

THE DENBIGHSHIRE PERSPECTIVE

SECTION A : DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Number of Schools/Pupils
2. Pupil Projections
3. Growth Areas - Primary
4. Growth Areas - Secondary
5. Growth Areas - Special

SECTION B : POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

1. School Performance
2. Diversity
3. 16+
4. Accessibility (SEN) - including the balance between Mainstream and Special schools
5. Provision for Pupils out of School
6. Size of Schools
7. Class/teaching size
8. Accessibility (Transport)
9. Parental Preference
10. The Wider Community
11. Surplus Places

SECTION C : CONCLUSIONS

A P P E N D I C E S

- A Individual Secondary Schools Numbers on Roll/Accommodation**
- B Individual Primary Schools Numbers on Roll/Accommodation**
- C Summary of School Data**
- D County Secondary Projections**
- E Individual Secondary Projections**
- F County Primary School Projections**

THE DENBIGHSHIRE PERSPECTIVE

Denbighshire LEA has recently undertaken a major consultation exercise regarding the style and manner in which it provides education within Denbighshire and has recently published its Education Strategic Plan (ESP) for the years 1999 to 2002 - 'Making the difference, Making it count'. The ESP and the annual supplementary ESP, 2000-2001 has received National Assembly for Wales approval.

The ESP sets out the following 8 Key Strategic Targets which are the hub of Denbighshire's School Improvement Programme and form the strategic priorities for action over the next three years. They have been arrived at through a combination of local circumstances and the national agenda for school improvement and raising standards.

1. RAISING STANDARDS

To maintain and further raise standards of achievement and improve the quality of educational provision in all schools.

This target will include Strategies for Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Out of School Hours Learning.

2. EARLY YEARS EDUCATION

To secure good quality learning experiences for the under-fives by further improving provision for four year olds and planning for extending the provision of three year olds.

3. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

To continue with the LEA's full review of its provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs with the aim of raising standards of achievement and to include the key themes identified in the Welsh Office document 'Shaping the Future for Special Education - An Action Programme for Wales'.

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION PLAN

To establish a coherent co-ordinated Social Inclusion Plan to include and reflect the close working relationship with Social Services and other agencies focusing on Strategies for attendance, exclusions, behaviour support and social inclusion issues.

5. WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION

To implement the actions outlined in the Welsh Education Plan recently approved by the Welsh Language Board aimed at giving pupils in Denbighshire the equal opportunity to become confidently bilingual through making Welsh-medium education available to all children and young people and developing Welsh as a second language in all English medium schools.

6. PROMOTING THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

To ensure the connectivity of all educational establishments and develop the confident and competent use of information and communication technology by pupils and those who support them.

This target will include Strategies for ICT, the National Grid for Learning and NOF ICT Training.

7. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ALLOCATION

To establish and implement a strategy for the effective, efficient and flexible use of resources to support continuous school improvement.

8. LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICES

These services within the Cultural Services Department are seen as an integral part of the Education Directorate and as such aim to support the School Improvement Programme.

They include the following:-

Library and Information Service
County Arts Provision
Archives Service
Heritage Service
Youth Service
Leisure & Countryside Services

In order to achieve the Key Strategic Targets each of these 8 targets are divided into Lead Areas which form the strategic objectives of the ESP and each Lead Area is the responsibility of a Lead Officer.

Each Lead Area / Strategic Objective is supported by a series of detailed Action Plans which describe Key tasks, personnel, dates, monitoring indicators and success criteria. They may be changed or amended during the 3 year period of

the ESP depending on the evaluation of progress and any further government directives.

A Learning Development Plan will need to be drawn up by Denbighshire County Council in 2000, the Authority is currently awaiting guidelines from the National Assembly for Wales.

RELATED PLANS

Denbighshire Education Service has, as with other LEAs, provided a number of plans which impinge upon school organisation matters and these are set out below:-

Education Strategic Plan - approved

Welsh Education Plan - approved

Early Years Development Plan and Childcare Strategy - approved

SEN Plan - adopted by County Council

Behaviour Support Plan - adopted by the Authority

ICT Development Plan - approved

Asset Management Plan - Currently being developed - including recently completed condition surveys

Local Cultural Strategy being developed

As new plans are developed and existing ones reviewed Denbighshire Education Service will take them into account in making proposals to the County Council for changes to the organisation of schools in Denbighshire.

Given that it is the LEA that has the main duty to secure sufficient and suitable school places in its area, it is for the LEA to draw up a draft plan in consultation with those that it deems appropriate.

SECTION A

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/PUPILS

Denbighshire Local Education Authority currently has 64 schools.

These are classified as follows:-

Primary	55
Secondary	8
Special	2

In addition there is a Pupil Referral Unit at Rhualt, with satellite bases at Corwen, St Asaph and Rhyl.

There are no free standing nursery schools within the County.

The total pupil population within the County (as at January 2000), was as follows:-

Nursery (Part Time)	992
Primary	8084
Secondary	7197
Special	275

NB These nursery/primary school totals differ from those included in the 'Summary of School Data' in Appendix C as the summary does not include full/part time pupils in a designated nursery classes.

2. PUPIL PROJECTIONS

Secondary Schools

Pupil projections at the eight secondary schools within the County indicate that growth in numbers in the region of 7% is likely to occur over the five year period of this plan, i. e. an additional 500 pupils. Clearly the accuracy of this projection will be dependent on a number of issues such as housing development, numbers of pupils returning to Year 12 & 13 to follow 'A' level courses, employment prospects, trends relating to cross boundary transfers within neighbouring Local Authorities, and general migration.

Copies of individual secondary school projections are included in Appendix E of this plan.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The situation within primary schools suggests that the numbers currently attending are fairly static and this is also confirmed by the number of births registered in the County since 1996, and the overall primary school numbers since 1996. However, based on migration trends, particularly to the north of the County and the number of pupils attending Denbighshire Schools who reside outside the County it is possible that there will be some regional increase in the primary school population over the five year period of this plan. However, the figures also need to be considered in the light of the relatively low figure for live births in 1999 which if considered to be a trend could lead to a decline in the primary school population. In the main this growth is concentrated on the five urban areas highlighted in this plan.

This is also substantiated by the overall population forecast contained within the Denbighshire County Council Unitary Development Plan which suggests an increase in the population of 5000 during the 1996 - 2011 period of the Plan. The current population of Denbighshire is 90,332.

FORECASTING METHODOLOGY

Formula for calculating pupil numbers to be derived from major new housing developments which will create demand for additional accommodation or a new school

The formula used for calculating the number of children likely to attend schools from any new housing development would to a large extent depend on the type of housing i. e. low cost starter homes, executive housing etc, but as a general rule of thumb the Authority would base potential growth on the following formula:-

Primary - Number of houses x 3 (average number in a household)
10 (i. e. average life expectancy of 70
divided by 7 which is the number of
years pupils are in primary school}

Secondary - Number of houses x 3 (average number in a household)
 14 (i. e. average life expectancy of 70 divided by 5 which represents the 5 statutory years pupils must remain in secondary education)

3. GROWTH AREA - PRIMARY

The main areas of growth within the County appear to be concentrated within the following towns:-

Town	Total Number of Places (excluding Nursery)	Total No. On Roll (1999) Excluding Nursery	Projected No. On Roll
Rhyl (excluding Primary R.C. School)	2315	2258	2500
Prestatyn	1177	1344	1500
Denbigh	1,063	982	950
Ruthin	639	512	600
Corwen	156	109	120
Llangollen	282	266	280
St Asaph	314	289	320
Rhuddlan	211	220	260

Rhyl Area

Whilst it is difficult to accurately forecast the number of additional places required within the Rhyl area for the Year 2004, considerable housing development is proposed for the south east of the town.

Due to the level of seasonal employment within the town there is also considerable pupil movement into the area and whilst it is difficult to assess the overall figure there is a definite upward trend in the numbers attending schools in the town.

The Authority has taken steps to address the potential growth and a site is safeguarded within the UDP for a future primary school in the south east of the town. Naturally the programming of this new school will be subject to funding

becoming available and the rate at which the growth in the pupil population occurs.

Prestatyn Area

The situation within Prestatyn is similar to that in Rhyl in terms of overcrowding and future housing development. The L. E. A. is currently attempting to address this growth and permanent additional classrooms have been provided at Bodnant Juniors. School and Ysgol Penmorfa.

Again the L.E.A. is aware of the growth within Prestatyn and a potential site of 5 acres has been identified in the west of the town for a future primary school.

Ruthin Area

The L.E.A. has identified the need for a replacement Welsh Medium School within the town and a site has been identified in the Glasdir area. Again the programming of the replacement school will be dependent upon funding becoming available and adoption of the proposals contained within the U.D.P

Denbigh Area

The situation within Denbigh requires careful monitoring and whilst there are no proposals for an additional school it may be necessary to extend some of the existing schools, particularly if the proposed housing development at the former North Wales Hospital materialises.

Corwen/St Asaph/Rhuddlan

Whilst there are no temporary buildings on any of these sites at the present time there is a need to carefully monitor future growth, particularly in Rhuddlan where the number on roll at present exceeds permanent accommodation available.

Llangollen

Careful monitoring is also required in this area and the Authority has recently recognised the increase in pupils attending Ysgol Bryn Collen by constructing a three classroom extension to the school. This in the main is to cater for the Welsh Language Unit which is incorporated within the school.

4. GROWTH AREA - SECONDARY

Growth in the region of 7% (500 places) is forecast for the secondary sector and this potential growth is fairly evenly distributed across the 8 secondary schools in the County.

School	Accommodation Permanent & Temp	No on Roll Jan 2000	Projections on Roll 2005
Denbigh High	916	878	982
St Brigid's, Denbigh	225	197	250
Ysgol Dinas Bran Llangollen	1,089	1,076	1,160
Prestatyn High	1,487	1,557	1,615
Rhyl High	1,295	1,087	1,151
Blessed Edward Jones High School	617	476	478
Brynhyfryd, Ruthin	1,188	1,113	1,153
Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph	857	813	893
Total	7,674	7,197	7,682

Whilst many of the existing secondary schools are full to capacity and have temporary accommodation, the overall site areas of the individual schools are such that extensions could be built to cater for the projected growth. Again the programming of any extensions will be dependant upon funding being available and the rate at which the growth materialises.

5. GROWTH AREA - SPECIAL

The Authority is currently reviewing the accommodation requirements at the two designated special schools within the County, namely Ysgol Tir Morfa and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.

Ysgol Tir Morfa

This is a split site school (on sites in Rhyl and Rhuddlan), catering for pupils aged 3-19 who have moderate learning difficulties.

At present there are a total of 177 full time pupils attending the school.

The Authority proposes to 'sell off' the Rhuddlan site and with the capital receipts for the sale of the site extend the Rhyl site to accommodate all pupils from Rhuddlan. The proposal will also be dependent upon the Rhuddlan site producing the required level of capital receipts. The status of the land is

currently under review following objections received to the proposals contained in the Unitary Development Plan.

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

This is a school which caters for pupils between the ages of 3-19 who suffer from communication related disorders (Autism and Aspergers Syndrome).

At the present time the school is on a split site within the town of Denbigh.

There are currently 98 full time and 2 part time on roll and this is likely to raise to a maximum of 120 within a few years.

Discussions are currently ongoing between the Governors, L.E.A. and the National Assembly for Wales regarding the long term proposals for the school.

General

Whilst having regard to future growth within the County consideration also needs to be given to the outworkings of the Asset Management Plan which the Authority is currently developing and which is referred to elsewhere in this document.

SECTION B

POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

Policies and Principles relevant to the supply of school places.

1. School Performance

- 1.1 Parents are entitled to expect that the standards attained in their children's schools are satisfactory or better.**

The LEA has agreed with all its schools a strategy of improvement as outlined in the ESP. The LEA is seeking to make the designated school the first choice of parents in the area in order to strengthen communities within the county.

- 1.2 The LEA's targets are aimed at improving the performance of all schools in partnership with the headteachers, staff, governors and parents themselves. This partnership approach is detailed in the LEA's ESP.**

All schools have set targets to meet the government's BEST Agenda in literacy and numeracy at 11 and 14 years of age and in exam performance at GCSE.

- 1.3 A variety of measures are used to determine school performance including an analysis of end of Key Stage assessments and public examination results.**

- 1.4 Every school is equipped with an electronic pupil tracking data base that allows for the recording of pupils' progress in the statutory baseline assessment, the national tests at the end of key stages, public examinations, National reading tests, Year 4 Maths tests and in the own standardised tests.**

- 1.5 A Data Unit has been established by the LEA to collect, analyse and interpret performance data for use by the education officers responsible for school improvement and by the schools themselves.**

The Unit will be producing for schools a School Profile which will form the basis of the Annual Review Visits by the LEA's link officers to discuss targets and strategies to improve performance.

GCSE, A level and end of Key Stage results are published by the Welsh Office/National Assembly along with Bench marking Data that allow individual schools to compare their results with like schools.

Reports are prepared for the Education Scrutiny Panel which under the Local Government modernising agenda has subsumed the Quality and Performance Panel which provide an overview of school performance across the county and provide national comparisons.

Information on school performance is also published by ESTYN (formerly OHMCI), following inspection visits to schools on a 4 yearly cycle.

2. Diversity

- 2.1** The aim of the LEA is to have an adequate spread of schools so that parents can choose between community and denominational schools. The Authority works closely with both the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Dioceses in order to maintain a balance of provision. However, at present the provision for RC education is located in the north of the county based on 2 primary schools and 1 secondary school (11 - 18). RC provision in the South of the county is provided by out of county schools. The aim is to consolidate this provision and review the position on a regular annual basis.

Good working relationships are important as, particularly in rural areas, the Church in Wales Voluntary controlled schools serve the whole community and not just families with a denominational allegiance.

- 2.2** All 8 Secondary schools are comprehensive co-educational schools. With the exception of the RC Secondary School they have the capacity to be of a roughly similar size. The LEA has no intention of changing this pattern of provision. Through the delivery of its strategic objectives outlined in the ESP the LEA is seeking to assist these schools to raise standards to match the best.
- 2.3** In September, 1999 a former grant maintained school become a Voluntary Aided School with a Trust support. This school is now part of the L.E.A. responsibilities. It is different to the other secondary schools in that it is an all-through school for pupils aged 4 - 18.
- 2.4** Provision for pupils aged 11 and under is diverse. Whilst most areas are served by Primary schools, four areas have Infant and Junior provision of which only one has a shared site. Any decision about the creation of all through Primary Schools is one for the LEA to consider. The LEA would have regard to the relative merits of either form of organisation and consult as appropriate before making a decision. Clearly any consultation would involve the Governing Body, staff and parents of the schools concerned.

2.5 There is a range of Early Years provision within the authority. The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership is seeking to ensure diversity of provision in order to meet parents preference and needs. In planning future provision the Authority will always seek the views of the Partnership and incorporate them into any proposals that it makes.

***NB** Whilst there are no designated nursery schools in Denbighshire the Authority provides 0.50 education for all pupils aged 3 + and full time education for all pupils aged 4 +. These pupils are educated either within nursery classes in mainstream schools or integrated into reception classes within mainstream schools

2.6 Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs includes an all age Special School and a number of special resources attached to mainstream schools. The LEA also inherited from its predecessor authority a special school for asperger and autistic pupils. This is seen as very much a regional provision and caters for pupils from a large number of LEAs. The National Assembly for Wales has allocated a capital grant of £2M to develop this school. Work is due to start in April 2001 to be completed by March 2003.

2.7 Denbighshire Education Authority believes in the educational benefits which comes from a bilingual education and its Welsh Education Scheme has been approved by the Welsh Language Board. Welsh medium education is available for all pupils when requested by parents or guardians.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that pupils are able to communicate effectively in both languages by the time they are 16 years old. The provision should ensure that the pupils are able to integrate fully into their bilingual communities - socially, in work and in cultural activities.

By following the Curriculum Cymreig all pupils will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales and act upon them.

Schools funded by the Authority

Nursery	English Medium	*
	Welsh Medium	*
Primary	English Medium	37
	Designated Welsh Medium	5
	Natural Welsh Medium	13

Secondary	English Medium	6
	Welsh Medium	1
	Bilingual	1
Special	English Medium	2
	Welsh Medium	-

The definition of these schools is as follows:

Designated Welsh Medium Schools

Welsh is the main language of the teaching from the nursery class on. The English language is introduced after the Welsh language has been established, in accordance with the background of the pupils, usually at the KS2. Welsh is the main medium for the life and work of the school.

These schools are situated in the more English areas, and the towns mainly.

Natural Welsh Schools

Welsh is the main language of teaching from nursery onwards. English is introduced in accordance with the background of the pupils. Bilingualism is aimed for by the end of KS2. Welsh is the official language of the school and there is a Welsh ethos for the establishment.

In some schools, a proportion of the pupils will learn core subjects through the medium of Welsh and a proportion through the medium of English. Welsh will be the main medium within the school.

These schools are located in traditional Welsh areas.

English Medium Schools

English is the main medium from the nursery class on. Welsh as a Second Language is taught from the nursery class on. The ethos of all the activities and administration of the schools is bilingual.

These schools are located in the more English areas.

Bilingual Schools

A proportion of the teaching is through the medium of Welsh and a proportion through the medium of English. In accordance with the wishes of the pupils.

3. 16+

3.1 The LEA's policy is to provide, in so far as it can be done, a choice between school and college sectors.

3.2 There are sixth forms in all 8 secondary schools in the county. All provide a range of Advanced Level courses - the numbers vary between 15/25. Subjects offered are reviewed annually depending on demand and take up by students.

Most schools offer Advanced and Intermediate Level GNVQs at present and other schools are hoping to introduce courses in the near future.

The Authority reviews sixth form numbers in its schools from time to time to ensure viability. There are a number of issues to consider. The quality of outcomes for students is paramount, but other considerations such as the overall provision appropriate courses and the impact of small group sizes on availability of resources for the rest of the school, need to be taken into account. Maintaining Post-16 provision may require a subsidy from the rest of the school budget. This subsidy needs to be balanced against the other advantages having a sixth form may bring, such as attracting more pupils and better qualified staff.

3.3 Lllysfasi College provides a range of full and part time vocational courses.

Llandrillo College of Further Education has established a provision at Rhyl College and offers a range of qualifications from Entry Level to Advanced GNVQ, A Level and BTEC National Diploma.

Other Post-16 providers attract students from the county notably Llandrillo, Deeside and Yale College for students in the south of the county.

3.4 The establishment of lifelong learning strategic partnerships, as required by the ETAP proposals, will lead to the development of coherent arrangements for post-16 education and will be of significance for the Authority's School Organisation Plan.

3.5 In the north of the county a Post-16 Collaboration project has been established (CWLWM) between the Denbighshire LEA, its neighbouring LEA Conwy, their respective secondary schools and Llandrillo College of Further Education and various providers of 16+ Education in the area.

This CCET is being developed to act as a Planning Forum for all Post-16 education, using the principles of the ETAG Report and also to work towards meeting the Objective 1 Training and Skills Agenda. Denbighshire County Council has yet to formally verify these developments through its new Cabinet arrangements. Other options including Deeside College, Coleg Llysfasi and Yale College are also being explored.

3.6 Pupil Mobility

There are significant cross Authority movements of pupils between the primary schools they attend and the secondary schools at which they are accepted. This issue needs careful monitoring by the LEA and involves the neighbouring counties of Wrexham, Flintshire, Conwy and Gwynedd

This makes it difficult to track pupils between primary and secondary schools and makes accurate target setting and pupil forecasting more difficult.

The S. E. O. monitors the flow of 16 + pupils between school provision and 16 + movement is not an issue but may develop through Post 16 collaboration within Denbigh.

4. Accessibility (SEN) - including the balance between mainstream and special schools

SEN STATISTICS AS AT 26TH JANUARY, 2000

QUESTION	ANSWER
NUMBER OF SEN PUPILS WITHOUT STATEMENTS FOR 1998/99	SEN Audit - Summer 1998 - 1612 Stages 2 - 4
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH STATEMENTS	440
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS WITHOUT STATEMENTS BUT WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS EXPRESSED AS A % OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS FOR 1998/99	Total No. of pupils = 16400 Nursery - 16 years 9.83%
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH STATEMENTS REGISTERED AT MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS BY THE AUTHORITY FOR 1998/99 EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH STATEMENTS AND	234 (Mainstream Statements) = 11.4%

WITH SPECIAL NEEDS BUT WITHOUT STATEMENTS	
NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PLACED BY THE LEA AT NON-MAINTAINED SPECIAL SCHOOLS (AGGREGATED BY TYPE OF SEN, AGE, GENDER)	1 Male Age 14 EBD
NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PLACED BY THE LEA AT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH SEN (AGGRIGATED BY TYPE OF SEN, AGE, GENDER)	4 Male - Severe Dyslexic Ages 16, 15, 13 & 10 1 Male - EBD Age 13
NUMBER OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PLACED BY THE LEA AT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN OTHER LEA'S (AGGREGATED BY TYPE OF SEN, AGE, GENDER)	36 - Special Schools with Statements 18 Males 9 SLD 1 Age 16 2 Age 13 1 Age 11 2 Age 9 1 Age 8 2 Age 7 1 EBD Age 14 5 MLD 2 Age 9 1 Age 10 1 Age 11 1 Age 12 2 HI 2 Aged 14 17 Females 11 SLD 2 Age 18 1 Age 14 1 Age 13 1 Age 12 1 Age 11 1 Age 10 1 Age 9 1 Age 8 1 Age 7 1 Age 4 1 PH 1 Aged 8 3 MLD/PH 1 Age 9 1 Age 10 1 Age 12 2 MLD 1 Age 14 1 Age 10 8 Males - Mainstream with Statements 1 Dyslexic - Age 14 2 HI - 1 Age 12 1 Age 4 5 MLD - 1 Age 15 2 Age 14 1 Age 13 1 Age 8
NUMBER OF DAY/BOARDING PLACES THE LEA MAKES AVAILABLE FOR PUPILS WITH SEN FROM OTHER LEA'S	Plas Brondyffryn = 23 Beds for Boarders 31 pupils at present boarding. Some pupils stay in residence for only 2 nights per week others for 4 nights, therefore

	<p>the number of residents is greater than the number of beds.</p> <p>Day Places = 38 (70% of school roll)</p> <p>Ysgol TirMorfa = 44 Day pupils only</p> <p>Dinas Bran = 93 Wrexham 1 Cheshire</p> <p>Blessed Edward Jones R. C. High School = 1 Flintshire 7 Conwy</p> <p>Prestatyn High School = 7 Flintshire</p> <p>Ysgol Glan Clwyd = not available</p>
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- 4.1 The LEA accepts a responsibility to educate children with SEN in mainstream schools, provided that the school is suitable in terms of age, aptitude or ability, that the placement does not adversely affect the education of other pupils in the school and is compatible with efficient use of the LEA's resources and as far as possible reasonably accessible to children wherever they live in the county.

This is not easy when we are looking at specialist facilities for stated children, and there is a balance to be maintained between special schools, mainstream schools with units and mainstream provision with additional resources.

- 4.2 With the above qualifications the LEA offers education in a mainstream school to all children whose parents wish this. It regards placement in mainstream schools as a part of a continuum of provision for children with SEN. This includes special resources attached to mainstream schools, a special day school within or outside the county, a mixed placement, outreach or partial integration, day or residential special schools outside the county for low incidence high disability SEN.
- 4.3 The LEA's SEN Review is considering how to maximise support to schools for pupils at Stage 3 Code of Practice so as to raise the standards of such pupils and to release funds otherwise needed for statements into such Stage 3 support.

5 Provision for Pupils Out of School

- 5.1 Denbighshire is placing a very high priority on developing an atmosphere in its schools that promotes good learning.
- 5.2 The LEA is committed to a multi agency approach to pupils behavioural problems, to preventative approaches, to early identification of learning difficulties and to the full involvement of parents. The LEA's Behavioural Support Plan sets out ways to achieve the main aim of reducing pupils exclusions.

It also reflects the overriding aim of the LEA of educating the children for whom it is responsible in mainstream education or, where appropriate, to meet their needs in a special school.

- 5.3 There are a number of pupils for whom this is not always possible. They will receive their education through the Pupil Referral Services and may include at any time:-

permanently excluded from mainstream or unlikely to sustain a mainstream placement

pattern of non-attendance- school phobic

pregnant schoolgirls or young mothers

medical reasons including psychiatric reasons

- 5.4 The LEA is also committed to providing suitable education for other pupils not able to receive education in school, for example for medical reasons whilst in hospital.

Denbighshire Behaviour Support Service

The main emphasis of the Behaviour Support Service is to maintain young people within the mainstream sector of education and to reduce the number of permanent exclusions within the Authority. Most young people who are educated within the service are given only short term periods out of their mainstream schools. A core curriculum is followed and schools are encouraged to provide all the course work during their assessment period.

The School is organised as follows:

- 1. Pupil Referral Unit located at Rhualt.
Catering for 15 pupils full time. Years 6 - 9 (Ages 10 - 13)
- 2. Project 10 and 11 located at Rhyl High School.
Catering for up to 50 pupils part time. Years 10 and 11 (Ages 15 - 16)
- 3. School Phobic Unit, located at Ysgol Dewi Sant, Rhyl.
Catering for up to 12 pupils full time. Years 7 - 11 (Ages 11 - 16)
- 4. Primary Unit located at Ysgol Esgob Morgan, St. Asaph.

Part and full time education for pupils in Years 4 and 5 (Ages 8 - 10)

Education at Home - September 2000

6 pupils

EOTAS - September 2000

Llandrillo College - 25 places available

Deeside College - 10 places available

6. Size of Schools

6.1 Primary

Denbighshire inherited a varied pattern of primary provision from its predecessor authority of Clwyd. Denbighshire has 55 primary schools, including some of the largest and some of the smallest in Wales. Hence a wide range from small 2 teacher schools in the rural areas to large 4 form entry urban schools in the north. On average there are 149 pupils in each school, similar to the average of 143 pupils for all schools in Wales. However, about half the schools have fewer than 100 pupils and 16 have fewer than 50 pupils.

The Audit Commission definition of a small primary school is one which has less than 90 pupils. In Denbighshire 27 schools fall into this category i. e. 49%. The current Denbighshire policy is to Review schools less than 20. This policy is currently under review.

Sites for new primary schools have already been designated in Prestatyn, Rhyl and Ruthun. It is intended to restrict the numbers in any future development to 420 plus nursery pupils so therefore an acceptable maximum size would be 2 Form Entry. This would ensure compliance with the county class size reduction policy.

In the rural areas of the county there will always be the need to maintain small schools where there is no reasonable alternative. At present the Authority is committed to its Small Schools Policy and where every school is guaranteed a minimum of 2.1 teachers. Each school and its community will be considered on its merits.

Pupil mobility is an issue within the county and in particular is a major problem in 1 primary school. This school in a coastal resort is subject to fluctuating admissions at all times of the school year. These families are the subject of social exclusion issues and provide the school with problems of providing suitable provision. This issue needs careful monitoring by the LEA.

This makes it difficult to track pupils progress and offer sustained support and makes accurate target setting and pupil forecasting more difficult. Due to the LMS formula and its reliability on statistical data at specific times of the year the sheer unpredictability of the situation provides the school with extra burdens and affects the head's ability to provide stable teaching support from year to year.

6.2 Secondary:

There are 6 English medium, one Welsh medium and one bilingual secondary schools with an average size of 899 pupils compared with the Welsh average of 885.

The Audit Commission definition of a small secondary school is one which has less than 700 pupils. In Denbighshire 2 schools fall into this category, one of which is St. Brigid's, Denbigh but this is an all-through school which therefore also caters for primary pupils

All 8 Secondary schools are comprehensive co-educational schools. With the exception of the RC Secondary School they have the capacity to be of roughly similar size. The LEA has no intention of changing this pattern of provision.

Normally the Authority will seek to create breadth and choice of curricular provision by supporting schools of between 6 and 8 Form Entry. The context in which the schools exist will be an important determining factor.

Pupil mobility - There are significant cross Authority movements of pupil between the primary schools they attend and the secondary schools at which they are accepted. This issue needs careful monitoring by the LEA.

This makes it difficult to track pupils between primary and secondary schools and makes accurate target setting and pupil forecasting more difficult. Traditionally the Authority imports pupils from Conwy, Flintshire, Wrexham and export pupils to Conwy. Overall Denbighshire is a net gainer.

7. Class/Teaching Group Size

- 7.1** The LEA supports the government's initiative to keep class sizes for Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils to a maximum of 30, subject to the statutory limits under Section 1 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Infants Class Sizes) (Wales) Regulations 1998.

If and when possible, it makes sense that this should also apply to Key Stage 2.

The Authority currently monitors class sizes through the annual Stats 1 return to the National Assembly for Wales and also through regular meetings which the LEA Link Officers hold with Headteachers,

The LEA is also mindful of the situation in many of the smaller rural schools where classes are invariably multi-aged. It strongly recommends that such classes be smaller than the average single-age classes.

7.2 Decisions about the appropriate size of teaching groups are matters for individual Governing Bodies and relate to the internal management of the school. Teaching group sizes can vary depending on a variety of factors:-

- where specialist accommodation sets health and safety limits;
- for groups of children with special needs;
- setting policy for specific subjects.

8 Accessibility (Transport)

8.1 Denbighshire is a diverse county neither predominantly rural nor urban. The LEA supports the education of its pupils in their own communities be they villages or towns. The location of schools is such that they serve a geographically defined designated area. In the larger towns, for historical reasons, these schools are very closely related to their communities and identify with particular areas and wards within those towns.

8.2 In urban areas the county will attempt to ensure that there is provision for pupils within reasonable walking distance (i.e. 2 miles in the case of primary children and 3 miles in the case of secondary children). In rural areas transport will have to be provided and travelling times to school may of necessity have to be substantial.

8.3 Families and children who live in sparsely populated areas may have to accept as a consequence of living in such an area that their children will have to travel, sometimes long distances, to schools. Currently the LEA tries to avoid travelling times of over $\frac{3}{4}$ hour for primary and one and a half hours for secondary schools.

8.4 The Highways and Transportation Division of the County Council is currently developing the Government initiatives on Safe Routes to Schools. To date the National Assembly has funded projects in Rhyl and further submissions have been made for other locations within the County.

9. Parental Preference

- 9.1 The admission of pupils to schools is governed by The School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and the Welsh Office Code of Practice on Admissions was issued in April 1999.**

Appeals against refusal of admission are also governed by The School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and the subsequent Code of Practice was issued by the National Assembly for Wales in September 1999.

- 9.2 The LEA accepts the obligation to accede to parental preference wherever this is possible and in compliance with the law; however, it is not a good use of resources to expand popular schools in areas where there are vacant places in acceptable schools close by, particularly as parental preferences over time may change.**

- 9.3 The LEA has developed effective oversubscription criteria that are used in situations where the number of applications exceeds the Standard Number for a particular school.**

For some schools these have to be frequently applied in line with the requirement to provide an effective and efficient education.

In all cases, the LEA through its link officer system discusses the options with the head teacher and Governing Body of the school in question, bearing in mind the capacity of the school and the future impact of a short term decision.

- 9.4 Denbighshire is fortunate in that the number of appeals against refusal of admission are very low. Approximately 99.5% of first preferences are met. Traditionally formal appeals have totalled less than 12. The Governing Body of the individual schools make decisions about admissions to Aided Schools. There are provisions for annual dialogue between the Governing Bodies of these schools and the LEA link officers over matters relating to the admissions criteria and their application.**

The option of providing increased number of places at popular schools with the removal of places at less popular schools, has not been one the LEA has sought to exercise. If there is a need to add places in a particular area, however, the level of parental preference for a particular school will be an important factor that is considered.

The LEA seeks to maintain a network of provision which will ensure reasonable access to an aided school where required and to suitable post-16 courses.

10. The Wider Community

- 10.1 It is important that schools should be able to be a focus for lifelong learning. The LEA's Strategy for Out Of School Hours Learning/Study Support focuses on the role of the school in the community and its position to draw on the expertise and experience within the community that it serves.
- 10.2 Resources needed for out of school hours learning can be resourced via the New Opportunities Fund and can under the appropriate circumstances supplement the resources already available within the school.
- 10.3 In many rural areas the school will be the hub of the community, especially where no other public building or institution exists.

The Authority's approach has been vindicated by some of the present Government's initiatives. Pre-school initiatives, homework clubs, out of hours schemes and other outreach initiatives will all require space and Authorities who have been assiduous in removing surplus places may find themselves in difficulty. Denbighshire has always taken the view that it is better to have good alternative community use of part of a school building than demolition or moth-balling

10.4 Leisure Centres

Within Denbighshire all Secondary Schools, (with the exception of Blessed Edward Jones R. C. High School, and St. Brigid's) have Leisure Centres on site and whilst these are managed separately there are dual use arrangements detailing the arrangements for school/community use.

11. Surplus Places

While accepting the need to keep the position in individual schools under constant review, D.C.C. has always been mindful of the educational opportunities which can arise from surplus places. Most schools make good use of their 'surplus places'. Most of the additional costs which arise from having more pupil places than the school requires (and which are not great) are met from individual school budgets. Governing bodies are more than willing to prioritise their spending in that direction and under the principle of local management should be allowed to do so.

That is not to say that Denbighshire is not conscious of the need to obtain value for money. An annual trawl is made of all schools to establish their continued need for temporary accommodation. Wherever possible any unrequired accommodation is transferred to alternative schools in need.

THE AUTHORITY IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL IDENTIFY MANY OF THE ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, IN RELATION TO SURPLUS PLACES AND GROWTH AREAS. THIS WILL BE A WORKING DOCUMENT AND WILL ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONDITION OF THE EXISTING BUILDING STOCK.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR DENBIGHSHIRE

The LEA has therefore a number of challenges to address in the next five years surrounding not only surplus places but also those external pressures which will impinge on the quality of educational provision within schools. These challenges are in response to Fair Funding of Schools, Social Inclusion, the provision of education for the Post 16 students.

These can be summarised as follows:-

- Improving the LEA's demographic information by more accurate pupil forecasting particularly in the primary sector. This will incorporate the findings of the Audit Commission Report on the supply of School Places. This is on-going.
- Reviewing the accommodation provision at schools.
- Reviewing the provision for education for 3 year olds via the Early Years and Childrens' Partnership.
- Addressing the needs of Social Inclusion with the aim of improving inclusion and reintegration into mainstream settings by the setting up a Social Inclusion Unit within the Education Directorate to include the ESW Service, Behaviour Support Service, the activities of the Youth Access Initiative, the Children and Youth Partnership Initiative and the Children First Programme with its emphasis on Looked After Children.
- Addressing the needs of Welsh Medium Education following consultation on the Welsh Language Scheme with the heads and governors of all Denbighshire schools. This will be carried out over a 3 year period.
- Addressing the needs of students under the ETAP proposals and consequent curriculum funding models for 11-16 and Post 16.
- Exploring along with corporate colleagues and Colleges of Further Education the opportunities and implications of Objective 1 status for Denbighshire. This is currently at a preparatory stage and will hopefully enable progress to be made during the period 2001 - 2007

SECTION C

CONCLUSIONS

Primary Schools

There is currently an overall surplus of places of 10.3%.

Primary school sizes within Denbighshire can largely be divided into two district types. There are a relatively large number of rural schools and whilst the figures suggest that these schools have a proportionately high number of surplus places this is not viewed within the Authority as being the case.

Many rural schools are traditional two classroom schools and in order to provide pupils with of differing ages with a balanced education there is a considered to be a need to provide a minimum of two classrooms at each school. Surplus places at rural schools is therefore felt to be an artificial concept which cannot be applied fairly at the schools.

An analysis of the numbers on rolls within the urban areas of Denbighshire confirms that virtually all schools are full.

The ever increasing demands for school places within the urban areas is highlighted by the fact that Denbighshire acknowledges the need to provide additional primary schools in Rhyl and Prestatyn whilst also providing a replacement Welsh Medium school in Ruthin.

The Authority currently has a policy for Small Primary Schools which was adopted by the Shadow Authority Education Authority Committee in November 1995. When adopting this policy Members resolved that an assessment should be made to any school with fewer than 20 pupils on roll continually over a period of three years.

As indicated earlier in the School Organisation Plan the Authority is currently drawing up a detailed Asset Management Plan for consideration by Members. This exercise also included a total reassessment of existing school capacities at the schools in the County. Upon completion of the Asset Management Plan Members will need to have regard to the number of surplus places within the Authority and to the areas of growth. The review will also need to consider the existing policy with regards to small schools.

Whilst at the present time the Authority has not set formal targets for the removal of surplus places this is clearly an issue which will need to be completed by Members upon adoption of the Asset Management Plan and if applicable, targets can be set as part of that exercise.

Welsh Medium Education

There is a continual demand for Welsh Medium Education in the County and this is demonstrated by the fact a Welsh Language Unit was recently

established at Ysgol Brym Collen, Llangollen. There are also proposals in the secondary Sector to establish Welsh Language Units at Denbigh High School and Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen.

Denominational Education

The Authority continuously reviews the level of provision with the appropriate Diocese. At present there are no Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Schools within the County.

Special Education Provision

The Authority has proposals to rationalise Ysgol Tir Morfa on one site in Rhyl. These will cater for pupils of the age range 3 - 19 who have moderate learning difficulties.

Discussions are also taking place with the National Assembly for Wales regarding the long term proposals for the development of the school.

Secondary Schools

There is currently an overall surplus of places of 6.4%.

Future proposals for adding/reducing places at secondary schools will also be a matter for consideration by Members following the adoption of the Asset Management Plan. It is clear, however, that the number of temporary places at Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin and Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen will need addressing particularly having regard to future growth within the towns.

The Audit Commission carried out an audit on the planning of school places in Denbighshire in 1996/97 and the Local Education Authority has taken on board a number of the recommendations referred to in their report. The report also highlighted the following:

In the primary sector:

- the total level of unfilled places in Denbighshire's schools is at the average for Welsh unitary authorities but the percentage of the Authority's schools that admit less than 75% of their capacity is amongst the highest level in Welsh unitaries
- the overall level of overcrowding in Denbighshire Schools is within the mid range for Welsh unitary authorities as is the percentage of schools with pupil numbers at 110% or more of capacity.

In the secondary sector:

- the total level of unfilled schools in Denbighshire's schools is at the lower level of that for Welsh unitaries and the percentage of the Authority's schools with less than 75% occupancy is less than the mean
- user of the Audit Commission methodology suggests that the level of unfilled places is not excessive as on a conservative estimate there may be scope to remove 69 places.
- none of Denbighshire's schools have significant levels of overcrowding.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

LEA No 663

LEA Name Denbighshire County Council

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]
School No.	School Name	Type of School i.e. F= Foundation V- Voluntary or C= Community	Age Range	*NOR [as at Jan STATS 1 count date or year of preparation of plan]	**MOE	Surplus Capacity [Jan of year of plan preparation STATS 1 count date] Col 8 = Col 7 - Col 6	***S N	Number of 6th Form places
4026	Denbigh High School	C	11 ~ 18	878	952	74	30	
4027	Dinas Bran High School, Llangollen	C	11 ~ 18	1076	1095	19	18	
4014	Prestatyn High School	C	11 ~ 18	1557	1511	-46	47	
4003	Rhyl High School	C	11 ~ 18	1087	1262	175	25	
4601	Blessed Edward Jones High School, Rhyl	V	11 ~ 18	476	617	141	16	
4031	Brynhyfryd High School, Ruthin	C	11 ~ 18	1113	1176	63	14	
4020	Glan Clwyd High School, St Asaph	C	11 ~ 18	813	854	41	5	
5900	St Brigid's School, Denbigh <i>(Also see Primary)</i>	V	11 ~ 18	197	225	-9		
TOTAL				7197	7467	458		

* Number on roll [NOR] should include any part-time pupils on a head count basis..

** As indicated by the capacity assessment formula set out in Annex A to circular 47/88, 'Admissions of pupils to County & Voluntary Schools. If MOE figure is not the 1991 calculation, please indicate the month and year to which the MOE applies.

*** A Standard Number [SN] is a fixed minimum entry number and is an indicator of the school's capacity.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

LEA No 663

LEA Name Denbighshire County Council

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
School No.	School Name	Type of School i.e. F= Foundation V- Voluntary or C= Community	Age Range	*NOR [as at Jan STATS 1 count date or year of preparation of plan]	Total summer term admissions to reception classes if applicable	**MOE	Surplus Capacity Col 8 Col 7 - [Col 5 + Col 6	***SN	Nursery Provision at school Yes or No. If 'Yes' number of places in designated nursery classes
2214	Betws Gwerfil Goch	C	3 ~ 11	36	Nil	76	40	11	Included in mainstream class
2057	Ysgol y Faenol, Bodelwyddan	C	3 ~ 11	116	Nil	157	41	23	15 FTE
2070	Bodfari	C	3 ~ 11	39	Nil	58	19	9	Included in mainstream class
3061	Bryneglwys Controlled, Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	v	3 ~ 11	26	Nil	41	15	See Llandegla	See Llandegla
2215	Carrog	C	3 ~ 11	62	Nil	73	11	11	Included in mainstream class
2124	Cefn Meiriadog	C	3 ~ 11	50	Nil	71	21	6	Included in mainstream class
2163	Clocaenog	C	3 ~ 11	41	Nil	62	21	9	Included in mainstream class
2216	Corwen ~ Caer Drewyn	C	3 ~ 11	109	Nil	156	47	23	20 FTE
2166	Cyffylliog	C	3 ~ 11	41	Nil	71	30	11	Included in mainstream class
2239	Cynwyd ~ Maes Hyfryd	C	3 ~ 11	76	Nil	113	37	13	Included in mainstream class
2136	Ysgol y Parc Infants ~ Denbigh	C	3 ~ 6	154	Nil	170	16	48	26 FTE
2125	Frongoch Juniors ~ Denbigh	C	7 ~ 11	238	Nil	240	2	50	N
2133	Gwaenynog Infants ~ Denbigh	C	3 ~ 6	82	Nil	146	64	39	43 FTE
2236	Ysgol Heulfre Juniors ~ Denbigh	C	7 ~ 11	128	Nil	120	-8	38	N
2134	Twm o'r Nant ~ Denbigh	C	3 ~ 11	239	Nil	245	6	43	36 FTE
5900	St Brigid's ~ Denbigh	V	3 ~ 11	142	Nil	141	-1		Included in mainstream class
2011	Dyserth C.P. ~ Hiraddug	C	3 ~ 11	194	Nil	210	16	33	27 FTE
2164	Gellifor C.P.	C	3 ~ 11	63	Nil	63	0	9	6 FTE
2218	Glyndyfrdwy Primary	C	3 ~ 11	51	Nil	45	-6	7	Included in mainstream class
TOTAL									

* Number on roll [NOR] should include any part-time pupils on a head count basis, but exclude all full-time and part-time pupils in a designated nursery class.

** As indicated by the capacity assessment formula set out in Annex D to circular 14/91, 'Implementation of more open plan enrolment in primary schools. If MOE figure is not the 1991 calculation, please indicate the month and year to which the MOE applies.

*** A Standard Number [SN] is a fixed minimum entry number and is an indicator of the school's capacity.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

LEA No 663

LEA Name Denbighshire County Council

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
School No.	School Name	Type of School i.e. F= Foundation V- Voluntary or C= Community	Age Range	*NOR [as at Jan STATS 1 count date or year of preparation of plan]	Total summer term admissions to reception classes if applicable	**MOE	Surplus Capacity Col 8 Col 7 - [Col 5 + Col 6	***SN	Nursery Provision at school Yes or No. If 'Yes' number of places in designated nursery classes
2165	Bro Fammau School [Griainrhyd Site]	C	3 ~ 11	14	Nil	40	26	7	Included in mainstream class
2219	Gwyddelwern	C	3 ~ 11	58	Nil	54	-4	8	15 FTE
2127	Henllan	C	3 ~ 11	103	Nil	98	-5	15	10 FTE
2167	Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Bro Fammau School	C	3 ~ 11	41	Nil	84	43	12	Included in mainstream class
3044	Llanbedr Controlled	V	3 ~ 11	75	Nil	99	24	9	3 FTE
3061	Llandegla Controlled, Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	V	3 ~ 11	49	Nil	41	-8	8	Included in mainstream class
2220	Llandrillo	C	3 ~ 11	48	Nil	77	29	11	Included in mainstream class
2135	Llandyrnog ~ Bryn Clwyd School	C	3 ~ 11	35	Nil	97	62	14	16 FTE
3045	Llanfair D.C. School	V	3 ~ 11	69	Nil	67	-2	10	12 FTE
2228	Llanferres, Bro Fammau School	C	3 ~ 11	45	Nil	52	7	8	Included in mainstream class
2234	Bryn Collen, Llangollen	C	3 ~ 11	266	Nil	282	16	30	30 FTE
2261	Llanrhaeady Y.C. Bro Cinmeirch	C	3 ~ 11	31	Nil	95	64	14	Included in mainstream class
3034	Llantysillio Controlled	V	3 ~ 11 3	49	Nil	46	-3	7	Included in mainstream class
2067	Meliden	C	~ 11	116	Nil	178	62	26	26 FTE
2168	Pentrecelyn	C	3 ~ 11	70	Nil	94	24	14	16 FTE
2034	Bodnant Infants ~ Prestatyn	C	3 ~ 6	197	Nil	195	-2	74	37 FTE
TOTAL									

* Number on roll [NOR] should include any part-time pupils on a head count basis, but exclude all full-time and part-time pupils in a designated nursery class.

** As indicated by the capacity assessment formula set out in Annex D to circular 14/91, 'Implementation of more open plan enrolment in primary schools. If MOE figure is not the 1991 calculation, please indicate the month and year to which the MOE applies.

*** A Standard Number [SN] is a fixed minimum entry number and is an indicator of the school's capacity

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

LEA No 663

LEA Name Denbighshire County Council

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
School No.	School Name	Type of School i.e. F= Foundation V- Voluntary or C= Community	Age Range	*NOR [as at Jan STATS 1 count date or year of preparation of plan]	Total summer term admissions to reception classes if applicable	**MOE	Surplus Capacity Col 8 Col 7 - [Col 5 + Col 6	***SN	Nursery Provision at school Yes or No. If 'Yes' number of places in designated nursery classes
2079	Bodnant Juniors ~ Prestatyn	C	7 ~ 11	301	Nil	278	-23	70	N
2059	Penmorfa C.P ~ Prestatyn	C	3 ~ 11	630	Nil	509	-121	78	33 FTE
2227	Ysgol y Llys ~ Prestatyn	C	3 ~ 11	216	Nil	195	-21	30	34 FTE
3057	Prion, Pant Pastynog	V	3 ~ 11	34	Nil	66	32	10	Included in mainstream class
2169	Rhewl C.P	C	3 ~ 11	63	Nil	90	27	13	Included in mainstream class
2037	Ysgol y Castell ~ Rhuddlan	C	3 ~ 11	220	Nil	211	-9	31	23 FTE
2072	Bryn Hedydd C.P. ~ Rhyl	C	3 ~ 11	421	Nil	414	-7	49	31 FTE
2038	Christ Church C.P ~ Rhyl	C	3 ~ 11	404	Nil	446	42	71	32 FTE
2066	Dewi Sant C.P. ~ Rhyl	C	3 ~ 11	358	Nil	348	-10	50	31 FTE
2060	Emmanuel C.P. ~ Rhyl	C	3 ~ 11	446	Nil	500	54	63	36 FTE
2039	Llewelyn C.P ~ Rhyl	C	3 ~ 11	629	Nil	607	-22	87	27 FTE
3315	Ysgol Mair R.C. ~ Rhyl	V	3 ~ 11 3	439	Nil	546	107	93	29 FTE
3050	Borthyn Controlled ~ Ruthin	V	~ 11	190	Nil	238	48	22	21 FTE
2256	Pen Barras School ~ Ruthin	C	3 ~ 11	158	Nil	166	8	29	18 FTE
2255	Ruthin [English Medium]	C	3 ~ 11	164	Nil	235	71	35	21 FTE
3024	St Asaph Infants	V	3 ~ 6	108	Nil	105	-3	38	25 FTE
3313	St Winefrides R.C. ~ St Asaph	V	3 ~ 11	73	Nil	86	13	13	27 FTE
2098	Esgob Morgan Juniors ~ St Asaph	C	7 ~ 11	108	Nil	123	15	31	N
3051	Trefnant	V	3 ~ 11	44	Nil	55	11	8	18 FTE
3020	Tremeirchion	V	3 ~ 11	53	Nil	78	25	10	12 FTE
TOTAL				8212	NIL	9153	941		756

* Number on roll [NOR] should include any part-time pupils on a head count basis, but exclude all full-time and part-time pupils in a designated nursery class.

** As indicated by the capacity assessment formula set out in Annex D to circular 14/91, 'Implementation of more open plan enrolment in primary schools. If MOE figure is not the 1991 calculation, please indicate the month and year to which the MOE applies.

*** A Standard Number [SN] is a fixed minimum entry number and is an indicator of the school's capacity

SUMMARY OF SCHOOL DATA

LEA NAME DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LEA NUMBER 663

CONTACT NAME JOHN WILLIAMS

TELEPHONE NUMBER 01824 706712

NOTE: Number on roll [NOR] should include any part-time pupils on a head count basis, but exclude all full-time and part-time pupils in a designated nursery class.

	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
1 Total number of schools maintained by the Authority As as 1 April of year of School Organisation Plan Preparation For Which:	55 Includes St Brigid's, Denbigh Primary Dept	8 Includes St Brigid's Denbigh Secondary Dept
1 [a] Total NOR at January STATS 1 count date	8212	7197
1 [b] Total summer term admissions to reception classes [if applicable]	N / A	
1 [c] Total MOE capacity	9153	7692
2 Number of schools where in January MOE capacity Exceeds NOR For Which:	38	6
2 [a] Total NOR at January	4418	5443
2 [b] Total MOE capacity	5616	5956
2 [c] Total surplus [less 2b less 2a]	1198	513
3 Number of primary schools where MOE exceeds NOR after any summer term admissions to reception classes have been added [if applicable] For Which:	N / A	
3 [a] Total January NOR plus summer term admissions to reception classes	N / A	
3 [b] Total MOE capacity	N / A	
3 [c] Total surplus [3b less 3a]	N / A	

Appendix D

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECTIONS

	Jan 2000	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005
1st	1,300	1,148	1,192	1,204	1,156	1,168
2nd	1,304	1,300	1,148	1,192	1,204	1,156
3rd	1,233	1,304	1,300	1,148	1,192	1,204
4th	1,233	1,233	1,304	1,300	1,148	1,192
5th	1,099	1,233	1,233	1,304	1,300	1,148
6 (i) 6 (ii)	1,028	879	986	986	1,040	1,040
	7,197	7,097	7,163	7,134	7,040	6,908
Growth		100	200	300	400	500
Total	7,197	7,197	7,363	7,434	7,440	7,408

- * **N.B. Assumes total 6th year figure of 80% from previous 5th year.**
Allows for a number of pupils attending from 'non-Denbighshire' feeder primary schools.
Allows for some growth in population increase through housing development and inward migration.

Appendix E

<u>DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECTIONS 1999-2006</u>										
SCHOOL: BRYNHYFRYD			PERM. CAPACITY: (11-18)	930		STD NO:(1979)	157			
AGE RANGE: 11-18										
CONTRIBUTORY SCHOOLS:		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
CERRIGYDRUDION C.P			13	11	14	16	13	1	12	
CLOCAENOG C.P			3	6	5	9	3	7	6	
CYFFYLLIOG C.P			9	4	7	3	3	7	3	
GELLIFOR C.P			9	7	11	10	9	11	6	
GRAIANRHYD C.P			0	3	4	1	0	1	2	
LLANARM ON-YN-IAL			6	9	8	5	3	3	5	
LLANBEDR CONTROLLED			8	10	9	10	9	14	13	
YSGOL DYFRYN IAL LLANDEGLA			5	2	8	8	7	8	6	
LLANFAIR D.C C.P			13	9	16	9	10	7	5	
LLANFERRES C.P			6	3	3	5	7	4	7	
PENTRECELYN C.P			7	11	9	12	9	9	13	
RHEWL			12	4	10	8	6	9	7	
RUTHIN RHOS STREET C.P			34	25	21	18	23	21	22	
RUTHIN BORTHYN CONTROLLED			21	29	17	22	23	22	24	
RUTHIN YSGOL PEN BARRAS C.P			30	28	27	26	33	26	20	
SUB TOTAL			176	161	169	162	158	150	151	
LESS TRANSFERS OUT										
ADD OTHERS			30	30	30	30	30	30	30	
PROJECTION										
	1ST YEAR	211	206	191	199	192	188	180	181	
	2ND YEAR	190	211	206	191	199	192	188	180	
	3RD YEAR	201	190	211	206	191	199	192	188	
	4TH YEAR	183	201	190	211	206	191	199	192	
	5TH YEAR	152	183	201	190	211	206	191	199	
	6TH YEAR	176	163	173	187	188	200	203	197	
TOTALS		1113	1154	1172	1184	1187	1176	1153	1137	

Appendix E

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL PROJECTIONS 1999-2006										
SCHOOL: DENBIGH HIGH			PERM. CAPACITY: (11-18)			823		STD NO. (1979): 178		
AGE RANGE: 11-18										
CONTRIBUTORY SCHOOLS:			1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BODFARI C.P.				7	4	1	8	3	7	7
CEFN MEIRIADOG C.P.				6	3	9	4	8	6	7
DENBIGH FRONGOCH JNR				61	63	56	58	54	49	51
DENBIGH HEULFRE JNR				25	26	44	33	27	36	19
HENLLAN C.P				12	17	20	12	13	20	9
LLANDYRNOG C.P				2	4	6	2	9	7	5
LLANNEYFYDD C.P				5	5	7	9	7	5	7
LLANRHAEDR Y.C				0	2	4	1	4	5	8
PRION CONTROLLED				10	1	8	2	3	3	3
RHYDGALED C.P				2	4	1	2	5	2	3
ST. ASAPH JNR				22	26	28	32	35	37	36
TREFNANT CONTROLLED				4	4	10	6	7	8	5
SUB TOTAL				156	159	194	169	175	185	160
LESS TRANSFERS OUT (GLAN CLWYD ETC)				10	10	10	10	10	10	10
ADD OTHERS										
PROJECTION										
	1ST YEAR		158	146	149	184	159	165	175	150
	2ND YEAR		165	158	146	149	184	159	165	173
	3RD YEAR		130	165	158	146	149	184	159	163
	4TH YEAR		151	130	165	158	146	149	184	177
	5TH YEAR		141	151	130	165	158	146	149	147
	6TH YEAR		133	137	144	137	151	155	150	150
TOTALS			878	887	892	939	947	958	982	960

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor D Morris

DATE: 22 March 2001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RENEWAL AREAS - SOUTH WEST RHYL & DENBIGH

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve the draft Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for South West Rhyl and Denbigh

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

To enable the holistic improvement of the housing stock, environment and socio-economic problems of the both areas through the use of Supplementary Credit Approvals funded by the National Assembly for Wales implementing a ten year action plan. The reports recognise that the proposed action plan is the best opportunity to gain the improvements required to raise living standards in the areas and to bring about the holistic improvement through securing public and private investment and boost confidence in the area.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Supplementary Credit Approval in the region of £1.5million per year for the next ten years funded by the National Assembly for Wales.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The Supplementary Credit Approval issued by the National Assembly for Wales is only available to finance the Renewal Area Programme as long as costs are contained within this budget there is no implication for the remainder of the Capital Programme

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- Rhyl Town Council
- Denbigh Town Council
- All Heads of Service - Denbighshire County Council
- Members of the public through questionnaires
- Rhyl West and South West Community Agency
- Denbigh Voluntary Services Council

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- Agenda 21
- Anti Poverty Strategy
- Crime and Disorder
- Housing Strategy and Operational Plan
- Home Energy Conservation Act
- Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Renovation Grants Policy

7 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet approves the following the draft Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for
A) South West Rhyl
B) Denbigh

SECTION 1.00
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 General

This report has been produced by Denbighshire County Council and their Consultants in accordance with the guidelines laid down in W.O. Circular 59/96 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The report is the result of a detailed study of the area's housing, social and economic conditions known as a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA). The boundary of the assessment area and the way in which it was arrived at is detailed in Section 2.00 of this report.

1.2 Definition

Briefly a Renewal Area is an area where the implementation of housing, environmental and socio-economic initiatives will restore confidence, encourage investment, raise living standards and bring about an improvement in the social and economic conditions of those who live and work in the area. A more detailed explanation of the main aims and objectives is provided in Section 3.00.

If left unchecked decline can quickly affect a whole neighbourhood leading to a downward spiral of degeneration as residents lose pride in their homes and surroundings. The area of South West Rhyl is consistently the second most deprived area in Denbighshire and in the Index of Multiple Deprivation covering the whole of Wales it has a score of 49 where 1 is the worst and 865 is the best. The aim of this Renewal Area is to reverse the trend in South West Rhyl and to try to secure the area's future prosperity.

1.3 Benefits

The main benefits to a Local Authority of declaring a Renewal Area and the powers available to it within that area are:

- ◆ The power to carry out works on land which they own or to assist others to carry out work on land not owned by the Authority
- ◆ The power to acquire premises, by agreement or compulsory purchase, to secure their improvement or repair, their effective management and use, or the well being of residents in the area
- ◆ The power to acquire land and buildings, by agreement or compulsory purchase, to provide land for new housing or to improve the amenities of the Renewal Area
- ◆ Powers of entry

- ◆ Enhanced funding arrangements for Group Repair Schemes. The maximum rates for participants within the area is 25% compared with 59% elsewhere.
- ◆ Additional funds for environmental works designed to improve the appearance of the area.

1.4 Criteria

In order to declare a Renewal Area certain prescribed criteria have to be met. The surveys carried out and detailed in Section 4.00 provided the necessary information to confirm that all these criteria were met. A comparison of the required criteria and the actual statistics for the proposed South West Rhyl Renewal Area are given below.

CRITERIA	SOUTH WEST RHYL
Minimum number of properties - 100	Number of properties - 657
75% of properties to be privately owned	88½% of properties are privately owned
75% of properties to be unfit or qualify for grant aid	79% of properties are unfit or qualify for grant aid
30% of residents to be in receipt of one or more means tested benefit	52% of residents are in receipt of one or more means tested benefit

1.5 Strategy

A number of different strategies for dealing with the shortcomings of the proposed Renewal Area were evaluated as part of the assessment process. These ranged from continuing with the present policy to large scale demolition and rebuild and are discussed in detail in Section 5.00.

The preferred strategy was one which would bring about the regeneration of South West Rhyl through the retention and renovation of the existing housing stock together with a programme of new build housing, environmental improvement projects combined with social and economic initiatives.

The main proposals for implementing this strategy are set out below

1. Existing housing conditions should be improved by the implementation of Group Repair and Block Grant Schemes of as many houses as practicable to maximise economies of scale.
2. Residents should be actively encouraged to participate in such schemes through marketing, public meetings etc. and discouraged from making individual grant applications except for internal improvements or disabled facilities.
3. The landlords of tenanted properties should be encouraged to improve the standard of the internal accommodation in conjunction with the external renovation of the building.

4. Renovations and repairs should be carried out to a high standard with the aim of extending the property life by 30 years. The use of low maintenance quality materials should be a priority as should the implementation of current health and safety features wherever possible and security packages to prevent crime.
5. Limited clearance of properties which are beyond economic repair should be undertaken, preferably with the owner's co-operation but by the use of compulsory purchase orders if necessary. The cleared sites should be sympathetically developed to meet the needs of the immediate area.
6. Environmental improvements to highways, footpaths, alleyways and boundary walls and fences should be undertaken together with soft landscaping where possible in a logical sequence following property improvements.
7. A effort should be made to reduce the opportunity for criminal and anti-social activities in the area by the provision of off street parking, improvements to lighting and the encouragement of Neighbourhood and Vehicle Watch Schemes.
8. The benefits of tourism should be enhanced where possible by the provision of tourist related amenities and improvements in the quality and quantity of hotel and guest house accommodation.
9. The housing and environmental schemes within the strategy should be programmed in such a way as to cause as little disruption as possible to the tourism areas during the holiday season.
10. A Renewal Area Project Office should be established by the Council to provide information and advice to residents throughout the life of the initiative. As many of the residents are already familiar with the Community Agency's drop in centre the possibility of utilising this could be examined.
11. All the schemes proposed by this strategy should be realized in ways which compliment and integrate with the social, economic and environmental initiatives already implemented or planned for the area.
12. To encourage participation and maximise investment from the private sector the Renewal Area should be vigorously publicised through local media coverage, presentations, displays, projects, etc. which should involve all sectors and all ages of the community.
13. The Council should regularly monitor the programme and review progress against a range of housing and socio-economic yardsticks. It should co-ordinate projects, implement financial controls and respond with flexibility to the changing needs and conditions during the 10 year life of the area.

1.6 Programme and Funding

Before exercising their power to declare a Renewal Area legislation requires that the Local Authority shall:

- Publish in two or more local newspapers and display in conspicuous sites throughout the area, notices indicating their intention to declare a Renewal Area, identify the area and state where representations can be made during the following 28 days
- Not more than 7 days after publication of the newspaper notices, deliver a statement to containing the same information together with a summary of the report to every home in the area
- Consider any representations made

The Council must consider the financial implications of Renewal Area declaration and assess whether it has, or can gain access to, sufficient resources to implement the strategy. They will need to make all the necessary applications for additional funding in accordance with the programme and projected cash flow.

The full programme and anticipated funding required are discussed in detail in Section 6.00. A summary of the anticipated resources follows at the end of this section (*Fig 2*).

1.7 Conclusion

This report presents a picture of the area's physical and social fabric. It shows that whilst the area is in decline this is not irreversible. Declaration of the Renewal Area and implementation of the action plan is the best means available at present to give an improvement in living standards and long term stability to the area. The report also demonstrates that a programme of refurbishment and rehabilitation will prove to be the best value for money.

This report is therefore presented in accordance with the requirements of Section 89(3) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and invites the Council to exercise its powers under Section 89(1) to declare the South West Rhyl Renewal Area.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>01/02</u>	<u>02/03</u>	<u>03/04</u>	<u>04/05</u>	<u>05/06</u>	<u>06/07</u>	<u>07/08</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>09/10</u>	<u>10/11</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Group Repair	DCC/P/WDA CADW/HLF	0.5	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	11.75
Grants	DCC/P	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.3
New Build	P/HA		0.5	0.5	0.25							1.25
Environmental	DCC/P/WDA HLF		0.15	0.1	0.1	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.8
Socio-econom ic	DCC/WDA	0.1	0.25	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.15

DCC Denbighshire County Council
HA Housing Association
P Private
WDA Welsh Development Agency
CADW Welsh Historic Monuments
HLF Heritage Lottery Fund

SECTION 2.00

INTRODUCTION

2.1 History

In 1991 the then Rhuddlan Borough Council, as part of its regeneration programme for Rhyl, decided to undertake Renewal Area action as the basis for housing renovation within the town. To this end a Renewal Area was declared covering the area of West Rhyl. Nine years later, having successfully renovated almost 1500 properties and succeeding in bringing about considerable regeneration to the commercial sector of the area together with environmental improvements, the ten year lifespan of this Renewal Area is coming to an end.

Denbighshire County Council were intent on maintaining the momentum set up by the West Rhyl Renewal Area and as part of an ongoing regeneration programme decided to carry out a Renewal Area Assessment in the adjoining community of South West Rhyl.

The purpose of the assessment was to determine whether the conditions in this area fell within the Welsh Assembly specified criteria for the declaration of a Renewal Area, and if these criteria were met, to develop a strategy to bring about improvements to the area's housing, environment and socio-economic conditions.

2.2 The Renewal Area Boundary

A draft boundary was drawn up prior to the commencement of the information gathering process. There were three major considerations in the drawing up this boundary. One, that it should target the worst area of deprivation in the County, which also happened to be adjacent to, and therefore a continuation of, the West Rhyl Renewal Area. Two, that Denbighshire County Council should be able to support the additional funding required. Three, that it should cover the area, and therefore add a housing initiative, where other environmental and social initiatives have already commenced.

The area is bisected from east to west by the main London to Holyhead railway line and whilst both the North and South of the area share many common problems there are also some particular differences. The northern portion contains, by and large, the older and also larger properties. It is in this area that all the listed buildings except one are located and it also contains the only conservation area. The business sector in the form of solicitors, accountants, estate agents etc. and the majority of the tourist accommodation and attractions are also in the North. A ribbon of retail properties runs north to south through the area along the High Street/Vale Road axis. The remainder of the southern part of the area is mainly residential accommodation. The area is also crossed east to west by the main A548 trunk road and north to south by the A525. A total of 151 of the properties surveyed front directly on to these roads (*Fig 3*).

The initial boundary underwent some minor modifications in the light of the information gained but has remained for the most part as originally envisaged and the final boundary is as shown at the end of this section. (*Fig 4*)

In addition to the 575 purely residential properties in the area it also contains a theatre, a sports and social club, an operatic centre, a library, a nursing home, the County Court Building, the PO Sorting Office, eleven ecclesiastical buildings of all denominations, seven public houses, six hotels, a Boxing Club and a Children's Nursery. The entrance to Coronation Park is in the area and adjacent to the area, although not within its boundary, there are also two schools and Denbighshire County Council's Morfa Clwyd Business Centre, Foyer Scheme and Rhyl Community Agency.

2.3 Other Initiatives

The declaration of the Renewal Area is intended as an integral part of the regeneration of Rhyl and its particular aims and objectives are set out in detail in Section 3.00 .

In carrying out the assessment and developing an Action Plan the study team have been very conscious of the need to co-ordinate any proposals with those already in place or outlined for future implementation by the Council or other agencies in order to achieve the maximum impact and greatest economies without duplication or conflict.

In particular the following documents have been used for reference:

<i>Unitary Development Plan</i>	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i>
<i>West and South West Rhyl Community Strategy</i>	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i>
<i>Denbighshire Crime and Disorder Audit and Crime and Disorder Action Plan 2000-2001</i>	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i>
<i>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000</i>	<i>National Assembly for Wales</i>
<i>Economic and Social Deprivation in N E Wales</i>	<i>Clwyd County Council</i>
<i>1991 Census</i>	<i>HMSO</i>
<i>Rhyl Townscape Heritage Initiative</i>	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i>
<i>Rhyl Transportation Study</i>	<i>Denbighshire County Council/WDA</i>

SECTION 3.00
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

Before commencing the process of information gathering it is important that the Council's aims and objectives in declaring a Renewal Area are clearly defined in order to provide a focal point. The issues of concern to the community should be clearly recognised and other ongoing initiatives should be studied in order that any Renewal Area activity does not duplicate or conflict with these.

Whilst any initial objectives may change in the light of information gathered during the Assessment process they should form a broad basis for the development of a suitable regeneration strategy.

3.2 Objectives of the Renewal Area Declaration

The overall objective of the Renewal Area is to halt the decline of South West Rhyl and to make it a more attractive and safer place to live, a more desirable place to visit and a more inviting area for private sector investment. The specific elements of a strategy which will bring about the realisation of these objectives are:

- The improvement of the physical fabric of the existing housing stock with wherever possible a reduction in future maintenance costs.
- The provision of new housing appropriate to the present and future needs of the local community.
- The improvement of derelict land and re-use of vacant sites.
- The demolition and clearance of derelict and redundant properties in order to bring the sites back into use.
- The provision of a high quality environment through the improvement of streetscapes, alleyways, refuse disposal, car parking and traffic management.
- The improvement of the existing retail and commercial sector and the provision of new facilities for those who live and work in Rhyl.
- The enhancement of the existing tourism provisions and the creation of additional tourist amenities for those who holiday in Rhyl and those whose livelihood depends on the tourist industry.
- The improvement of employment opportunities for local people through training schemes and employment options.

- The increasing of both residents and outsiders confidence in the area.
- The encouragement of private sector investment.
- The encouragement of local groups and individuals to become involved in the renewal strategy by expressing their concerns about the area including highlighting key problems and initiating plans and ideas for their improvement or eradication.
- The provision of sufficient staff resources to facilitate the implementation of the programme including the provision of a locally based Renewal Area Office.
- The identification and utilisation of all available funding sources, both public and private, to adequately fund the regeneration programme.

Many of the above elements are inter-related but they can be broadly categorised as Housing, Socio-economic and Environmental and each has been addressed by the Study Team and their findings outlined and discussed in Section 4.00.

3.3 Decision Rules

In addition to the identification of the Renewal Area's objectives a set of ground rules have been laid down against which the feasibility of any strategy may initially be assessed.

These "decision rules" are:

- a That it complies with Denbighshire County Council's stated policies and is compatible with existing initiatives.
- b That it is technically feasible.
- c That it is legal.
- d That it will be acceptable to the community both socially and politically.
- e That it can be financed.
- f That it represents value for money.

If a strategy fails to conform to any of the above decision rules it will be discarded.

SECTION 4.00
INFORMATION GATHERING

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 General

A major part of any Renewal Area Assessment is the gathering of information and consultation with the people who live and work in the area, local or outside agencies with current or possible future interests in the area and any potential sources of funding for the proposed strategies.

The study team took the following steps in order to increase the awareness of the local population and to obtain the relevant information during the late summer and autumn of 2000.

4.1.2 Surveys

A comprehensive external condition survey of 100% of the properties in the proposed area was carried out by Denbighshire County Council

The Council then randomly selected 10% of these properties to be the subject of an internal survey. The co-operation of the residents of these properties was requested and where this was not forthcoming or where the selected properties were empty further properties were randomly selected until the 10% target was achieved.

Environmental surveys were also carried out to identify areas where improvements could be achieved in residential, commercial, public, leisure, tourist and environmental provisions .

4.1.3 Questionnaires

Questionnaires together with prepaid return envelopes were distributed to every residential property in the area. To those properties in multiple occupation every effort was made to deliver one copy for each family. Separate questionnaires were delivered to the Retail and Business premises within the area

In an effort to encourage completion each returned questionnaire was entered in a prize draw with a cash prize, the draw being made at the residents public meeting.

The object of the questionnaire was to obtain factual information about the community and to obtain the community's views on housing, environment, employment, shopping, transport, communal facilities and services.

Only 135 of the residential questionnaires were returned together with 12 from the Business and 10 from the Retail sectors. For this reason assumptions made on the basis of the returned questionnaires have been treated with caution and wherever possible statistics and factual information has been obtained from other sources.

4.2 HOUSING

4.2.1 General

The majority of the properties in the area are either semi detached or built in terraces with brick walls and slate or tile roofs. The area does contain some stone properties and these are mainly located in the North of the area. A significant factor in the likely cost of remedial housing action in the area is that 181 (28%) properties are of three stories and more.

With the exception of the Local Authority and Housing Association schemes there appears to have been very little new housing development within the area in the last fifty or sixty years with at most a dozen new privately built properties for sale.

In addition to the surveys carried out by the study team which are examined in detail below, reference was also made to the *Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000* to try to verify the conditions found and assumptions made. Information in the Index is provided for each Electoral Division in Wales with the worst area assigned a rank of 1 and the best a rank of 865. South West Rhyl is consistently the second worst area in the County. Reference to the Index will be made again under the socio-economic section of this report but one of the domains examined was *Housing Deprivation* where the Rhyl South West Division was given a ranking of 52. Whilst the Renewal Area does not cover the whole of the Division it is reasonable to assume that the Area is typical.

4.2.2 External Property Condition

An external survey was carried out of 657 properties within the area to determine their standard of fitness for human habitation with special regard to the statutory fitness standard as laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Reference to the external survey proforma (*Fig 5*) will show the detail recorded on each house. The basic rules in then determining whether a property passed or failed the fitness test were as follows:-

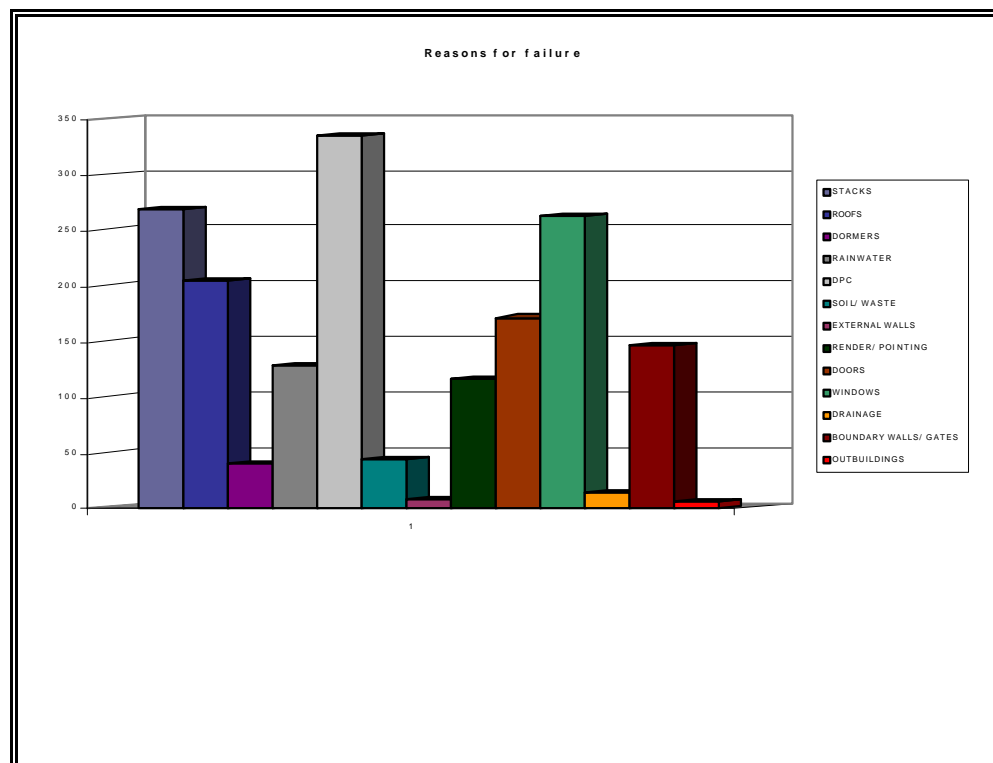
- Defects were graded as being general or major. A number of general defects would not be considered sufficient reason to regard the property as failing the fitness standard, however, one major defect in any element would be deemed a failure
- Minor maintenance defects and the need for redecoration were disregarded.

Fig 5

External Property Condition Proforma

- Roof structures were regarded only as defective where considerable deflection was visibly obvious from the street.
- Minor defects in rendering or pointing were not regarded as reasons for failing a wall unless associated with structural deflection and/or cracking sufficient to allow water penetration.
- Outbuildings and lean-to's which were attached to and accessible from inside the main building were assessed on the same basis as the main building itself.
- Boundary walls and outbuildings not attached to the main building were assessed only if they were adjacent to a public area and were deemed to be unfit only where they showed sufficient disrepair to be a danger

Of the 657 properties surveyed externally 518 (79%) were considered to be unfit in accordance with the above criteria. These findings were also supported by the results of the questionnaire where 73% of those residents who returned the form stated that they were dissatisfied with the state of repair of their homes



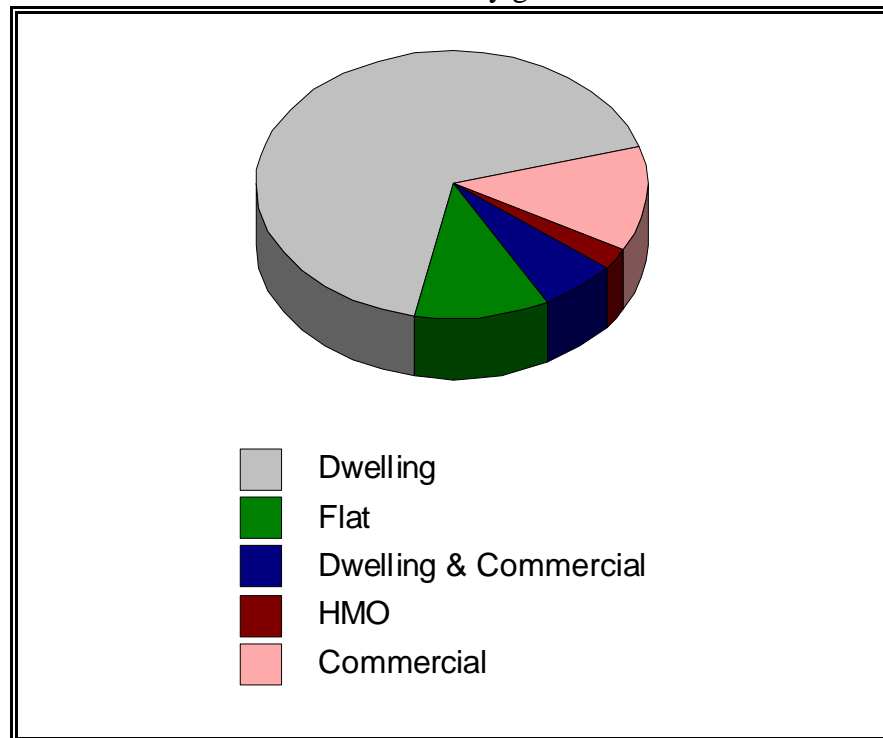
The main reasons for failure are shown on the chart above (*Fig 6*) and it should be recorded that most properties failed for more than one reason. A breakdown of the reasons for failure on a street by street basis is shown overleaf (*Fig 7*)

LOCATION	PASS	FAIL	STA	RO	DC	RA	DP	S	EX	REI	DC	WI	DF	BC	OU
BATH STREET	2	36	25	11	4	15	17	1		6	12	22		15	
BRIGHTON ROAD	19	33	9	9		4	28	2		9	5	17		6	1
CHURCH STREET	1	9	9	9		5	9			2		7			
CLWYD STREET	1	10	7	3		1	10			2	2	5		3	
EAST PARADE	1	11	10	10	10	4	5			1	2	10		1	
HIGH STREET		16	3	8		8	8	2		1	2	11			
MORLAN PARK		15	14	1	8	3	15	2	2	14	2	13		13	
MORLEY ROAD		5	2		1		5				2	4			
PARADISE STREET	11	10	7				10	1		3	2	2		1	
RUSSELL ROAD	2	20	7	6	1	5	12			8	1	9		1	
THORPE STREET		6	1	1		2	5	1			1	3			
	37	171	94	58	24	47	12	9	2	46	31	10	0	40	1
ALBERT STREET	3	16	10	4		1	2			1	4	7	9	10	
ERNEST STREET		36	25	28		24	26	1	1	4	14	17		15	
GAMLIN STREET		24	19	24	2	16	24	9		13	15	16		23	
GRANGE ROAD		20	15			2	13			6	5	9		6	1
GREENFIELD PLACE		2	1			2				1	2	2		1	
GREENFIELD STREET	5	16	5				16			1	3	4	1	1	1
MARSH ROAD	1	32	16	31	5	8	29	1	2	3	20	20		15	
MILLBANK ROAD	10	71	22	8	3	15	50	2		12	32	41	4	21	2
MILLBANK VILLAS		2		2			2				2	1			
MONA TERRACE		1					1				1	1			
MORFA BACH	40	1	1	1		1	1				1	1			
MOUNT ROAD	2	9	8	1		2	5			6	7	7		2	
NORMAN DRIVE	1	13	7				12			3	7	7			1
SISSON STREET	6	6	4	3	3	2	4				2	4			
VALE ROAD	24	77	29	38	3	3	12	1	2	17	14	10		10	
VALE VIEW TERRACE	1	6	4								4	4			
VEZEY STREET	9	10	7	5		5	8	1		2	5	6		2	
VICTORIA ROAD		5	1	2			5				2	3			
TOTAL (South)	102	347	174	147	16	81	21	3	5	69	14	16	14	10	
							0	4			0	0		6	
TOTAL (All)	139	518	268	205	40	12	33	4	7	115	17	26	14	14	6
						8	4	3			1	3		6	

Fig 7

None of the properties surveyed showed such dereliction that demolition would appear to be necessary and few of the properties showed any signs of serious structural problems which reinforces the view that renovation would be the best solution. The survey also highlighted the fact that very few properties, 10 in total, were obviously empty.

It did not appear from the external property survey that there had been very much improvement grant activity in recent years and there are currently only 35 grant application enquiries with the Council from property owners within the area. Of the residents who returned the questionnaire 35% had undertaken major improvements to their homes in the last 5 years but of these only 14% (i.e. 5% of the overall total) had done so with the aid of a local authority grant.



4.2.3 Property type and size

The external property survey was also used to ascertain property type, size and usage in order to facilitate the costing of any proposed strategies.

81% of the properties surveyed were purely residential with the remainder being commercial or a combination of both (*Fig 8*).

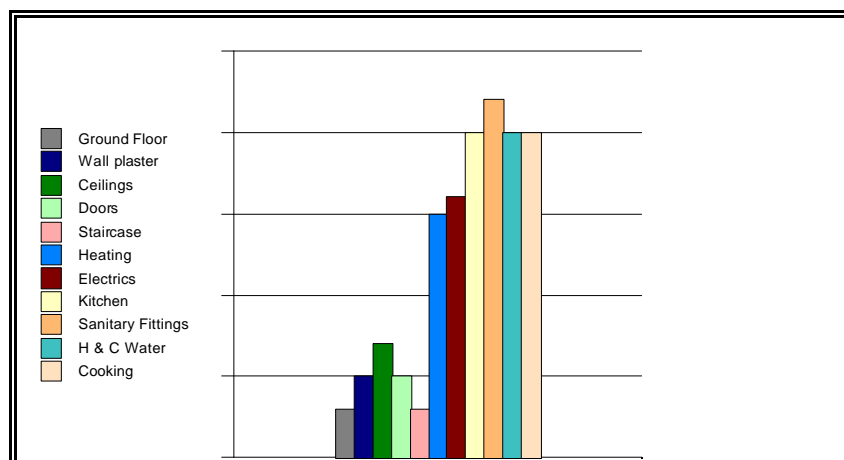
The size of properties in the area was recorded on the basis of the number of storeys and whether there was a rear extension and its size and also by estimating the overall floor area and categorising the property on this basis into small, medium, large or very large. The following table (*Fig 9*) shows the results of that survey.

PROPERTY SIZE
Single storey / No extension
Single storey / single storey extension
Two storey / No extension
Two storey / Single storey extension
Two storey / Two storey extension
Three storey / No extension
Three storey / single storey extension
Three storey / two storey extension
Three storey / Three storey extension
Four storey / Two storey extension
Six storeys and over

4.2.4 Internal Property Condition

A random 10% of the externally surveyed properties were selected to be the subject of an internal survey. The internal surveys were carried out with due regard to the fitness standard in the same way as the external survey. The surveyors endeavoured not to be misled by a high quality of internal decoration, but equally, poor standards of decoration were disregarded.

Defects were again rated as minor or major and a major failure of any one element was regarded as sufficient to mark the property as unfit.



Of the 65 properties surveyed 28 (43%) failed to meet the fitness standard and the reasons for failure are shown on the chart below (Fig 10). Again most of the properties failed for more than one reason.

As can be seen from the chart the main causes of failure relate to shortcomings in electrical, heating or plumbing installations. Food preparation facilities were often found to be inadequate with small kitchens and poor ventilation.

Despite the lack of damp proof courses shown up by the external condition survey rising dampness was not found to be a major problem in many of the properties visited, condensation however appeared to be a greater problem. Many properties which failed the fitness test had only a single source of heating, a coal or gas fire usually in the living room, and poor ventilation due to the owners sealing up draughty windows.

4.2.5 Local Authority and Housing Association Accommodation

In order to qualify for Renewal Area status at least 75% of the properties within the area must be privately owned. In the South West Rhyl study area Denbighshire County Council and the two Housing Associations active in the area, Clwyd Alyn and Wales & West, own 75 properties. The remaining 582, i.e. 88.5% are privately owned.

There are no local authority housing estates within the area and broadly the public sector accommodation comprises just 11 houses and 64 flats.

Neither of the Housing Associations are currently involved in any refurbishment or new build programmes in the area but Clwyd Alyn have identified two sites for possible future development. The Denbighshire County Council flats in the Morfa Bach area are to be the subject of a future improvement programme.

4.2.6 Housing Tenure

Analysis of the returned questionnaires showed that 36% of families lived in rented accommodation. Further analysis showed that 13% were in Local Authority or Housing Association property which is almost exactly the same as the percentage of such properties in the area.

As stated earlier with such a small response to the questionnaire confirmation of assumptions made would try to be obtained and to this end the 1991 Census figures for the South West Rhyl Ward were examined. This showed that 41% of the accommodation in the area was rented which is not too different from the questionnaire result.

32% of respondents had lived at their present address for less than 5 years but only one third of these had moved into the area from outside. Accommodation with only one or two inhabitants accounted for 73% of the questionnaires returned leading to a possible assumption that under occupancy in the area may be significant. Again the 1991 Census was consulted and this showed that the percentage of overcrowded households in South West Rhyl was only 2.5% and the percentage of households sharing or lacking amenities was almost non-existent at 0.7%.

4.2.7 Conservation Area and Listed Buildings etc.

The Northern sector of the area contains a Conservation area and also 36 listed buildings (*Fig 11*). There is one other listed building to the far south of the area.

The Council's policy in respect of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings can be examined in detail in its *Unitary Development Plan* (UDP) but a basic outline of those policies likely to affect a refurbishment programme in the Renewal Area is given below for reference. None of the listed buildings in the area is the subject of a site specific UDP policy.

CON 2 Extensions or alterations to a listed building that would detrimentally affect its character as a building of architectural or historic interest will not be permitted.

CON 3 The change of use of a listed building will only be permitted if any alterations associated with the change of use are not detrimental to its character as a building of architectural or historic interest .

CON 4 The use of indigenous building materials for the maintenance, alteration or extension of historic buildings will be preferred.

CON 5 In respect of Conservation Areas (the Council will) ensure that the special features contributing to the character and quality are protected against inappropriate development.

CON 8 Demolition within a Conservation Area will only be permitted where...the building/structure is beyond economic repair.....it can be demonstrated that it makes no contribution to the character/appearance of the area.....a fully detailed redevelopment scheme has been submitted and approved.

The northern boundary of the Renewal Area is formed by East Parade which is covered by UDP policy CPZ 3 regarding permitted development and a strategy for this area is currently being prepared by the Council.

4.2.8 Previous Initiatives

Previous Local Authority involvement in the area has mainly been through grant aid on a purely reactive basis. A total of 29 properties in the area have been grant aided in the last 5 years at a total cost of £491,400.00

In the 1999/2000 financial year the Council instigated a Group Repair Scheme in Vezey Street. From a potential 19 properties only 8 households actually went ahead with the scheme. The raising of the 50% contribution required by a community of mainly young families was felt to be the major cause of the high drop out rate.

4.2.9 Housing Need

The Council operates a Waiting List of applicants for its own dwellings which is separated into requests for each area and into General Needs and Pensioners. Anyone with connections with the area is entitled to register on the list without

assessment of need, although allocations are made to those in most need as assessed by a points scheme. The total list for Rhyl is 453 General Needs and 330 Pensioners and although this is not a formal Housing Needs Assessment it clearly demonstrates that the need in Rhyl is well above the likely level of available properties.

4.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC

4.3.1 General

It is intended that the declaration of the Renewal Area should form the basis for property renovation in an area that is already being targeted for economic development. Housing improvement alone will not be sufficient to secure the long term future of the area but Section 4.2 of this report shows that such improvements are badly needed.

It was inevitable that during the information gathering process there was some duplication of survey work already carried out and some of the issues discussed below have already been addressed by others. In particular information gathered in the preparation of the *West and South West Rhyl Community Strategy* by the local community in partnership with Denbighshire County Council, the voluntary sector and local public and private sector interests has been invaluable in the preparation of this report.

In this report the results of other's research is sometimes repeated in order to present a balanced overall view.

4.3.2 Benefit

One of the criteria that has to be met before an area can be declared a Renewal Area is that

at least 30% of households in the area should appear to be dependent to a significant extent on receipt of one or more state benefits.

55% of respondents to the questionnaire fell within this category but as stated previously the small response makes this information unreliable. The Council therefore examined their records for payment of Housing Benefit within the area. The results showed that payment was being made to 305 families which is 46% of the total number of properties in the area and 52% of those properties with a residential element.

4.3.3 Employment and Income

Respondents to the questionnaire were asked to indicate how many members of their household over 16 years of age were in employment. From a total of 212 there were only 83 (39%) in full time employment with a further 21 (10%) in part time employment. 63% of those in employment were employed in Rhyl itself. Of the 83

families where one or more person was in full employment only 8 were also in receipt of an income related benefit. When asked what they disliked most about living in Rhyl the lack of employment opportunities came top of the list and was cited as the greatest disadvantage of the area by 49% of the respondents. DoE figures currently show unemployment in the South West Rhyl electoral division at 6.5%

Only 40% of the families who responded to the questionnaire had access to a motor vehicle. This compares with the 1991 census figure for Rhyl South West as a whole of 49% and is some 20% below the national average for Wales.

There were 44 people with limiting long term illness in the families who returned the questionnaire and this is 16% of the total compared with the Census figure of 18%.

Comparisons between the results of the questionnaire, the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 and the 1991 Census above and in Section 4.2 show enough similarities that it is reasonable to assume that other information obtainable from these sources is relevant to the Renewal Area and some are listed below (*Figs 12 & 13*).

Percentage of loan parent households	20%
Percentage of 16/17 year olds not in full time education	46%
Percentage of Children in households with no earners	29%

Multiple Deprivation is represented as being made up of the following domains: income, employment, health, education, housing and access to services and are combined to form the overall index of Multiple Deprivation.

Where the most deprived Electoral Division in Wales has a rank of 1 and the least deprived a rank of 865 - South West Rhyl has a rank of 49.

Income Deprivation	22
Employment Deprivation	142
Health Deprivation and Disability	156
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	60

Income Deprivation measures those people who are in receipt of low income.

- Employment Deprivation measures those people who want to work but are unable to do so through lack of employment opportunities or sickness i.e. enforced exclusion from the place of work.
- Health Deprivation and Disability seeks to summarise the health status of the population and reflect the risk of premature death and the extent to which chronic illness or disability impairs people’s quality of life.
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation measures the key educational characteristics of the area.

High levels of deprivation in the area, particularly income deprivation which is one of the most important dimensions of Multiple Deprivation, means that disposable incomes are small. This limits property owners ability to fund their own house maintenance and improvements.

4.3.4 Crime

The figures quoted below come from the latest available North Wales Police Crime and Disorder Audit. Due to the way crimes are recorded some non-specific figures are available for streets within the Renewal Area (*Fig 14*) the other statistics cover the whole of the Rhyl South West Division.

LOCATION	RECORDED CRIMES
Albert Street	4
Bath Street	35
Brighton Road	46
Church Street	27
Ernest Street	0
Marsh Road	70
Millbank Road	11
Vale Road	84

46% of respondents to the questionnaire stated that crime in the area affected their lives very much whilst another 34% felt that their lives were affected to a fair extent. It would appear however that peoples fear of crime is greater than would be justified by the statistics with only 29% having been the victims of crime in the last 12 months and 38% having never been a victim. Analysis of the police records shows that by far the largest number of calls received were in connection with public disorder,

drunkenness and anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse in Rhyl is the highest in the County. For residents of the area these types of incidents may affect their everyday lives without them actually being involved.

Residents were given a series of possible measures for reducing crime in the area and by far the largest number cited more police on the beat as the most important with better job opportunities and better drugs counselling/education a close second and third.

4.3.5 Leisure

Rhyl being a holiday resort and the area being close to the town centre the residents leisure activities are generally well catered for. 71% of the residents who responded to the questionnaire stated that most of their social activities were catered for in Rhyl although 63% also felt that there were not enough facilities for young people with 48% expressing the wish that more outdoor play areas were available. 94% did all their food and general shopping in Rhyl

76% of the respondents to the questionnaire cited the surrounding countryside and beaches as being one of the things they most liked about living in Rhyl. The library which is in the area and the main shopping street, part of which is within the area were also highly rated. The Rhyl Sun Centre and Theatre are within walking distance for most of the residents as are the playing fields at Coronation Gardens.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL

4.4.1 General

One of the benefits of Renewal Area status is that funding is available at £1,000.00 for every property within the area in order to improve areas of social and environmental concern.

This funding adequately provides for schemes such as play areas, the clearance and landscaping of derelict areas or the improvement of existing features of special interest. More ambitious schemes , especially those involving construction or reconstruction of buildings will need to be marketed to outside agencies.

In practice the area is very densely populated and has very few open, undeveloped areas and any proposals will need to concentrate on improvements to the existing infrastructure.

4.4.2 Boundaries

Examination of the property condition survey will show the extent to which the boundary walls in the area are deteriorating and contributing to the town's run down appearance.

Improvements in this direction would improve property security throughout the area and repair or rebuilding of the front boundary walls, particularly in the north of the area where there is some particularly attractive detailing, would do much to improve the image of the area.

4.4.3 Rear Alleyways

The area as a whole is a maze of rear alleyways most of which are unsurfaced or where any previous surfacing has all but disintegrated. These alleyways add to the overall dilapidated appearance of the area encouraging fly tipping and creating potential health hazards (*Figs 15 & 16*).

Litter, fly tipping, refuse dumping and dog fouling were listed by 80% of the residents as issues which should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Resurfacing these alleyways would not only improve the area's appearance but also enable and encourage those residents whose properties adjoin them to keep them clean. Thought should also be given to providing gates at the entrances to those alleyways where practical to increase security and discourage criminal and other anti-social activities.

4.4.4 Highways and Traffic

There was general discontentment amongst residents about the condition of the road surfacing and in particular that pedestrian footways were uneven or unsafe.

To the north of the area the streets form part of the town's one way traffic management system. In the south Vale Road is the main A525 trunk route into the town from the South. During the holiday season these roads can be particularly congested with the consequent danger to the inhabitants and noise and pollution nuisance.

Residents in these areas in particular found parking near their homes a problem especially during the summer months. The provision by the Council of a large car park in Morley Road has reduced the incidence of holiday makers parking on the streets but provision of further parking space, particularly space designated for residents only, would be welcomed by the local property owners.

Street lighting in the area is generally good but the provision of lighting to rear alleyways was requested by many of the residents.

SECTION 5.00
OPTION GENERATION AND APPRAISAL

5.1 General

In order to develop a renewal strategy for the area various “Option Packages” will now be evaluated to ascertain which strategy will best meet the overall aims and objectives of the Renewal Area.

5.2 Option Packages

- A. Continue as at present on a purely reactive basis.
- B. As A. above but undertake environmental improvements
- C. Continue as at present but with a more pro-active approach and a higher level of grant activity which may have been generated by the Renewal Area process and carry out environmental improvements.
- D. Retain and rehabilitate all defective properties with a pro-active approach using Group Repair Schemes and grants.
- E. As D. above and undertake new build on existing available land and undertake environmental improvements.
- F. As E. above but with wholesale clearance of all pre-1919 housing stock with new build replacement.
- G. As E. above and initiate social and economic programmes

5.3 Assessment Against Decision Rules

The feasibility of each option package is first assessed by comparing them with the “decision rules” laid down in Section 3.00

When the decision rules are applied to option F. it is eliminated because it is politically and socially unacceptable and the rehousing and relocation of the residents would not be technically feasible within the timescale.

5.4 Assessment Against Aims and Objectives

Six potentially viable option packages now remain and these are assessed in relation to the “Aims and Objectives” of the Renewal Area as laid down in Section 3.00

Each option is scored out of a possible 20 on the following scale

- 1 little or no impact
- 5 some improvement

- 10 valuable
- 15 significant
- 20 very significant

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	A	B	C	D	E	G
Improvement of existing housing stock	5	5	10	18	18	18
Reduction of future maintenance costs	5	5	5	15	15	15
Provision of new housing for present and future needs	1	1	1	1	15	15
Improvement of derelict land and re-use of vacant sites	1	1	10	1	10	10
Clearance of derelict and redundant properties	1	1	1	1	10	10
Provision of high quality environment	1	12	12	1	15	15
Improvement of retail and commercial provisions	1	1	5	15	15	18
Enhancement of tourism	1	5	5	10	10	18
Improve employment opportunities	1	1	1	5	5	10
Increase confidence	1	5	8	5	10	15
Encourage private sector investment	1	1	1	8	15	15
Encourage involvement of local people	1	5	8	10	10	18
Utilise all available funding	1	3	3	5	10	15
TOTAL	21	46	70	95	158	192

5.5 Economic Assessment

The purpose of the economic assessment is to enable the current and future cost consequences of the different options to be considered. The assessment considers these consequences over a 30 year period and assumes a further major decision will be necessary in year 30 to cover the subsequent 30 year period. All costs and benefits are expressed in present day values with those beyond year 1 being discounted.

Net Present Values (NPV's) have been calculated for four alternatives (*Figs 18 & 19*):

1. Rehabilitate externally and internally using grants only
2. Rehabilitate using Group Repair externally and grant aid internally
3. Demolish with no new build
4. Demolish and rebuild

and for the following sample situations

- a a pair of semi detached houses
- b a terrace of six 2 storey houses
- c a terrace of six 3 storey houses

ACTION	Y	Disc.	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c
Refurbish	1		39	115	130	35	99	118
<u>Less</u> increased value	1		12	36	48	12	36	48
			27	79	82	23	63	70
Cost of accumulated repairs	15	0.32	3.68	10.72	11.20	3.04	8.16	9.28
Complete refurbishment as year 1	30	0.10	2.70	7.90	8.20	2.30	6.30	7.00
<u>TOTAL</u>			33.38	97.62	101.4	28.34	77.46	86.28

ACTION	Y	Disc	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c
Serve demolition order	1		96	248	288	96	248	288
Home loss payment	1		5	15	15	5	15	15
Demolition	2	0.93	18.6	37.2	46.5	18.6	46.5	37.2
Rebuild less enhanced value	3		-	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated repairs	13	0.37	-	-	-	1.75	4.72	5.37
Major renovation	30	0.1	-	-	-	2.7	7.9	8.2
			119.6	300.2	349.5	124.05	322.22	353.77
<u>Less</u> increased value	30	0.1	-	-	-	1.2	3.6	4.8
<u>TOTAL</u>			119.6	300.2	349.5	122.85	318.52	348.97

NPV's have been calculated on the following basis:

- Market values have been assessed from a range of current estate agent particulars of properties for sale in the area. No formal valuations have been made.
- Full rehabilitation works will add £6,000.00 to the value of a two storey property and £8,000.00 to a larger property.
- Rebuilding costs equate to the enhanced market values of the finished properties, thereby producing a zero figure.
- Environmental cost benefits will be the same throughout all alternatives and so have been excluded.

- Although there are properties larger than the three storeys used in the calculations these are generally on East Parade, listed or within the conservation area and therefore demolition would be contrary to the Council's stated policies.

A summary of the NPV calculations of each alternative for the 3 sample situations (*Fig 20*) shows that rehabilitation using Group Repair Schemes and grants is the most cost effective.

SITUATION	1	2	3	4
Pair semi detached houses (a)	33.38	28.34	119.6	122.85
Terrace of 6 two storey houses (b)	97.62	77.46	300.2	318.52
Terrace of 6 three storey houses (c)	101.4	86.28	349.5	348.97

Fig 20 **Summary of NPV Calculations**

5.6 Conclusion

OPTION A. The continuation of the existing policy, which to date has largely failed to meet the area's needs, attained the lowest score when assessed against the Aims and Objectives of the Renewal Area. Whilst it was the second most economic alternative it fails to address any of the social, economic or environmental problems of the area. Continuation of this policy is only likely to prolong the area's decline.

OPTION B. Whilst this option would tackle some of the environmental issues it is otherwise the same as option A and would fail for basically the same reasons.

OPTION C. This strategy scores little better than option B and whilst the increased activity brought about by the shift from a re-active to a pro active approach may bring about a increase in housing and environmental standards it still does not address the socio-economic issues of the area.

OPTION D. This option package requires a much more active role by the Council and would result in a much greater improvement in the existing housing stock in what is shown in the economic assessment to be the most cost effective manner. Again however the social and environmental needs of the area fail to be addressed, and no new housing would be provided.

OPTION E. This package showed a large improvement over the previous options in the assessment against the Aims and Objectives. It would achieve not only the same improvements as option D but would also provide a limited amount of new housing on currently available land and bring about improvements in the environment .

OPTION F. This strategy achieves the optimum score in the Aims and Objectives and Economic assessments. It not only provides the most comprehensive improvement in the existing housing stock with the provision of new housing and environmental enhancement but it also responds to the commercial and tourism needs of South West Rhyl and is the policy most likely to increase private sector investment in the area.

The preferred strategy is Option F and forms the basis of the Action Plan developed in Section 6.00

SECTION 6.00 ACTION PLAN

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Having ascertained that the area meets all the Renewal Area criteria there follows a projected plan of action to tackle the area's problems.

The proposals are intended to improve the area's image and housing standards, address social issues and encourage private sector investment.

The following proposals are intended to form a basis for action over the next ten years but it must be accepted that it may not be possible to implement all the proposals and this action plan should be regarded as flexible so that any new initiatives which evolve during the life of the Renewal Area can be incorporated and any obstacles unforeseen at this time can be overcome.

The plan has been prepared to make the best use of public sector finance to generate high impact projects in the early years of the Renewal Area. These schemes should provide evidence of commitment and increase confidence in the area.

The Council has already had a great deal of success with its West Rhyl Renewal Area and the experience and expertise gained there should prove invaluable in implementing the programme proposed for South West Rhyl. In addition many initiatives have already been instigated in the area and whilst these are referred to briefly fuller details can be obtained from their individual reports.

6.2 HOUSING PROJECTS

6.2.1 Group Repair and Grant Aid

Group Repair Schemes provide a mechanism through which improvement to the housing fabric can be achieved quickly and economically. The Council has gained valuable experience in such schemes in West Rhyl and elsewhere in the County.

All repairs should be carried out to a high standard using high quality low maintenance materials with the aim of extending the property's life by 30 years.

All property owners should be offered the opportunity to participate in such schemes. Individual grant applications ahead of such schemes should be discouraged but grant aid for internal improvements during or following the external renovation of a property should be actively marketed by the Council.

No "worst area" was easily identifiable from the property surveys and therefore it is suggested that the first Group Repair Scheme should be carried out in a prominent

position to bring the start of Renewal Area activity to the attention of as many residents of the area as possible.

It is important that schemes should comprise sufficient numbers of properties that real economies of scale can be achieved. It is also important, as mentioned in Section 4.00, that schemes carried out in the northern sector of the area cause as little disruption as possible to the tourist industry during the holiday season and for this reason schemes in this area should be of such a size that work can be completed during the winter months.

6.2.2 Clearance

The possibilities for limited clearance should be further examined during the lifespan of the Renewal Area. As already mentioned initial surveys do not show any properties where renovation appears inappropriate at this time. It is possible however that the discouragement of grant aid may result in some properties falling into a higher state of disrepair thereby increasing renovation costs to a level where clearance may be more economic.

Clearance should only be considered if the households can be rehoused or the owners can purchase equivalent property with market value compensation.

6.2.3 Vacant Properties

There were few obviously vacant properties noted in the area but the Council should try to encourage the owners to bring such properties back into use as soon as possible.

Failure by owners to take action should result in enforcement with if necessary compulsory purchase or purchase and refurbishment by a Housing Association being instigated.

Vacant residential accommodation associated with commercial premises will be identified and the Council in conjunction with other agencies will endeavour to bring it back into use.

6.2.4 New Build Housing

The area is very short of undeveloped space and as part of the Renewal Area Assessment only two sites were identified as having potential for new build housing development (*Figs 21a & 21b*).

The local Housing Association has shown an interest in developing these areas and is in early negotiations to purchase the sites.

Should limited clearance in suitable areas become a possibility as mentioned in 6.2.2 above the housing need at that time should be examined with a view to developing the site appropriately.

6.2.5 Fuel Poverty

All properties receiving Renovation Grants or being included in Group Repair Schemes incorporate loft insulation, draughtproofing and double glazed windows. All participants in Group Repair Schemes will be referred on to the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre through the issue of a DIY Home Energy Check. These will then receive energy advice and if eligible be referred to other grant schemes such as the Warm and Safe Healthy Homes scheme run by 6 North Wales Local Authorities and the North Wales Health Authority to offer a bulk discount on insulation measures and heating appliances together with discounts on checks and servicing of existing heating appliances.

6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

6.3.1 Rear Alleyways

The problems with the rear alleyways within the area have already been highlighted in Section 4.4.3. and the resurfacing of these areas should be a priority. Upgrading of these areas would encourage residents to keep them clean and discourage the tipping of rubbish.

In certain instances, where the alleyways are not a thoroughfare but only provide access to the rear of terraced properties, consideration should be given to providing lockable gates at the entrances with pass keys for each property owner.

The provision of lighting to those alleyways which are thoroughfares would help to reduce the incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour

6.3.2 Boundary Walls and Fences

Wherever possible the rebuilding of property boundary walls should be incorporated with Group Repair Schemes. To the north of the area in particular there are some attractive features to the front boundary walls which should be retained or replicated.

Rear boundary walls backing on to alleyways should be constructed of sufficient height to improve security and with a finish which is likely to deter graffiti artists.

The Welsh Development Agency have designated Rhyl as a Town Improvement Grant (TIG) area and grant can be obtained for environmental improvements to the curtilages of properties.

6.3.3 Conservation Area

Denbighshire County Council is currently in the second phase of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for their Rhyl Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

A small part of the Townscape Heritage area falls within the proposed South West Rhyl Renewal Area boundary (*Fig 21a*). The proposals for the THI are detailed elsewhere and are not repeated here. However the timing of work within this sector of the Renewal Area should be co-ordinated and integrated with THI schemes.

Where listed buildings are included in Group Repair Schemes or such schemes are carried out in Conservation Areas additional funding is available from CADW to cover the extra costs incurred up to a maximum of 30% of the total cost.

6.3.4 Traffic

The Council has already commissioned a transportation study for Rhyl founded on the following principles:

- to improve accessibility to the town centre and seafront
- to encourage use of public transport
- to minimise the environmental impact of traffic in residential areas
- to reduce congestion within the heart of the town
- to improve safety
- to encourage walking and cycling
- that these aims should be met without provision of new roads from the A525 to the sea front

This report is now completed and will shortly be submitted for approval but at the time of preparing this assessment it's preferred strategy is being discussed but has not yet been adopted by the Council.

6.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTS

6.4.1 Social

The social and economic shortcomings of South West Rhyl have, in the main, been addressed by other strategies such as The Denbighshire Crime and Disorder Strategy, The Denbighshire Drugs and Alcohol Forum and The West and South West Rhyl Community Strategy. Some of their proposals for action are briefly outlined below, their implementation forming a vital part of the strategic programme for the area.

- Activity Centre
Following concern regarding the lack of facilities for 11 to 16 year olds in the area it is proposed to provide an Activity Centre which would be a safe

and stimulating environment to promote the welfare of young people and encourage them not to become offenders or victims of crime.

· Bond Scheme

A Bond Scheme would allow the homeless and those on low incomes to gain access to accommodation in the private sector which is currently denied to them when they find it impossible to raise the initial deposit required. The scheme would be a form of guarantee to landlords for damage, arrears or fraudulent claims by tenants thus increasing their willingness to let accommodation to those on low incomes.

· Benefit Advice Shop Home Visit Service

The Rhyl and District Benefit Advice Shop is an independent Welfare Rights Unit established in 1988 in the West End of Rhyl. The proposal is to offer a home visits benefit advice service to the disabled and older residents of the area who are unable to attend the Shop with the objective of increasing their living standards by ensuring that they claim their full benefits entitlement

· Play Areas

The play areas that do exist are targeted mainly at the under 7's. The objectives of this initiative are to improve the existing areas and to identify locations and provide more including an area for older children.

6.4.2 Economic

With the downturn in the traditional tourist industry there is an increased need to find alternative employment for the residents of the area.

The lack of available land for development is a major factor and although some areas have been highlighted (*Fig 21b*) it is likely that most commercial growth will be outside the Renewal Area with the residents travelling to and from work.

Increasing the confidence and basic skill levels of the residents is crucial in improving their employment prospects and the Council are already committed to their Foyer project and are in discussions with TARGED and Llandrillo College to develop a local training programme.

CONTENTS

Section		Page No
1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	<i>What is a Renewal Area</i>	2
1.2	<i>Criteria for declaration</i>	3
1.3	<i>Powers available within a Renewal Area</i>	4
1.4	<i>Summary of proposed strategy</i>	5
1.5	<i>Decision Rules</i>	
1.6	<i>Conclusions</i>	6
2	RENEWAL AREA REPORT	
2.1	<i>History of the area</i>	7
2.2	<i>Description of the Renewal Area</i>	8
2.3	<i>Previous action</i>	9
3	HOUSING CONDITIONS	
3.1	<i>Housing conditions including survey results</i>	10
3.2	<i>Houses in Multiple Occupation</i>	11
3.3	<i>Local Authority stock in the Area</i>	11
3.4	<i>Housing Association stock in the Area</i>	12
3.5	<i>Property values of housing</i>	12
4	SOCIO ECONOMIC ISSUES	
4.1	<i>Employment</i>	14
4.2	<i>Benefit Dependency and Income Profile</i>	14
4.3	<i>Leisure</i>	14
4.4	<i>Tenure, Group and Family Profile</i>	15
4.5	<i>Crime</i>	15
5	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	
5.1	<i>Retail/Commercial Profile</i>	19
5.2	<i>Environmental Profile</i>	20
5.3	<i>Vacant Properties</i>	20
6	PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
6.1	<i>Conclusion including survey results</i>	21
6.2	<i>Recommendations</i>	26
7	OPTION GENERATION AND APPRAISAL	
7.1	<i>General</i>	29
7.2	<i>Option Packages</i>	29
7.3	<i>Assessment Against Decision Rules</i>	29
7.4	<i>Assessment Against Aims and Objectives</i>	29
7.5	<i>Economic Assessment</i>	30
7.6	<i>Conclusion</i>	32

INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Renewal Area

The objectives of a Renewal Area are to halt a downward spiral of decline of an area and by reversing the downward trend, achieve an area which will be a pleasant, safe, attractive place to live in which its residents can take pride.

The elements of the strategy which will bring about these goals are:-

- To improve the external and internal elements where necessary of the existing housing stock
- To carry out environmental improvement schemes.
- To provide and build affordable homes to fulfill local requirements
- To provide an improved environment and community facilities
- To bring back under used and derelict buildings
- To improve the commercial/retail sector centres to encourage further investment and increase confidence in the area.
- To provide employment opportunities through the increased investment and confidence

In summary the declaration of a Renewal Area will enable the Local Authority to co ordinate its own approach and target resources, and also to stimulate activity by other public and private organisations to bring about a cohesive approach to the regeneration of Denbigh.

1.2 Criteria for Declaration

The following table demonstrates the survey results for Denbigh and the area proposed. The Act states that a Local Housing Authority can declare a Renewal Area without the Secretary of State's approval if the area meets the required criteria.

The findings of the assessment as recorded against the criteria laid down in the National Assembly for Wales guidance is as follows:-

Requirements of the Act	Denbigh Survey results
Minimum 100 properties	950 properties
75% of properties in private ownership	81.58% of properties are in private ownership
75% of properties fail relevant fitness criteria	76.63% fail relevant fitness criteria
30% of residents in receipt of income related benefits	* 29.7% of residents are in receipt of housing benefit/council tax benefit

* These are the only figures available due to the Data Protection Act. It can safely be assumed that there are a number of households in receipt of a qualifying benefit but not eligible for either Housing or Council Tax Benefit

The wide ranging needs of an area strategy extends beyond housing need and so the proposals for the area must address those needs for owner/occupiers, landlords, tenants and the all encompassing needs of the community with improved facilities, infrastructure, environment and employment and training.

1.3 Powers available within a Renewal Area

The declaration of a Renewal Area bestows various powers to the Local Authority
These are:-

- power to acquire premises consisting of and including housing to achieve their improvement, repair or management to ensure the well being of residents in the area.
Section 93 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- power to acquire properties for improvement, repair or management by other persons.
Section 93 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- power to acquire land and buildings to improve amenities within the Renewal Area.
Section 93 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

- certain powers to extinguish the right to use vehicles in certain highways. Section 94 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- power to exclude land from or terminate a Renewal Area. Section 95 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- powers of entry. Section 97 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- power to carry out Group Repair Schemes. Section 127 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- power within certain specified limits to determine owners contributions in respect of Group Repair Schemes. Section 129 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- power by agreement with the person eligible to receive grant aid, to carry out works including associated works for which an application for grant aid has been received and approved. Section 135 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

1.4 Summary of proposed strategy

Before Local Government Reorganisation in 1996 the then Glyndwr District Council did not utilise a policy of Area Renewal. Thus, there is evidence of much “pepper-potting” in the area which does not achieve the cohesive, targeted approach to regeneration. With experience of undertaking the NRA process in West Rhyl it was decided that this was the best option for Denbigh, as the status that a Renewal Area brings will enable a comprehensive approach to bring about a sustainable, co-ordinated regeneration of the area.

The main points of the strategy are:-

- 1 To improve housing conditions in the area by improving blocks of approximately 5000 houses per year over the 10 year period. Residents will be encouraged to take part in the scheme which will encompass assistance from CADW and the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) in order to maintain architectural, historic atmosphere of the town.
- 2 Applications for individual renovation grants in the area have been “on hold” but where properties require internal grants in order to bring the properties up to the required fitness standard, these will be prioritised once the declaration has been implemented.
- 3 The Council will continue its close relationship with housing associations in the area with the aim of fulfilling the need for affordable social housing in the area.

4 The Council will exercise its powers within the Renewal Area in a sympathetic manner, only implementing those powers where properties are found to be beyond economic repair. However, where necessary in extreme cases the Council will resort to compulsory powers of purchase.

5 The Council will build upon partnerships with other departments, in particular the Highways Department in order to maximise resources in achieving environmental improvements to issues such as:-
fabric of highways, footpaths etc.
street lighting
parking issues
traffic safety
street cleansing
litter and fly tipping

6 The Council will endeavour to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the area. The use of approved security measures will be implemented in all specifications and designs. Also as previously mentioned, improvements to street lighting etc. will address residents fears. We will also encourage the setting up of Residents Associations in the area which can enhance current Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and nurture a community spirit.

7 The Council will encourage measures which will strengthen the area's business and retail sector. Partnerships have already been developed with the Townscape Heritage Initiative through the Heritage Lottery Fund, CELTEC and Denbigh Town Business Group and this will continue to develop and grow to enable the following:-

- a) promote the physical improvement of the area
- b) develop training
- c) reduce unemployment
- d) increase property values
- e) reduce dependancy on state benefits

1.5 Decision Rules

In addition to the identification of the Renewal Area's objectives a set of ground rules have been laid down against which the feasibility of any strategy may be assessed

These "decision rules are:-

- That it complies with Denbighshire County Council's stated policies and is compatible with existing initiatives
- That it is technically feasible
- That it is legal
- That it will be acceptable to the community both socially and politically
- That it can be financed
- That it represents value for money

If a strategy fails to conform to any of the above "decision rules" it will be discarded

1.6 Conclusions

The Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment report concludes that the declaration of the Denbigh Renewal Area is the best opportunity to gain the improvements in the standards of living for the area. The Council recognises three very important factors for the success of the regeneration project. These are:-

- a) Consultation with and listening to the local community and member's views in order to develop a sense of ownership for the proposals of the strategy.
- b) Securing improvement to the fabric of buildings through Group Repair Schemes in conjunction with the THI through the Heritage Lottery Fund to achieve and maintain the historic atmosphere of the area.
- c) Securing a comprehensive package of public and private sector investment to bring about an holistic improvement and boost confidence in the area.

2 RENEWAL AREA REPORT

2.1 *History of the Area*

Denbigh, as it presently is, began to develop in the late 13th century. Its ancient name was possibly "Caledfryn yn Rhos" and the name Denbigh probably means "small fortress" (dinas fechan). The mediaeval town spread downwards from the town walls and there are references to the High Street, Beacon's Hill, Pepper Lane and Sowter Lane as far back as the 15th century.

During the Elizabethan period Denbigh grew into a commercial centre with popular markets and fairs. Denbigh's trade spread further afield and the formation of the county of Denbigh in 1536 bestowed upon Denbigh the status of a county town. By 1600 Denbigh was probably the premier town in North-East Wales.

In the 17th century the battle of Denbigh took place (1645) when the castle was under seige, and duly surrendered to Colonel William Salesbury in 1646. In 1661 the castle was ordered to be demolished. The Myddletons, an influential family in the area, dominated the administrative life of the borough in this period as MPs.

Denbigh's trades (namely leather workers such as saddlers, curriers and shoemakers) developed into industries during the 18th century with new industries developing (tanning in Henllan Street and Beacon's Hill) and brewing and malting, due to the presence of Denbigh's many wells.

During the 19th century Denbigh's prosperity was challenged by the growth of the coastal areas to the north, and new industrial towns to the east. Farming in the Vale of Clwyd developed at this time and the construction of Smithfield Market in 1895 was significant in this development. Other developments were established such as schools (Love Lane 1843, Lenten Pool 1846 and Frongoch 1877). In 1848 the counties of North Wales combined to build the lunatic asylum, later to become the North Wales Hospital, and Howells School for female orphans which was opened in 1859 and is now a public school for girls. Thomas Gee established a printing company publishing newspapers of local importance (Y Faner and later the Free Press). Chapels were also built (Independents Swan Lane, Calvinistic Methodists - Capel Mawr, Wesleyans - Factory Place, Baptists - St Thomas). During the last century Vale Street became the professional people's area of residence whereas the Henllan Street area remained the poorer section. Cholera broke out here in 1832 with devastating effects.

By 1900 the international trading links previously formed had been eroded with the arrival of Smithfield Market and Denbigh's main industrial role was that of regional market centre. The main industrial developments this century have been the modern estates at the northern end of town. The 20th century has seen the gradual decline of the relative importance of Denbigh. The economic problems of the town has meant that much of the fine architecture has been lost to redevelopment, but on the other hand, it is now resulting in empty properties, poor maintenance and the gradual deterioration of some of the fine architectural heritage detail.

In view of the above Denbighshire County Council's Conservation Section of Planning Services submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1999 for assistance through the THI. The THI is a Heritage Lottery funded (HLF) programme intended to support strategic action by partnerships of public, private and voluntary bodies to address problems of disrepair, erosion of quality and the under use of historic buildings. The THI aims to bring together partners interested in preserving and enhancing the distinctive character of historic areas by:-

- Repairing the fabric
- Restoring authentic details and materials
- Securing the continued use of historic buildings
- Bringing vacant floor space back into use

This bid was successful with various funding partnerships being developed.

2.2 Description of the Renewal Area

Conservation Area appraisal

Denbigh Conservation Area has distinctive townscape areas defined by topography; the age of development and predominant types of architecture; the use and economic activity; and the resulting layout and spaces between the buildings.

The main conservation areas can be described as based on:

- Vale Street area
- High Street and associated lanes
- The castle and walled area
- Lenten Pool and linking roads
- Love Lane

Key buildings within the conservation area

Within the conservation area there are 123 listed buildings. The most notable of these are listed below, but it is often the attractive groupings and mix of heritage building styles that create the significant importance of the historic architecture.

- Denbigh Castle - Grade 1 listed
- St Hilary's Church - Grade 2 listed
- Earl of Leicester's Church - Grade 2 listed
- Castle Lodge, Castle Lane
- Burgess Gate, Grade 1 Listed
- St Mary's Church, Lenten Pool - Grade 2 Listed
- Siop Clwyd, Back Row
- Town Hall, Crown Square
- The Vaults Public House, High Street - Grade 2 Listed
- The Bull Hotel, Hall Square - Grade 2* Listed
- Denbigh Library and Museum, High Street - Grade 2 Listed
- Capel Mawr, Chapel Street - Grade 2 Listed

- National Westminster Bank, Vale Street - Grade 2 Listed
- No 49-51 Vale Street - Grade 2 Listed
- No 61 Vale Street - Grade 2 Listed
- Police Station, Vale Street - Grade 2 Listed
- No 3 & 5 Vale Street - Grade 2* Listed
- Pierce Memorial Garden, Vale Street - registered historic garden and Grade 2 Listed Monuments and Gate.

It would be our intention to refurbish properties within this designated conservation in a sympathetic manner. Denbighshire County Council already demonstrates a good working partnership with CADW. We have refurbished listed properties in Group Repair Schemes outside the renewal area namely Llangollen where CADW contributed quite a substantial amount of funding towards those properties, and the result has been satisfactory to the housing needs as specified in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and has also brought back heritage detail which would otherwise have been lost.

2.3 *Previous Action*

As previously mentioned there has never been any previous area activity in the town prior to the commencement of this study, although there has been “pepper potting” grant activity. Since 1990 there has been **38** grants approved and completed in the area and there are currently **9** awaiting approval and on the waiting list.

Denbigh is one of the most important historic towns in North Wales. Much of its town centre Conservation Area reflects its rich heritage which has largely been retained without significant modern redevelopment. The concerns now are that the economic problems Denbigh suffers will lead to the erosion of the historic fabric which will inevitably change the appearance of its heritage townscape. THI will assist in halting this erosion and the project commenced in December 2000.

The Council and Housing Associations in the area have carried out cyclical maintenance to their housing stock to a very reasonable standard.

3 HOUSING CONDITIONS

3.1 *Housing conditions including survey results*

Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire survey was prepared and distributed to all properties within the proposed area. The benefits of the questionnaire is to establish the foundations of an ongoing consultation exercise.

The total number of questionnaires distributed to non commercial properties was 805. Pre paid return envelopes were provided with an incentive of a prize draw for £75. Two hundred and seven (207) were returned representing a return percentage of 25.71%

A copy of the questionnaire is appended

64% of householders perceived the state of repair of their home was acceptable although only 45% had undertaken any major repair to their home in then last 5 years. These repairs were as follows:-

29% undertook improvements to bathroom/W.C.

33% to kitchen

17% to living rooms/bedrooms

25% to structure/damp courses

21% to roof/chimney

36% to doors/windows

25% to heating/water heating

33% installed double glazing

15% to boundary walls

18% to electrical fittings

2% to ventilation

Of these improvements 9% were undertaken with the assistance of a Local Authority grant.

50% of the returned questionnaires thought that improvements to their home were required.

98% of respondents replied to the question of whether they felt their house suited their needs.

Of these 20% felt it did not and of these 90% felt their property was too small for their needs

3.2 *Houses in Multiple Occupation*

Denbighshire County Council have introduced a Registration Scheme for properties in multiple occupation. The first phase of the scheme is currently underway in the east ward of Rhyl. However this scheme will extend to all areas of the County as resources allow. The parameters of the scheme are as follows:-

The owner of a H.M.O. shall apply to register the property with the Authority and will give the Authority particulars of the house and pay a determined fee for the registration of the property for a period of 5 years from the date of the first registration. The scheme will ensure that:-

- The property is suitable for multiple occupation
- The owner or manager is a “fit and proper person” to undertake this role
- Where works are required to make the house suitable for multiple occupation, grants will be offered to enable the application for registration, and that such works will be completed within the time the Authority specifies.
- Conditions are imposed relating to the management of the house
- The number of households or persons occupying the property will not exceed the number registered for it

3.3 Local Authority Stock in the Area

Following is a list of local authority owned properties in the designated area. The total number owned by the Local Authority is 61

Bryn Siriol are modern flats

Cartref, Factory Place has been partially improved

Glasfryn, Henllan Street has been fully improved

17 houses in Henllan Street have been fully improved

Nos 1-5 Maes Hyfryd have been fully improved

25 flats at Pennant, Henllan Street are to be considered for improvement in the next 2 years.

Nos 3 and 5 Post Office Lane have been fully improved.

The Council operates a “Waiting List” of applicants for its own dwellings which is separated into requests for each area into General Needs and Pensioners. Anyone with connections with the area is entitled to register on the list without assessment of need (although allocations are of course made to those most in need as assessed by a points scheme). The total list is not therefore a formal Housing Needs Assessment of the area but it is a significant measure and clearly demonstrates need which is above the level of available properties.

GENERAL NEEDS	168
PENSIONERS	42

3.4 Housing Association Stock in the Area

Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd is the Housing Association mostly associated with Denbigh. It owns 114 properties within the designated Renewal Area and whilst they do not have firm proposals for development in the area, they have welcomed the opportunity to look at the area in more detail as the declaration progresses. These are the properties they have expressly designated an interest in discussing for development.

17 Vale Street

Large double fronted building of historic interest and currently used as flats. It has been on the open market for some considerable time.

Chapel Place, Lon Swan

Large derelict house last used as flats and sold last year by mortgagees in possession. This would provide housing in an area where people most want to live.

Station Yard

This site has been in the Housing Association's programme in the past, although it no longer is. The site has the benefit of planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and to erect 41 new dwellings of mixed type including the construction of service roads and drainage.

120 Vale Street

A boarded up property on Denbigh's main street which requires refurbishment in a very popular area of Denbigh.

Crosville Depot

Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd have identified this site as potential for developing a community based facility which would benefit this deprived area of Denbigh. With match funding this idea would be achievable.

3.5 *Property Values of Housing in the Area*

The property market in Denbigh is in a depressed state. Local chartered surveyors report that there is a limited demand and sales are slow with the selling price very often much lower than the asking price. Buildings requiring extensive renovation are the most difficult to sell as most purchasers know that repair costs can add significant percentage to the property price - in many cases equaling the purchase price.

Examples of low cost properties currently on the market are shown below and in more detail in **APPENDIX ****

- Albert Terrace - end terraced property with 3 bedrooms, 2 receptions - asking price £36,000
- Love Lane - mid terraced stone property with 2 bedrooms, 1 reception, gas C/H - asking price £34,950
- Greenbank Terrace - end terrace house with two bedrooms, 1 reception, 1 diner, gas C/H - asking price £35,000
- Henllan Street - mid terrace property with 1 bedroom, 1 reception - asking price £26,750

In many cases the asking prices will be significantly reduced at the point of sale as demonstrated in Appendices

SOCIO ECONOMIC ISSUES

4.1 *Employment*

Of the 327 residents within the 207 properties which responded to the questionnaire

- 52.5% were in full time employment
- 14% were in part time employment
- 1.5% were unemployed
- 1% were in full time education
- 31% were economically inactive

Of those in employment 50% worked in Denbigh

4.2 *Benefit Dependency and Income Profile*

One of the major criteria to be met for the declaration of a Renewal Area is that

at least 30% of the households in the area (including public sector households) must appear to be eligible to receive one or more state benefits.

Determining the levels of households in receipt of benefits is a difficult task, not least because of the Data Protection Act, however the Revenues Department of Denbighshire County Council were furnished with all the street names within the proposed area and a search on a street basis concluded that 29.39% of households were in receipt of housing and/or council tax benefit. This of course would not necessarily include households in receipt of other state benefits. This figure matches closely with the questionnaire results where 28% of respondents were in receipt of benefits.

The area generally is characterised by low incomes. In the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation Denbigh ward was ranked 102nd out of 865 wards in Wales in the Rank of Income Domain. This is one of the most important dimensions of multiple deprivation.

4.3 *Leisure*

The area is fairly well serviced for leisure activity having a swimming pool and leisure centre, library and playing fields. However the questionnaire demonstrated very strongly that young people were not catered for adequately and that the town sorely misses the cinema which has now closed down.

4.4 *Tenure, Group and Family Profile*

- 69% of residents either own the freehold or leasehold of their home.
- 100% of these hold the freehold interest.
- 43% own their house outright, i.e. have no mortgage
- 30% of residents are in rented accommodation
- 22% of these are in Local Authority owned property

- 38% of these are in Housing Association owned property
- 27% of these are in Private Rented property
- 13% of these have other arrangements

Of the 30% in rented property

- None lived in bed sits
- None lived in flats with shared kitchen/bathroom facilities
- 36.5% were in self contained flats
- 62% rented a whole house
- 1.5% rented a house with shared facilities

Household sizes broke down as follows:-

1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 or more
79	63	30	18	15	2

Of these households just over 10% have a member who is registered disabled.

14.5% accommodation is 1 bedroom

46.5% is 2 bedrooms

20.5% is 3 bedrooms

10.5% is 4 bedrooms

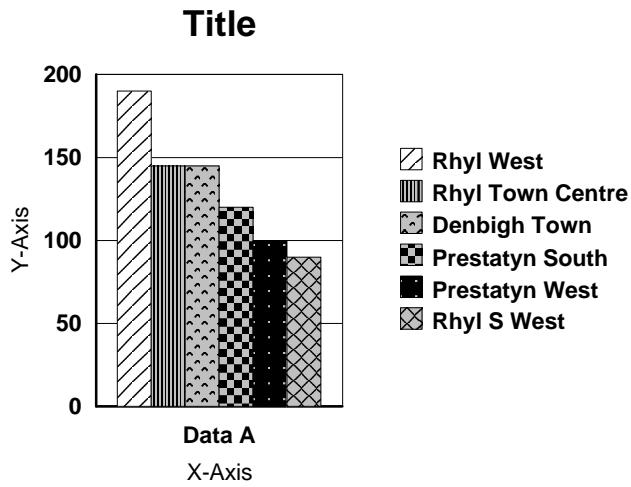
8% is 5 or more bedrooms

4.5 Crime

The questionnaire established that 36% of respondents had been the victim of crime. The majority of incidents was damage or vandalism to their home or car with burglary at home and physical assault following closely behind. Other thefts such as tools, bikes, cars and from work places make up the other incidents of crime. 80% of victims reported the incident to the police. Fear of crime was of great worry to respondents with the majority being concerned about burglary to their home followed closely by damage of vandalism to their home. Physical assault was the next most worrying with theft of car, theft from car and other theft e.g. tools bikes etc of very similar concern.

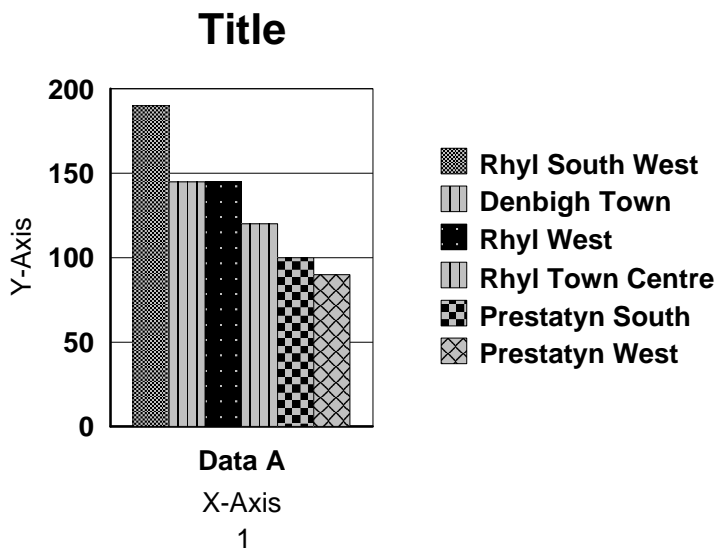
By far the measure of crime prevention most respondents would like to see is adequate police patrols, followed by adequate street lighting. Improved off street parking, street lighting and home security scored similar however it is plain to see that all these factors caused respondents some degree of concern.

Analysis of violent crime figures in Denbigh are demonstrated in the table below. The following offences have been included in violent crime classification



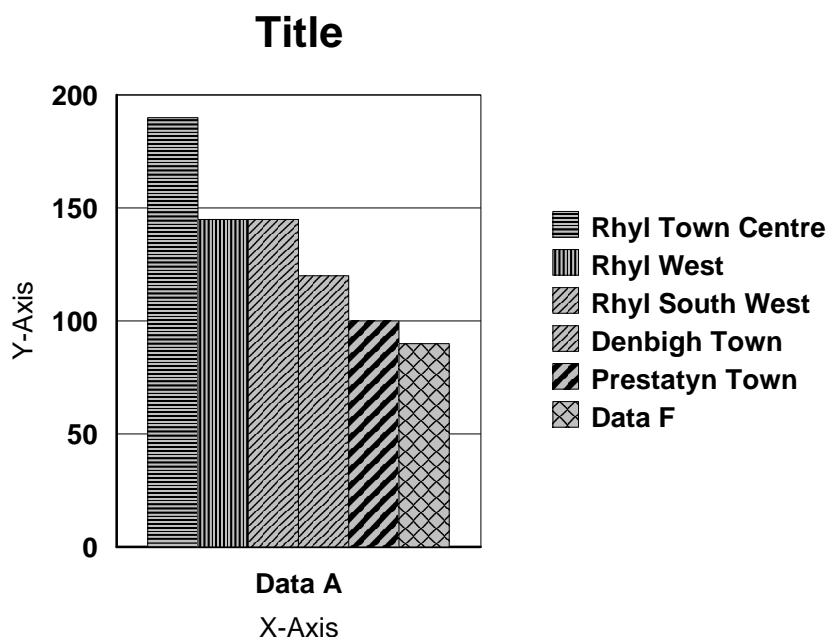
Y axis information is the number of crimes committed per 1000 persons.

Figures for the incidents of domestic violence are recorded in the table below



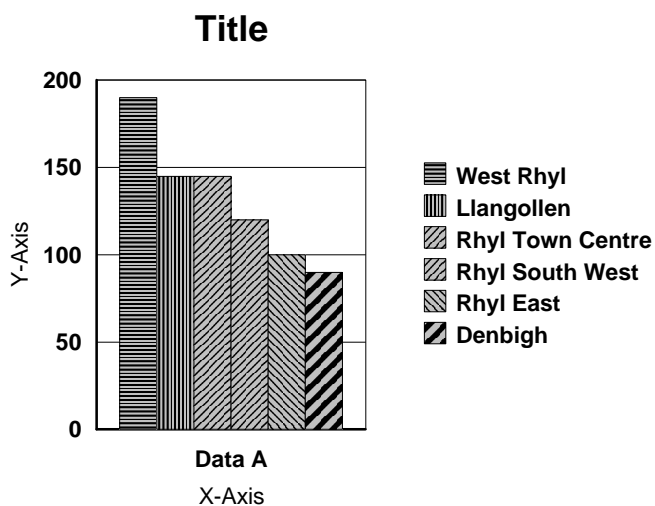
Y axis information is the number of crimes committed per 1000 persons

Figures for the incidents of anti-social behaviour are recorded in the table below. These offences include public disorder, breach of the peace, drunkenness and anti-social behaviour.



Y axis information are actual numbers of incidents reported

Figures for the incidents of auto crime are recorded below. One of the problems identified is that many cars are being parked in side street rather than recognised car parks where security is inevitably better



Y axis information are actual numbers of incidents reported

Figures for the incidents of criminal damage in Denbigh Town Centre are recorded below.

- **54 offences**

- Value of damage caused £8938
- 70% of all incidents relate to smashed windows
- 46% of all incidents relate to retail/commercial premises (mainly schools)
- 33% of all offences were committed between the hours of 11.00p.m. and 6.00a.m.
- 38% of all incidents relate to domestic premises

The majority of damage indicates an association with disorder, and particularly alcohol related offences. Promotion of pub/club and town safe schemes as well as CCTV and some zero tolerance policing will help to reduce the number of incidents provided it is supported by a coherent strategy on town centre planning and issue of licenses.

Levels of reported crime in Denbighshire have been falling over the last three years although there is an increase in violent crime offences. Although Denbighshire can record that figures have fallen, the number of crimes per 1000 persons is higher in Denbighshire (62 per 1000) than the rest of North Wales (61 per 1000) but lower than Wales as a whole (80 per 1000).

Denbighshire's Crime and Disorder Action Plan for 2000-2001 is at Appendix

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5.1 *Retail/Commercial Profile*

Retail Sector

The physical decline of Denbigh town centre is linked to the condition of the retail premises. Additional points that have contributed to this decline include:

- lack of defined retail role has increased openness to competitive pressures from other town centres
- increased regional competition facilitated by improved accessibility
- the limitations of the 12,000 catchment population discourage national retailers
- low returns on investment limits incentive to restore retail property to a standard to attract new occupiers

Denbigh Town Business Group undertook a recent survey in the town. They received funding through the Cadwyn Leader programme with the support of the CELTEC and Denbighshire County Council for an ambitious project designed to encourage retail businesses to work together to develop the potential of Denbigh as a thriving centre. The Group in conjunction with consultants distributed a series of three questionnaires. One aimed at owners/managers, one at employees and one at the general public. An action plan was formulated from the 250 replies. Their objectives were identified thus:

- developing and implementing a comprehensive and accessible programme of training and development for business owners/managers and their staff
- promoting Denbigh through a series of joint marketing initiatives
- improving general appearance, cleanliness and atmosphere to the town
- creating models of good practice (e.g. shop fronts, merchandise display)
- supporting initiatives aimed at improving business effectiveness
- exploring ways of reducing business costs

The methodology for achieving these objectives have been identified thus:

- local champions from within the Business Group
- external partners as support
- project plan with clear responsibilities, time scales, outcomes and costs

This initiative clearly demonstrates a will to give the people of Denbigh the town centre they deserve. It presents an excellent opportunity for a Renewal Area to aid this initiative. The questionnaires and a compilation of the responses are included at Appendix

5.2 *Environmental Profile*

The most liked environmental aspects in order of priority are:-

- Surrounding countryside
- The library

- Local history
- Sense of community

The most disliked environmental aspects in order of priority are:-

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Shopping street
- Car parking provision
- Lack of leisure facilities

The proposed improvements which receive most support are:-

- Reuse and upgrade derelict buildings
- Improved shopping street
- Improved street cleansing
- Improved roads/pavements

In addition to the above the questionnaire identified other facilities that residents felt were required in order of priority.

- outdoor play areas and sports facilities
- more shops of small luxury type e.g. clothes, electrical
- improved traffic flow through town and side streets
- better public transport
- more car parking provision

The questionnaire also identified that not many people were in favour of more take aways and cafes but restaurants met with slightly more support.

- 55% of respondents felt that Denbigh catered for their social activities
- 82% of respondents felt that young people were not catered for in Denbigh
- 73% of respondents have access to one or more cars

5.3 Vacant Properties

Generally, this is not a great problem in the town however that is not to say that there are none. This does little to enhance the visual appearance of the area as it attracts fly tipping and vandalism and discourages potential future use. There are a few vacant properties and in particular one in the centre of town which gives the impression of a town in decline and discourages private investment. Every avenue of opportunity will be explored to overcome this problem.

6 PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 *Conclusions including survey results*

There are a number of underlying problems in Denbigh which have resulted in the physical and economic downturn of the area:

- the declining agricultural economy of the area
- the closure of the North Wales Hospital with a loss of 700 jobs
- the resulting decline in retail viability
- under used and vacant property
- lack of investment
- low market values and poor rates of return on property
- one of the highest unemployment rates in North Wales
- disrepair and unsympathetic alterations to historic buildings
- dereliction
- inappropriate repair and reinstatement of public realm surfaces
- previous District Council's undertaking to pepper potting with grants rather than adopting an area approach

Although the gradual economic decline of Denbigh has been recognised, there have been a few initiatives that have made a significant impact on reversing the trends. The positive initiatives undertaken include.

- Townscape Heritage Initiative through Heritage Lottery Fund
- Town Scheme
- W.D.A. Town Improvement Grants
- Wales Tourist Board Tourism 2000 Historic Initiative in Denbigh
- Medieval Trail throughout Denbighshire sponsored by European Union
- Clwydfro Enterprise Agency to promote businesses in the Denbigh area
- Gwasg Gee printing museum project on development of Welsh printed language
- Objective 1 funding
- 2001 National Eisteddfod - this will have a significant impact on a wide range of businesses and additional visitors will see the attractions of Denbigh and place it firmly on the tourist map

An analysis of the economic needs of the town centre and its catchment area demonstrate the scale of the concerns and problems regarding the economic regeneration of the area.

Denbigh suffers from several limiting socio-economic problems that have been compounded in recent years by the closure of the North Wales Hospital with the loss as previously mentioned of 700 jobs. The net disposable income of the hospital employees was estimated at £3.7 million per annum with a significant part of this income being spent in Denbigh by the 75% of the staff who lived in or near. The loss of jobs in the agriculture industry is adding to the decline of the area. Farm incomes fell by nearly a half in 1997 and is continuing a downward spiral. In addition the closure of the cattle market in 1992 had an immediate impact on the town centre trade as market days brought a hustle and bustle to the town centre which is not now experienced.

As a result Denbigh ward suffers:

- well above average unemployment - 6.6% compared to 5.6% nationally and 4.9% in the county of Denbighshire
- within Denbighshire only two other wards have more serious unemployment one of which is a declared Renewal Area and the other is under consideration.
- large numbers of permanently sick
- above average overcrowding
- high population loss in the 20-59 year age group
- within the bottom 14% of wards on a national deprivation index ranking
- and as the fourth worst deprivation ranked ward in Denbighshire

The recently published Multiple Deprivation Index for Wales clearly demonstrates the serious decline Denbigh faces. As previously mentioned, as a whole Upper Denbigh ward ranks as the fourth most deprived ward in Denbighshire but to break it down even further the following statistics apply:-

Income Deprivation	- ranked fourth worst in Denbighshire
Employment Deprivation	- ranked fourth in Denbighshire
Health Deprivation and Disability	- ranked sixth worst in Denbighshire
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	- ranked fourth worst in Denbighshire
Housing Deprivation	- ranked fourth worst in Denbighshire

Within the bid for assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund through the THI other contributing partners have been identified thus providing a common fund of £3,587,500. This breaks down as follows:-

- £1,250,000 - Heritage Lottery Fund
- £75,000 - CADW - funding for structure and fabric and heritage detail
- £1,747,500 - Welsh Development Agency funding for structure and fabric and heritage detail
- £235,000 - European Regional Development Fund - funding for refurbishment to the Town Hall
- £85,000 - Objective 1 - funding for the reuse of vacant floor space to assist economic regeneration
- £20,000 - Wales Tourist Board - funding for conversion of vacant floor space to tourist accommodation
- £165,000 - Denbighshire County Council
- £10,000 - Denbigh Town Council

With the added benefit of Renewal Area Status to fund the improvement of housing and environmental projects the regeneration of Denbigh will address many of the town's problems

Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire survey was prepared and distributed to all properties within the proposed area. The benefits of the questionnaire is to establish the foundations of an ongoing consultation exercise.

The total number of questionnaires distributed was 805. Pre paid return envelopes were provided with an incentive of a prize draw for £75. Two hundred and seven (207) were returned representing a return percentage of 25.71%

Questionnaire results

A copy of the questionnaire is appended

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- 100% of these hold the freehold interest.
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- 30% of residents are in rented accommodation
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Of this 30% in rented property

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- 36.5% were in self contained flats
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- 73% of respondents have access to one or more cars

Employment

Of the 327 residents within the 207 properties which responded to the questionnaire

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- 14% were in part time employment
- 1.5% were unemployed
- 1% were in full time education
- 31% were economically inactive

Of those in employment 50% worked in Denbigh

28% of respondents to the questionnaire were in receipt of benefits.

Crime

The questionnaire established that 36% of respondents had been the victim of crime. The majority of incidents was damage or vandalism to their home or car with burglary at home and physical assault following closely behind. Other thefts such as tools, bikes, cars and from work places make up the other incidents of crime. 80% of victims reported the incident to the police. Fear of crime was of great worry to respondents with the majority being concerned about burglary to their home followed closely by damage of vandalism to their home. Physical assault was the next most worrying with theft of car, theft from car and other theft e.g. tools bikes etc of very similar concern.

By far the measure of crime prevention most respondents would like to see is adequate police patrols, followed by adequate street lighting. Improved off street parking, street lighting and home security scored similar however it is plain to see that all these factors caused respondents some degree of concern.

6.2 Recommendations

By undertaking this Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment Denbighshire County Council are pleased to be seen to be addressing the National Assembly for Wales' vision for the long term improvement to one of the most disadvantaged communities in Wales. Its commitment to Denbigh will ensure that the residents of Denbigh will enjoy a lasting difference to the quality of their lives and environment. Whilst we still await the strategic framework for the "Communities First" programme we are confident that this Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment for Denbigh will address many of the issues required of this initiative, and the transition from a declared Renewal Area to "Communities First" project will be seamless.

Housing Proposals

- The Council's previous experience of Group Repair Schemes inside and outside a Renewal Area should be used to bring about the holistic improvement of Denbigh.
- Wherever possible utilise local labour under signed JCT contracts to ensure high standards of workmanship together with economies of scale.
- Close liaison with CADW and the Council's Conservation Officers to ensure the specification for materials used complies with conservation standards of traditional construction and materials in order to maintain the historic character of Denbigh and support of financial assistance through the THI.
- Individual renovation grants will be discouraged but wherever required priority will be given to houses within the designated area which require internal renovation in order to bring the property up to the required fitness standard.

Clearance

- This action will be considered where appropriate however it is likely that most if not all properties will be renovated.
- New housing on cleared sites will normally apply.

Co operation with Housing Associations

The lack of Council housing available for rent and the demand for affordable social housing to rent underlines the importance of Housing Associations' role to meet the housing needs of the area.

The Council will continue to foster good working relationships with Housing Associations and will support them by:-

- a) The use of Credit Approval transfers to fund projects
- b) Identifying land and/or vacant properties for possible development or refurbishment

Socio-Economic Proposals

A number of key objectives have been identified as a result of the questionnaire and also consultation with other departments within Denbighshire County Council who are undertaking projects in the Area particularly those which will receive Objective 1 funding. It is proposed to address these key objectives as follows:-

- Provide ground floor, town centre accommodation for a Rural Business Support Officer
- Provide workshop/exhibition/display area for tourism development initiatives
- Expansion of farmers market
- Promotion of local products particularly food
- Encourage networking between small enterprises
- Provide ICT for multi use
- Encourage minority groups to utilise these facilities
- Encourage entrepreneurship
- Reduce those numbers identified as economically inactive
- Encourage tourism with the emphasis on the cultural heritage
- Encourage Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Design out potential dangerous features of the area
- Improve street lighting
- Incorporate security measures in all specifications e.g. Window locks, 5 lever mortice locks etc.

Environmental Proposals

The declaration of a Renewal Area provides an excellent opportunity for environmental improvements. One of the benefits of Renewal Area status is that funding is available at £1,000 for every property within the area in order to improve the environment. This will enable quality reinstatement of footways, rear lanes, boundary walls and to generally make the most of open space within the area. Within our strategy for improved footways etc we will endeavour to provide a more accessible environment for all residents and visitors alike i.e. through allowing for better access, dropped kerbs etc. There is very limited open space within the designated area and any proposals must link with Denbighshire's Unitary Development Plan. The following key objectives would hope to be met:-

- Improve the fabric of highways and footpaths having regard to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Increase pedestrian and road safety through improved surfacing and street lighting
- To implement environmental improvement schemes to create a better image of Denbigh for residents and visitors alike.
- To remove eyesores, improve derelict land and encourage use of vacant sites
- To make the commercial/retail centre more attractive to residents and visitors
- To improve and provide community based facilities.
- Avoid "off the peg" heritage solutions
- Have clear regard to the character of Town Centre Conservation Areas

It is also proposed to support the objectives of the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) in developing a community based centre within the Denbigh Renewal Area. "Eirianfa" is a building situated in the proposed area. It was originally built in the 1970s as a Community Centre and in 1974 Denbighshire Social Services took ownership of the property. Its use as a community centre declined and was used more as a day care centre. In 2000 the Social Services department transferred their day care out of Eirianfa. In January 2001 a resolution was passed by Council to lease the property to DVSC on a 50 year fully repairing lease. Its community usage is increasing with the following groups/organisations currently using Eirianfa.

- Denbigh Stroke Club
- Denbigh Darby & Joan Club
- Denbigh Gateway Club
- Denbigh Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Friends of Eirianfa
- Denbigh MENCAP
- Denbigh Arthritis Care
- Inner Wheel
- MIND
- Weightwatchers.

It also supports office space for the following key community support workers.

- Co-ordinator/Caretaker
- PT family support worker and sessional crèche support worker
- PT development officer and PT administration assistant for Credit Union
- Relate counsellor
- Youth worker for Denbigh Youth Project
- Youth worker for Denbigh youth club

A bid has also been submitted to incorporate a "Healthy Living Centre" at Eirianfa. A decision is expected in June 2001 for progress to a second stage application.

Incorporated within all specifications for improvements to the housing stock will be measures detailed in our Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report and our Fuel Poverty strategy, both of which are appended to this report. This will address energy efficiency issues improving participants comfort levels and help to reduce energy consumption, CO2 emissions and participants fuel bills

7. OPTION GENERATION AND APPRAISAL

7.1 General

In order to develop a renewal strategy for the area various “Option Packages” will now be evaluated to ascertain which strategy will best meet the overall aims and objectives of the Renewal Area

7.2 Option Packages

- A Continue as at present on a purely reactive basis
- B As A above but undertake environmental improvements
- C Continue as at present but with a more pro-active approach and a higher level of grant activity which may have been generated by the Renewal Area process and carry out environmental improvements
- D Retain and rehabilitate all defective properties with a pro-active approach using Group Repair Schemes and grants
- E As D above and undertake new build on existing available land and carry out environmental improvements
- F As E above but with wholesale clearance of all pre 1919 housing stock with new build replacement
- G As E above and initiate social and economic programmes

7.3 Assessment Against Decision Rules

The feasibility of each option package is first assessed by comparing them with the “decision rules” laid down in Section 1.5

When the decision rules are applied to option F it is eliminated because it is politically and socially unacceptable and the rehousing and relocation of the residents would not be technically feasible within the timescale

7.4 Assessment Against Aims and Objectives

Six potentially viable option packages now remain and these are assessed in relation to the Aims and Objectives of the Renewal Area as laid down in Section 1.4 and 1.6

Each option is scored out of a possible 20 on the following scale

- 1 little or no impact
- 5 some improvement
- 10 valueable
- 15 significant
- 20 very significant

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	A	B	C	D	E	G
Improvement of existing housing stock	5	5	10	18	18	18
Reduction of future maintenance costs	5	5	5	12	12	12
Provision of new housing for present and future needs	1	1	1	1	15	15
Improvement of derelict land and re use of vacant sites	1	1	10	1	10	10
Clearance of derelict and redundant properties	1	1	1	1	10	10
Provision of high quality environment	1	12	12	1	15	15
Improvement of retail and commercial provisions	1	1	5	15	15	18
Enhancement of tourism	1	5	5	10	10	18
Improve employment opportunities	1	1	1	5	5	10
Increase confidence in the area	1	5	8	5	10	15
Encourage private sector investment	1	1	1	8	10	15
Encourage involvement of local people	1	3	5	8	8	18
Utilise all available funding	1	3	3	5	10	18
TOTAL	21	44	67	90	143	192

7.5 *Economic Assessment*

The purpose of the economic assessment is to enable the current and future cost consequences of the different options to be considered. The assessment considers these consequences over a 30 year period and assumes a further major decision will be necessary in Year 30 to cover the subsequent 30 year period. All costs and benefits are expressed in present day values with those beyond Year 1 being discounted.

Net Present Values (NPVs) have been calculated for four alternatives:

- 1 Rehabilitate externally and internally using grants only
- 2 Rehabilitate using Group Repair externally and grant aid internally
- 3 Demolish with no new build
- 4 Demolish and rebuild

For the following sample situations:

- a a terrace of six 2 storey houses
- b a terrace of six 3 storey houses

NPV for Alternatives 1 & 2

ACTION	Y	Disc	1a	1b	2a	2b
Refurbish	1		114	132	96	120
Less increased value	1		30	42	30	42
			84	90	66	78
Cost of accumulated repairs	15	0.32	8.96	7.46	7.04	8.32
Complete refurbishment as Year 1	30	0.10	0.84	0.90	0.66	0.78
TOTAL			93.80	98.36	73.70	87.10

NPV for Alternatives 3 & 4

ACTION	Y	Disc	3a	3b	4a	4b
Serve demolition order	1		180	270	180	270
Home loss payment	1		15	15	15	15
Demolition	2	0.93	33.48	41.85	33.48	41.85
Rebuild less enhanced value	3					
Accumulated repairs	13	0.37			15.54	19.93
Major renovation	30	0.10			9	10.20
			228.48	326.85	253.02	357.03
Less increased value	30	0.10			3	4.20
TOTAL			228.48	326.85	250.02	352.83

Values in thousand £s

NPVs have been calculated on the following basis:-

- Market values have been assessed from a range of current estate agent particulars of properties for sale in the area. No formal valuation has been made
- Full rehabilitation works will add £5,000 to the value of a two storey property and £7000 to a larger property.
- Rebuilding costs equate to the enhanced market values of the finished properties, thereby producing a zero figure
- Environmental cost benefits will be the same throughout all alternatives and so have been excluded
- Although there are properties larger than the three storeys used in calculations these are generally

7.6 Conclusions

OPTION A

The continuation of the existing policy attained the lowest score when assessed against the Aims and Objectives of the Renewal Area. Whilst it was the second most economic alternative it fails to address any of the social, economic or environmental problems of the area. Continuation of this policy is only likely to prolong the area's decline.

OPTION B

Whilst this option would tackle some of the environmental issues it is otherwise the same option as A and would fail for the same reasons.

OPTION C

This strategy scores little better than option B and whilst the increased activity brought about by the shift from reactive to pro active may bring about a better standard in housing and the environment it still does not address the socio-economic problems of the area.

OPTION D

This option package requires a much more active role by the Council and would result in a much greater improvement in the housing stock in what is shown to be the most cost effective manner. Again however the social and environmental needs of the area fail to be addressed and no new housing would be provided.

OPTION E

This package showed a great improvement over the previous options in the assessment against the Aims and Objectives. It would achieve not only the same improvements as option D but would also provide a limited amount of new housing on currently available land and bring about improvements to the environment.

OPTION G

This strategy achieves the optimum score in the Aims and Objectives and Economic Assessments. It not only provides the most comprehensive improvement to the existing housing stock with the provision of new housing and environmental enhancement but it also responds to the commercial, heritage and tourism needs of Denbigh and is the policy most likely to increase the private sector investment in the area.

The preferred strategy is Option G and forms the basis of the Action Plan developed in Section 6

DENBIGH
RENEWAL AREA

A NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL
ASSESSMENT

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 14

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor D M Morris

DATE: 22 March 2001

SUBJECT: Increased Cemetery Charges

1 Decision Sought

Authority to increase cemetery charges in respect of all cemetery services operated by the Council.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

At the meeting of Cabinet held on 27th February 2001 Members agreed to a £12,000 reduction in the allocation of funds available to run the Council's cemetery services.

3 Cost Implications

It should be noted that no increases in charges has applied during the current financial year and. The increase now proposed is roughly in line with the rate of inflation for the 2 year period during which charges have remained stable.

The implications of the proposed increase are detailed in Appendix 1.

In addition to these increases it is proposed that charges are also levied for the following additional services:

- 1) Searches for Burial Details
- 2) Erection of Plaques/Memorials (not on graves).
- 3) Erection of Seats, planting of trees, shrubs etc..
- 4) Reservation of adjacent plots on woodland burials for spouse

Please refer to Appendix 2 for details

For Members' information it is estimated that the opening of a new woodland cemetery at Coed Bell will draw in additional funding details of which are contained in Appendix 2.

Should Members agree to the proposals the additional charges and increased rates are estimated to be sufficient to cover the budget reduction referred to above.

4 Financial Controller Statement

The proposed level of charges is consistent with the assumptions built into the budget for 2001/02.

5 Consultation Carried Out

No external consultations have been carried out.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

N/A

7 Recommendation

That the proposed charges and rates as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for implementation from 1st April 2001.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE	1999/2000 CHARGES	PROPOSED CHARGES 2001/2002
1 <u>PURCHASED GRAVES (EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS)</u> INCLUSIVE OF 1ST INTERMENT	£320.00	345.00
2 SECOND & SUBSEQUENT INTERMENTS	£170.00	
3 LIMITED EXCAVATION, CREMATED REMAINS	£90.00	
4 BRICKED GRAVE (1ST INTERMENT)	£350.00	380.00
5 BRICKED GRAVE (SUBSEQUENT)	£200.00	215.00
<u>NO EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS</u>		
6 STILLBORN CHILD/CHILD UP TO 1 MONTH	£30.00	
CHILD OVER 1 MONTH TO 12 YEARS	£50.00	
ALL OTHER BURIALS (COMMON GRAVES)	£170.00	180.00
<u>ASHES SECTIONS</u>		
7 PURCHASED ASHES PLOT INCLUSIVE OF 1ST INTERMENT	£90.00	
8 SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT INTERMENTS	£70.00	95.00
9 <u>SCATTERING OF ASHES</u>	£35.00	40.00
10 <u>WOODLAND BURIALS</u>		
GRAVE FOR 1 ONLY	£420.00	450.00
ASHES	£120.00	125.00
<u>ALL FEES DOUBLED FOR NON-RESIDENTS</u>		
11 <u>MEMORIALS</u>		
MEMORIAL (INCLUSIVE OF 1ST INSCRIPTION)	£40.00	45.00
EACH ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTION	£20.00	25.00
VASES	£20.00	25.00
TEMPORARY WOODEN CROSSES	£20.00	25.00

APPENDIX 2

	Suggested Cost for Service	Estimated Number of Requests	Estimated Total Income
1) Search of Records - Erection of Plaques/Memorials (not 2) on graves) -	£15.00	15	£225.00
Erection of Seats, planting of trees, shrubs etc in Garden of	£30.00	10	£300.00
3) Remembrance	£20.00	10	£200.00
4) New Woodland Cemetery	£453.60	15	£6,804.00
			<u>£7,529.00</u>

These fees would be doubled for non residents of Denbighshire.

**ANALYSIS OF EFFECT OF INCREASE OF BURIAL CHARGES AGAINST
REQUIRED CUT IN BUDGET**

Budget Cut	£12,000.00
Estimated Income through Increased Charges	£12,159.00