

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in Conference Room 1, Council Offices, Ruthin on Tuesday 25 January 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Communities; R W Hughes, Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Finance and Personnel; S Roberts, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire; J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management and E W Williams, Lead Member for Environment.

Observers: Councillors R E Barton; M LI Davies; G C Evans; K N Hawkins; D Jones; M M Jones; and Ms Louise Fleet, ACiW.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources, County Clerk and the Financial Controller.

APOLOGIES

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Business & Communications; M A German, Lead Member for Children and Young People and D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning;

1 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 December 2004 were submitted.

Asset Management Committee Councillor J Thompson Hill said a seminar for all Members, on the Agricultural Estate, was to be held on Friday 18 March 2005. He hoped that as many Members as possible would attend.

Item 5 Revenue Budget 2004-2005 Councillor P A Dobb said a meeting was being held at the end of the month between the Headteacher of Brynhyfryd School and the swimmers regarding community access to Ruthin Leisure Centre for early morning swimming and it was hoped a positive outcome would be reached. Councillor S Roberts said good progress was being made in Rhyl High School regarding early morning swimming sessions.

Item 7 Council Tax Base 2005-2006 The Chief Executive apologised for the misspelling of Llandegla.

11.2 Finance Directorate Seminar Councillor R W Hughes paid tribute to the staff and Lead Members for an excellent, informative seminar, arranged at relatively short notice.

12 Capital Plan 2004-2005 Councillor R W Hughes said she and Councillor P J Marfleet had recently met with Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and discussed various projects. The Minister was keen that a meeting be held with both ELWa and the WDA, reporting back to the Minister and Andrew Davies AM, Minister for Economic Development and Transport on discussions on training provision for young people to address skills shortages.

Councillor E C Edwards said he would welcome such provision for young people and would support such a project in Denbighshire.

In response to a query from Councillor M LI Davies, the Corporate Director: Personal Services said many young people were employed by the Authority, including Modern Apprentices.

Councillor E W Williams reminded Members that the provision under discussion was not new to the Authority and was part of the concept of education lifelong learning centres. In response, Councillor R W Hughes said that the learning units were not currently in place and new funding streams were required to address skills shortage training. Councillor Williams said this provision should be linked to 14 year old pupils as this was the whole concept of the Objective 1 / ELWa funding.

Councillor R E Barton said ELWa had attended a Flintshire County Council Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee to answer previously submitted questions. The Leader asked Councillor Barton to inform the Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee to discuss whether that Scrutiny required a similar event.

In response to a query from Councillor D Jones, the Acting Director of Education said every pupil was given the opportunity of work experience whilst still at school and was offered a placement, for example at Denbighshire County Council, Glan Clwyd Hospital, or in small businesses in the County.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 December 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3 DENBIGH TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE [PHASE II]

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to the submission of a Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Phase

II Townscape Heritage Initiative for Denbigh, in order to secure £1.5m of in-principle Heritage Lottery Fund assistance.

Members agreed with Councillor D Jones when he said he was pleased at the tremendous work being carried out in Denbigh on the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorise:

- [a] *the submission of a Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Phase 2 Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) for Denbigh*
- [b] *a recommendation to Council for the inclusion of a £30,000 per annum contribution from Denbighshire County Council towards the Phase 2 Denbigh THI, from 2005 onwards for 5 years, within the capital plan*
- [c] *the adoption of a Conservation Area Management Plan framework for Denbigh and for its development through the first year of the scheme*
- [ch] *a commitment by the Cabinet and a recommendation to the Planning Committee to positively use the full range of planning powers to ensure the proper management of Denbigh Conservation Area*
- [d] *in-principle support for the Conservation Area Management Plan subject to further details being brought to Cabinet at a later date for consideration.*

4 REVENUE BUDGET 2004-2005

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report for Members, in the light of the budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the appendices attached to the report, to consider any actions necessary to reduce the balance of overspending on services.

Councillor Marfleet said substantial improvements were required if an overspend was not to be carried forward to the next financial year which could lead to erosion of reserves. The Audit Commission in Wales have said the Authority currently does not hold sufficient reserves, however it was unlikely that reserves would be added to at this time.

Lifelong Learning had achieved commendable improvements in the behavioural support figures resulting in a reduced predicted overspend, although a shortfall of income had occurred due to a reduction in out of County placements in special schools. However, Culture and Leisure had an overrun of £80k with the temporary closure of Rhyl Leisure Centre, which could overrun into the following year's budget.

The Acting Director of Lifelong Learning said the refurbishment works at Rhyl Leisure Centre were taking longer than anticipated, partly due to the presence of asbestos, which would result in extra costs and security costs would be

higher as a result of vandalism. A phased re-opening would be considered. Management actions, such as delayed appointments, increases in income etc, had increased income by £6k in other areas.

The Environment Directorate budget had improved considerably and it was hoped a figure of up to £100k would be carried forward to the following financial year. However, Councillor E W Williams said not filling posts was not the way to make budget savings. The Corporate Director: Environment said there was an overall shortage of qualified people for certain jobs and some authorities were paying more to ensure posts were filled.

Councillor Marfleet congratulated the Personal Services Directorate who were on target with their budget management, despite facing many pressures and were considering the following year's budget at this time. However, the County was disadvantaged by the adult funding formula used by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Authority were in discussion with the Assembly regarding this.

He reported on the Land Searches Department move to the Environment Directorate. The Corporate Director: Environment said the number of housing market transactions were dropping, therefore the budget would need to be re-profiled.

Councillor E W Williams asked whether the correct funding for education was being allocated to the Authority. Councillor Marfleet said a number of areas were being considered to ensure that funding received adequately represented the Authority. He said the transient nature of the population in the County made it difficult to allocate funding. The Acting Director Education said it was essential to have accurate pupil numbers and schools now submitted figures twice a year to the Authority and the Assembly.

The Financial Controller explained the reasons for changes to the gross expenditure figures.

In response to a query, Councillor J Thompson Hill said most County-owned land of a significant size was now listed and the Legal Services Department hoped to start the process of registering all the land with the Land Registry over the next few years.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the figures in the Appendices and agree the remedial actions to align projected spending levels with approved budgets.

5 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2004/2005

Councillor M LI Davies declared an interest in the item.

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to adopt the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Members were also asked to agree the rents for Council dwellings be increased in accordance with the Rent Setting Policy in Section 2.2.6

[average 4.4%] of the report and rents for Council garages be increased by 10p [average 3.3%] per week, both with effect from 04.04.2005.

Councillor Dobb said the balances at year end were forecast at £1,171k. An increase in rents for houses and garages was forecast to lead to a surplus of £306,447. Phasing in of equal rents across the County was ongoing.

Councillor M LI Davies said there were problems with grass cutting around garages in Trefnant and asked whether the surplus funding could be used for grass cutting maintenance. Councillor Dobb said the problem affected only 1 house in Trefnant as the remainder were privately owned. The problem would be given further consideration.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree:

[a] to adopt the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

[b] rents for Council dwellings be increased in accordance with the Rent Setting Policy in Section 2.2.6 [average 4.4%] of the report with effect from 04.04.2005

[c] rents for Council garages be increased by 10p [average 3.3%] per week, with effect from 04.04.2005.

6 REVENUE BUDGET 2005-2006 TO 2007-2008

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report seeking Cabinet consideration and recommendation to Council of the budget proposals detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, together with the resulting impact on Council Tax levels in 2005-2006. He said the extra £250k given by Central Government would have a less than 1% impact on Council Tax.

Each department was to be commended for their plans to reduce costs and find savings of 1.5%, with schools finding 0.8% savings.

The Council Tax for Band D, if agreed, would increase by 4.5% for those staying in that Band. However, there would be substantially higher increases for those properties which had been re-evaluated and increased. Residents could appeal to the Valuation Service from April 2005 about their increase in Band levels.

Councillor P A Dobb agreed staff had worked hard to find the savings. She asked what effect the Police precept would have on the final Council Tax figure. Councillor E C Edwards, as the Police Authority representative, said the Police Authority were looking to keeping the increase in the precept in single figures.

Councillor P J Marfleet referred to a letter received the previous day from by Sue Essex AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services

regarding the Local Government Settlement in which the Minister said Authorities had received a fair settlement which she felt would allow Local Authorities to develop their services and to set reasonable budgets that would limit the effects of Council Tax, even though re-valuation had taken place. She stated that Local Authorities would be expected to be limiting their budget increases to single figures and she would possibly implement the powers available to her as Minister to restrict the Local Authorities budget increases. Councillor Marfleet said the letter was unclear whether the 5% mentioned referred to Council Tax, or the total revenue budget.

Councillor E W Williams said the Authority's credibility would be brought into question by both the Assembly and the public as initially a 17% increase in Council Tax had been mooted, which had now become 4.5%. Councillor R W Hughes said the original figure of 17% was factual, based on the information available at that time. Councillor Marfleet agreed and reminded Members that the media had been given information on the funding allocated by the Welsh Assembly Government and the hard work of officers and Members to fund savings.

The Financial Controller briefly outlined the reasons for the reduction achieved, for example efficiency savings and the impact of increased pension contributions as there are now more staff than 8 years ago.

Councillor S Roberts agreed staff had worked hard. She also said a high Police precept was not acceptable and she felt that 'value for money' was not given in Rhyl, in particular the vandalism problems were not being addressed.

Councillor J Thompson Hill also commended the staff on their hard work but said until the Welsh Assembly Government worked to a 3 year rolling budget, Local Authorities could be in a similar position in 12 months' time.

The Chief Executive said a Police precept increase of over 5% would mean a Council Tax increase of 4.5% for those with homes remaining in the same Band. He agreed with Councillor Marfleet that part of the letter received from the Minister was ambiguous but should the 5% increase not refer to the budgets a strong protest should be made. He stressed that services for vulnerable people should not be affected. With a 3 year budget it would be possible to set a Council Tax figure for year 2 and year 3 but assumptions taken in the first year could change.

Councillor R W Hughes thanked Members and officers across the Directorates for their work.

RESOLVED that:

[a] Members note the service budget proposals detailed in appendix 1, together with the efficiency savings proposals detailed in appendix 2 and recommend the total budget package to County Council for approval.

[b] Members recommend the resulting 4.5% impact of the proposals on Band D of Council Tax in 2005/6 to full Council.

[c] Members note the likely budget position for 2006/7 & 2007/8 and endorse the proposal to carry out further reviews of service budget requirements to identify additional efficiency savings to boost reserves, fund the development of priority areas and reduce pressure on Council Tax in these years.

7 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor R W Hughes presented the report and asked officers to ensure that Lead Members were fully involved in developing the Cabinet Forward Work Programme and involving Members from the start. She reminded Members the Corporate Quarterly Performance report was on the Agenda for the next meeting of Cabinet and she asked that Members provide brief verbal reports in support of the statements therein.

Councillor P A Dobb said the Improving Housing Stock report would not be available until the March 2005 Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the contents of the Forward Work Programme.

8 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Urgent Items.

At this juncture (11.25 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

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 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART II

9 CAPITAL PLAN 2004-2005

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report seeking Members' consideration of any actions necessary in the management of the Capital Plan. He detailed the current position and said any slippage would be carried forward to the following year. A new column had been included in the report identifying the level of committed expenditure for the year.

Councillor Marfleet discussed the appendices in detail.

In response to a query, the Acting Director Lifelong Learning informed Members of the latest position regarding refurbishment of Rhyl Leisure

Centre. Members agreed that the asbestos found could not have been foreseen and the final overrun estimate would need approval by Full Council. She also detailed the possible relocation of the St Asaph Youth Club to provide an improved, integrated service for young people. Councillor Marfleet said it was imperative that such items as design work were effectively managed on each project under the capital plan.

With regard to schools budgets, Councillor Marfleet said a full programme of work for schools was required as soon as possible which also would take into account the recommendations of the Managing School Places report.

Councillor E W Williams said it was sometimes difficult to find projects which could be carried out at very short notice, due to slippage of other projects. The public wanted to see improvements carried out rather than a roll over of capital monies to the following year. Long term planning was essential.

With regard to improvements required to school buildings, the Head of Development Services said schools were generally adopting a flexible attitude whenever possible.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the updated position in respect of the Capital Plan.

10 THREE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN 2005 - 2006 ONWARDS

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report, circulated a revised Appendix to the report, seeking Members' consideration of the capital investment requirements for the 2005-2006 Capital Plan and to recommend to Council the strategy proposals as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.

Members agreed that any surplus would be allocated with an initial discussion on projects held at an Informal Cabinet meeting. They further agreed that the Council's priorities would be followed, unless at some stage Full Council wished to make changes.

Councillor Marfleet said opportunities could become available for prudential borrowing. He stressed the need for block allocations to continue.

Councillor R W Hughes reminded Members the correct name for the Scala was the Scala Community Arts Centre.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends to Council that:

[a] after allowing for rollover costs of existing schemes, block allocations consistent with earlier financial years form the basis of the initial General Funded Capital Plan for 2005/06

[b] the remaining balance of General Funding resources of £0.265m is allocated to the Care.com project

[c] the potential new Prudential Borrowing schemes listed in Appendix 1 are included in the Capital Plan strategy for 2005/06 and future years

[ch] surplus assets for disposal must be identified in order to generate the capital receipts that are required to enable further development of the Capital Plan to take place.

11 AGRICULTURAL ESTATE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report seeking Members' agreement to ringfence part of future receipts generated from the sale of surplus assets on the Agricultural Estate to fund capital spending required on the Estate.

Councillor Thompson Hill said funding needed to be identified for the statutory end of tenancy agreements and a breakdown of works over a 2 year period for both statutory and contractual obligations was included in Appendix 1 to the report. Potential capital receipts were detailed at Appendix 2 to the report which could fund end of tenancy agreements, reinvestment in the agricultural estate and a top-up of reinstated reserves.

Members discussed the report in detail and the Chief Executive reminded Members that the agricultural estate land purchase provision had not been included as part of the Council's priorities.

Councillor P J Marfleet agreed with the Chief Executive and said it was important that the correct amount was paid which was fair to both sides and not excessive. He detailed the single farm payments due to come into force in June 2005 meant that grants would be on a hectare rather than stock carried basis. This could impact on a year's payments for short term grazing agreements. Councillor E W Williams agreed this was a possibility as the Welsh Assembly Government had not yet made clear how the single farm payments would work. Although not included in the Council's priorities, Councillor Williams said long term investment in accommodation land in the agricultural estate was required.

Councillor D Jones said as Chair of the former Agricultural Estates Committee he reminded Members that health and safety on farms must not be overlooked. The Senior Building Surveyor said health and safety remedial works on the agricultural estate were being addressed.

The Head of Development Services said a report would be provided to the Agricultural Estates Committee and then to Cabinet detailing capital requirements for the estate as a whole and its future management.

Members discussed the recommendations in detail and agreed the work detailed in Appendix 1 should not be delayed.

RESOLVED that Members agree:

- [a] to utilise the land purchase provision to fund payment of statutory compensation for current end of tenancy matters*
- [b] to set aside £219,500 (including re-instatement of Land Purchase Provision) from future capital receipts generated from the Agricultural Estate to fund essential legislative works, to be undertaken over a four year programme*
- [c] a further report detailing the agricultural estate strategy be provided to the next Asset Management Committee meeting.*

The meeting concluded at 12.40 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR P A DOBB, Lead Member Health & Wellbeing

DATE: 22nd February 2005

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT UNDER S31 OF THE HEALTH ACT 1999 FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Endorsement of Legal Partnership Agreement for Conwy & Denbighshire Adult Mental Health and Social Care Partnership

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Formal agreement from the Cabinet is required for the creation of the S31 Partnership Agreement in respect of the Integrated Adult Mental Health and Social Care Partnership between Denbighshire County Council Social Services Department, Conwy Borough Council Social Services Department and the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust

A range of stakeholders have been intensively involved in the development of the Partnership Agreement. They have been key members of all the Task Groups. In particular the agreement has been meticulously examined by financial and legal officers of the County Council. Staff and Service Users have also been thoroughly involved in the development of the document and this has resulted in the production of a Partnership Agreement which is acceptable to all parties.

The Agreement provides for:

- The creation of a single integrated organisational structure for providing adult mental health services in Conwy & Denbighshire
- Agreement of common policies & procedures to be adopted across the whole aspect of the service
- Reduction in duplication and improved coordination of services
- All stakeholders to participate fully in decision making & planning of services
- Reflection of recommendations and guidance of Social Services Inspectorate for Wales, National Service Framework for Mental Health, Wanless Report & other adopted and future strategic documents
- Ensuring the integrated model fulfils all statutory responsibilities
- Enhancement of operational links with allied agencies and services

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 31 of The Health Act 1999

The Joint Flexibilities' partnership arrangements are outlined under Section 31 and have been developed to give NHS bodies and local authorities the flexibility to respond effectively together to improve services either by Pooling of Budgets, Integration of Services or Lead Commissioning arrangements. The current Section 31 Agreement commits Denbighshire County Council to the Integration of Services in terms of a unified management structure. A further development may be the pooling of Budgets, but this would require further Cabinet approval.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Each agency will designate to the Partnership its current base budget allocation for Mental Health services and each will be subject to its current accountability arrangements. For Denbighshire County Council this equates to a revenue budget of £1.4 million. The total designated amount for the service will be 10.6million

Internal interviews for the Operational Manager post will be held on 22nd February and following the outcome of that there may be a small further contribution required from Denbighshire towards a share of the costs of this new post, which would be £19,000 and met from within current resources

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The Partnership should provide a more efficient and effective service than currently. Any costs arising from establishing the Partnership must be met from within existing resources.

The proposed Partnership structure does not change the managerial or financial control arrangements for Denbighshire County Council resources and the Council's Financial Regulations will still apply. Pooled budgets have not been introduced at this stage and therefore there is no commitment to meet any overspending that may occur elsewhere within the Partnership. Any proposals for future pooling of budgets will need to be the subject of a further report to members following a full review to include Central Finance.

The Council's financial contribution to the Partnership must be limited to the budget highlighted in paragraph 4.

The budget will still be part of the Personal Services base and is not ring fenced.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

In addition to the partner agencies extensive consultation has been carried out with:

- Conwy Local Health Board
- Denbighshire Local Health Board
- Service User & Carer Groups
- Voluntary sector – Unllais, Mind, Hafal
- Staff and Union representatives involved in task groups

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Fulfils the Corporate Partnership agenda and is in keeping with the principles of the Health Act 1999 Flexibility arrangements.

8 RECOMMENDATION

Endorse the S31 Legal Partnership Agreement for Conwy & Denbighshire Adult Mental Health and Social Care Partnership.

Appendix

1. Briefing Paper for Cabinet

to the Legal Agreement outlines the agreed common personnel policies to be used within the Partnership.

- **To agree common policies and procedures to be adopted across the whole aspect of the service**

In addition to the personnel policies referenced above, work has been undertaken on a number of operational policies and procedures that govern the interface between service users and staff. Some of these already existed as joint documents but have not been included in the Legal Agreement.

- **Reduce duplication and improve co-ordination of services**

The creation of a single management structure that spans all three organisations will contribute to the reduction of duplication. The overarching operational management post will lead to improved co-ordination of services.

- **To enable all stakeholders to participate fully in decision making & planning of services**

A range of stakeholders have been committed and involved in the development of the Partnership. They have been key members of all of the Task Groups and their involvement will be maintained through the new Partnership Board. In particular the Service User perspective has been encouraged and this has resulted in the production of a Service User Strategy Document and the creation and funding of a support officer post to assist Service Users in their Partnership Board functions.

- **To reflect recommendations and guidance of SSIW, NSF, Wanless Report & other adopted strategic documents**

The stated aims and objectives of the Partnership are consistent with the existing guidance as outlined above and have the capacity to embrace new recommendations and guidance as they are developed.

- **To ensure the integrated model fulfils all statutory responsibilities**

The Council's Legal Service Manager has been involved in drawing up the legal agreement and has thus ensured that the interests of the Authority are properly protected. In order to assist in formulating the agreement members of the Legal Task Group have drawn on examples of legal agreements from elsewhere in the UK.

The agreement makes provision through the management arrangements for ensuring that the statutory duties of the Authority are carried out and that Social Care staff have access to appropriate professional support and supervision. The specific matter of ASW provision is dealt with above.

Finance

The partners have agreed not to establish pooled budgets from the commencement date but will work towards a pooled budget position during the life of the agreement. Directorate and Corporate finance officers have been key members of the Finance task group. Due to the above there is not at this time need to develop a protocol around over and under spend as these will continue to be managed in accordance

with each partner's financial management arrangements. This means that each agency will designate to the Partnership its current base budget allocation for Mental Health services and each will be subject to its current accountability arrangements.

Governance

The integrated service will be managed by the Conwy & Denbighshire Adult Mental Health & Social Care Partnership Board which will oversee the integrated provider partnership. It will facilitate a true partnership between all stakeholders and assume responsibility for the management of the integrated service, elements of which are currently provided by Denbighshire County Council, Conwy Borough Council and the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust. The Board will be operationally accountable to Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust Executive Board through an integrated performance management framework using the balanced scorecard approach.

It will however, be necessary to maintain the links to the overarching multi agency, director led Strategic Partnership Board and Lead Officer Group which deal with all partnership services and areas not just Mental Health. Although members of these groups will also be members of the Partnership Board and reporting mechanisms can be maintained this way it will be necessary to strengthen the arrangement probably through the development of a Joint Commissioning Board, initially to be established in response to the Mental Health Integration, which as yet is in the discussion stage.

Members are represented on the Strategic Partnership Board by Councillors Elwyn Edwards (Safeguarding our Communities), Michael German (Children & Young People) and Pauline Dobb (Health & Well Being).

Consultation Carried Out

Project partners/stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the agreement, in addition to those outlined above, include:

- Conwy Local Health Board
- Denbighshire Local Health Board
- Service User & Carer Groups
- Voluntary sector – Unllais, Mind, Hafal
- Staff and Union representatives

As well as representatives from the above groups being actively involved in all of the task groups a number of information sharing events have been held. In addition monthly newsletters have been widely distributed and minutes of all task group meetings have been made available.

Implications on Other Policy Areas

Fulfils the Corporate Partnership agenda and is in keeping with the principles of the Health Act 1999 Flexibility arrangements.

Background Papers: Health Act 1999 S31 flexibility mechanisms
Legal Agreement Integration of Adult Mental Health Services in Conwy Denbighshire
(Draft 5 December 2004)

Contact Officers: Helena Thomas, Service Manager, Provider Unit
Heather Rimmer, Joint Flexibilities Implementation Manager

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R W HUGHES, LEADER

DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2005

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To agree the Authority's Priorities Paper as attached at Appendix I.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Following the agreement of Denbighshire County Council's priorities by Council on 14 December a draft Priorities paper was prepared by the Strategic Planning Group and discussed by the Monthly Management Conference on the 6 January 2005.

The comments made were discussed at the Resources Departmental Management Team on the 31 January 2005 and the document revised accordingly and agreed by MMC on the 3 February 2005 (Appendix I refers).

When setting priorities for the Council, Members were clear that the Authority should ensure it meets its statutory obligations and progress the themes of the Community Strategy, and this is clearly reflected in the Mission Statement. The themes of the Community Strategy support the priorities identified by Members:-

MEMBERS PRIORITIES	COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME
Education	Lifelong Learning
Highways	Community Safety – (road safety), Environment (transport)
Public Realm	Economic Prosperity, Environment
Services for Young People	Children and Young People
Waste and Recycling	Environment
Tourism	Economic Prosperity
Services for the Elderly	Health, Social Care and Well Being
Affordable Housing	Health, Social Care and Well Being

Members also decided that the Council should focus on trying to improve the following areas over the next three years and this is reflected in the priorities:-

- 1 School buildings
- 2 Roads
- 3 Public Realm

There are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Timed) outcome targets in the Community Strategy to support all the above areas but to include them in the Council's priority paper would merely duplicate the Community Strategy and

make the paper very long. The three priorities above are supported by objectives and targets in the Community Strategy.

As far as is reasonable corporate objectives are SMART but services should ensure that targets and actions to support the corporate objectives are SMART.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

The setting of corporate priorities is a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The ability to progress areas of priority will be dependent upon financial resources.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The development of the Council's priorities has been taken into account in agreeing the Council's 3 year budget strategy.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The priorities have been the subject of a number of sessions with all Members and were agreed by Council in December. The priorities paper has been discussed by the Strategic Planning Group, Resources Directorate Management Team, Corporate Executive Team, Monthly Management Conference and has been posted on our internal Notice Boards for comments from staff.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Achieving the corporate priorities and objectives will have implications on all policy areas and Directorates.

8 RECOMMENDATION

That the Priorities Paper, subject to any amendments agreed by Cabinet, is presented to full Council on the 24 February for adoption.

“DENBIGHSHIRE DELIVERS”

Denbighshire County Council’s Mission Statement

Denbighshire County Council will efficiently deliver its services whilst ensuring that the identified priorities of the Community Strategy are progressed.

Denbighshire County Council’s Priorities

The Council’s specific focus over the following three years will be to:-

P1 - Improve school buildings

P2 - Improve roads

P3 - Enhance Denbighshire’s distinct environment.

Denbighshire County Council’s Corporate Aims and Objectives

All plans will support the Council’s corporate Mission Statement, Priorities and Corporate Aims and Objectives. The Council’s aims are to:-

- A Provide the services that the people of Denbighshire want
- B Obtain as much money as possible for Denbighshire and use it wisely
- C Invest in Councillors and staff
- D Improve the image of Denbighshire

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL’S CORPORATE OBJECTIVES	
C01	We will deliver services within budget and to the agreed targets in the annual Improvement Plan
C02	We will progress the objectives and targets within the themes of the Community Strategy – Health Social Care and Well Being, Community Safety, Lifelong Learning, Economic Prosperity, Environment, Children and Young People
C03	We will reduce the gap between Council Tax in Denbighshire and other North Wales local authorities
C04	We will improve communication and joint working throughout the Authority by implementing a Communications Strategy by June 2005 and developing a Customer Contact Centre. We aim to reply to all letters, phone calls and e-mails within 10 working days and investigate all complaints and provide a full reply within 20 working days.
CO5	We will save at least £2 million from efficiency savings and increased income from fees and charges by March 2006
CO6	After March 2006 we will increase this level of savings/increased income by an additional £1 million to improve services in line with Members agreed priorities, after consideration is given to the needs of mandatory services.

CO7	We will strive to ensure that no ward in Denbighshire is among the 20 most deprived areas in Wales by 2007, with none in the top 50 by 2012 by progressing the economic prosperity targets in the Community Strategy
CO8	We aim to sell £3m of land and buildings each year over 2 years to improve our school buildings and roads
CO9	We will improve our level of general reserves by £1m to £4.2 m by 2007/8
C10	We will reduce sickness absence levels year on year
C11	ensure 100% of staff are offered an annual Personal Development and agreed training plan
C12	We will develop and implement a Member training and development plan by 2006.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR P J MARFLEET, LEAD MEMBER FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2005

SUBJECT: CORPORATE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2004/05

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 That Cabinet consider the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report against the Improvement Plan 04/05 (Appendices I and II refers) and monitor closely:-

- i) Progress being made against corporate and service risks with reference to local performance indicators with a view to considering any issue in greater depth as deemed necessary (Appendix I refers).
- ii) Progress towards target of the statutory performance indicators with a view to considering any issue in greater depth as deemed necessary (Appendix II refers).

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Improvement Plan should be viewed as the Council's Work Programme which sets out the Authority's strategic aims and details how improvement will be made to areas of priority and significant corporate and service risk.

2.2 The Corporate Quarterly Performance Report is produced to promote the regular monitoring of performance against the Authority's Improvement Plan by Members and Senior Management Team.

2.3 The key issues for consideration from Quarter 3 (October, November and December) are noted below:-

Overall

Of those National Statutory Indicators reported on a quarterly basis:

45% of statutory indicators are ahead of target

11% of statutory indicators are on target

44% of statutory indicators are unlikely to meet the annual target if current performance continues

Policy Agreement Indicators

Data has not been provided for some of the 2004-07 Policy Agreement Performance Indicators and this should be provided quarterly wherever possible.

Local Performance Indicators

The definitions for some local performance indicators require clarification and internally auditing against a Quality Assurance Checklist by the Corporate Performance Management Unit.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Performance management is a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

There maybe cost implications to the achievement of some statutory and local performance indicator targets.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Performance management is a key element in ensuring quality services that are cost effective

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Quarterly Performance Reports are produced by Heads of Service for Directors and copied to the Performance Management Unit. The reports are discussed with Lead Members and are the subject of Departmental Management Team meetings and are discussed with staff. The reports are also reviewed by Performance Management and Scrutiny Support Officers and distributed to the relevant Scrutiny Committees. A Review Of Quarterly Performance Reports is produced for each Scrutiny Committee which includes the comments of the appropriate officer. The corporate report is presented for consideration to the Corporate Executive Team and Cabinet.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Statutory performance indicators impact upon all policy areas including corporate.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That Members consider the Corporate Quarterly Performance Report (Appendices I and II) and identify any issues that require further discussion and/or remedial action.

Denbighshire County Council

**REPORTING PROGRESS AGAINST THE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN 2004/2005**

QUARTER 3

THE COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2004/05

Progress - Corporate Issues

Corporate Issue	Progress Qtr 1(Apr 04-Ju 04)	Progress Qtr 2(July 04-Sept 04)	Progress Qtr 3 (Oct 04-Dec 04)	Target 2004/05
Managing Financial Resources – Alan Evans	Work began in Quarter 1 on Charging for services.	Priority setting days have taken place with Members and Senior Management Team and a draft four year financial framework aligned to priorities will be presented to Members for discussion on the 23 November. The WAG settlement has been received and Members views on Council Tax levels sought. A programme of work is being developed by the Management Accounting Team to assist Directorates in the identification of efficiency savings and reviewing fees and charges.	The final priority setting day was held on 23 rd November 2004 and produced agreed service areas for development as resources allow. The position was ratified by full Council. A 3 year Revenue Budget has been produced and Council will be asked to give a steer on, future levels of Council Tax including consideration of improving the Council's position relative to other N Wales Councils, improvement of reserves and identifying the level of resources for developing priority services in both revenue and capital budgets. WAG resources beyond 2005/6 are however only indicative at this stage. The results of phase 1 of the efficiency savings exercise have been incorporated in the 2005/6 budget, phase 2 , to identify further savings and opportunities to maximise income, is now underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved budget setting procedures • Improved linkage between Council priorities and resource allocation • Proper emphasis on forward planning • Develop policies on Council Tax and Reserves • Develop one year and three year financial plans • Identify efficiency savings • Scrutiny to start a review of fees and charges
Communications and Consultation - Sue Appleton	A three phase Corporate Communications Review is underway and will be complete by October 2004.	Phase 3 of the review will be completed by the end of November. The original October deadline has slipped due to lack of resources. The shift in deadline	Phase 3 of the review is complete. Results and recommendations of the whole review to be reported to members and incorporated, where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Best Value Review of Communications and Consultation • Agree approach to

		will not adversely impact on the final date to get the Strategy formally in place by February '05. Results and recommendations of the whole review will be reported to Members and incorporated into the Strategy.	appropriate, into the Corporate Communications Strategy which will be in place by the end of February 2005. Funding for contact centre in budget proposals.	development of Customer Contact Centre and One Stop Shops
Human Resources - Linda Atkin	Software now in place to assist with salary modelling and evaluation of roles by January 2005. 20 members of management, staff and unions have been training in GLPC evaluation scheme.	HR System - Contract with MIDLAND now signed. Project Plan meeting has taken place and training on system for key users arranged during Nov. Key piece of work is to ensure structures are documented and available for input into new system. Absence levels continue to reduce and are on target. Single Status - Work continues to progress. Meetings taking place with Directorates regarding consolidation plus payment issues.	Work on documenting structures is complete. People data file has been tested successfully and requires loading into the test environment. Structure files are being built successfully, however this is a long job due to total lack of electronic data to aid the creation process. 1. Complete the setup of the structure. This will be completed by 21.1.05. 2. Load the people data onto the test environment by 28.1.05. 3. Attach the people to the structure. This will require the people data to be attached to their positions on the day they started with the authority i.e. their start date on the people file. Following which personnel will need to maintain the structure. Personnel staff are currently undergoing training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emphasis on one organisation ● Identify culture / key competencies ● Roles of Corporate Directors ● IIP Status achieved ● Silver Corporate Health Award ● Single Status implemented ● Introduce HR computerised system ● Further develop approaches to reduce absence / sickness. ● Staff development – clarity of roles / capacity building/leadership ● Development requirements of the new council

<p>Performance Management – Janette Ogden</p>	<p>An induction day took place with new Members on PM and priority setting. A meeting has taken place with the Cabinet Member for PM. Training has been arranged for the Corporate Performance Management Group on developing a balanced set of indicators and target setting on the 27 September. A priority setting day has been organised with Members for the 3 September and a survey carried out with new Members.</p>	<p>Two priority setting days with Members and Senior Management have taken place and the results are currently being analysed. A training session took place with the LGDU on local indicators and target setting which was well attended with a further training day organised for the 7th December. The Authority has received positive reports from the Audit Commission on its performance management framework and the Improvement Plan 04/05. The Corporate Performance Management Group meets monthly and continues to be well attended. Meetings between the CPMU, Heads of Service and departmental Performance Management Officers began in October to carry out a joint assessment of performance management arrangements within services. The CPMU has been working closely with the Community Strategy Team to try to identify baseline data and performance information so that progress against targets can be effectively monitored.</p> <p>Work is also progressing on improving the Authority's strategic framework</p>	<p>From the 7 February, Corporate Performance Management will be part of the Strategic Policy Unit to strengthen the links and relationship between the activities of planning, monitoring and control. Much progress has been made in relation to setting clear corporate priorities and SMART objectives. A priorities paper based on Members priorities as agreed in Council was discussed in MMC in January, revised by the Resources Departmental Management Team and will be discussed at MMC on the 3 February (update following MMC). It was disappointing to note that the Target Setting session arranged for Members to support the business planning process was cancelled due to low attendance but further sessions by the LGDU on statistical analysis were well attended by officers and found to be useful. Service Business Plans for 2005 - 2008 are currently being produced for the 1 April.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting new members • Developing a balanced set of performance measures • Improving target setting • Ensuring operational plans exist to support service business plans • Improving corporate priorities
<p>Project Management – Linda Atkin</p>	<p>Corporate methodology being presented to MMC on 2 September. Proposing 3 levels</p>	<p>A Corporate Methodology has been approved. Pilot projects being run to test the methodology</p>	<p>Corporate Methodology approved, Pilot projects being run to test the methodology in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify corporate methodology

	of project management within one corporate methodology.	in practice. Training sessions are currently being undertaken.	practice. Training sessions complete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim project management methodology put in place • Seek additional resources if applicable
Risk Management – Ivan Butler	HIAS nominated as key contact for ACiW. The Corporate Risk Management Team has reformed and met. An Action Plan has been devised for risk management strategy implementation. Training sessions have been organised for risk management and business continuity.	Risk Management Team is in place and methodology developed for implementation. 2 training workshops held so far and attended by all departments. Risk assessments underway for all departments and corporate business continuity plan being developed.	Training workshops completed. All departments should have completed risk assessments and management action plans/business continuity plans. Audit of these documents underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coordination with Audit Commission • Form Risk Management Team • Develop risk management methodology • Implement the risk management strategy and develop business continuity plans
Procurement – Cemlyn Foulkes/Arwel Staples	The consolidation of the Procurement Strategy is ongoing with various meetings been held with other cross sector organisations to review their procurement strategies, concentrating especially on developing an e-procurement strategy. Further procurement strategy guidance also obtained e.g. National Local Government Procurement Strategy for England, which is currently being reviewed.	The consolidation of the Procurement Strategy is still ongoing with a Procurement Strategy Action Plan having now been developed. Further meetings are also being arranged with other cross sector organisations to review their procurement strategies, concentrating especially on developing an e-procurement strategy. The National Local Government Procurement Strategy for England has now been reviewed and key objectives from the national strategy included within DCC Procurement Strategy Action Plan. The amended CPRs have come into effect on 01/10/04. The	<p>The Procurement Strategy and action plan is continuously being updated with inclusion of e-procurement considerations. The priorities and timescales within the action plan will be presented shortly to the Strategic Procurement Group for further consideration.</p> <p>The development of procurement procedures is ongoing, with new sets of terms and conditions for services and consultancy having been drafted for Legal Services to review. Further enhancements of the Invitation to Tender template documents, has also been completed, which takes into account of the new Consolidated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of Procurement Strategy • Development of procedures • Recruitment of new team

		development of further procurement policies is ongoing as well as developing a procurement manual for all staff. The posts for the new staff have been advertised externally and interviews will take place subject to receiving approval to fill vacant posts as per procedure in place.	European Procurement Directives. The post of Procurement Officer has now been filled with the appointment of Stuart Andrews. The post of Senior Procurement Officer has had to be re-advertised due to quality of original applicants. The application forms have now been returned and interviews will be arranged shortly.	
Corporate Property – Gareth Evans	The two teams are in the process of being amalgamated. A Senior property manager is currently being recruited. Revised delegations have been agreed confirming the strategic role of AMC	The two teams have been integrated. The AMC role has been revised and further delegations approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures for 2 teams currently being agreed. A second recruitment process for the Senior Property Manager is underway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate the 2 teams Appoint senior manager and identify other skills gaps Improved decision-making – review role of AMC and opportunity for further delegations

Environment Directorate – Progress Against Key Issues

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Environmental Health – Food Hygiene	The performance in terms of the national indicator is poor and is not on target. Operational Plans are being agreed that will give greater emphasis in terms of prioritising officer time to improve performance in this area. An additional Environmental Health Officer has been employed (three year contract PIG money) which should also have	The figure in this quarter has improved though there is still a deficit due to the move to PFI and the disruption of the need for officers to be either present in court or preparing reports. The demand on Officers' time attending court has decreased this quarter but new cases may interfere with next quarter's figures as further offences have been detected at several premises. An additional EHO has	Performance for the first three Quarters of the year is now up to just under 41% (Cumulative target for end of 3rd Quarter = 45%). We are therefore just under being on target for the annual figure of 60% of visits in the year. To reach the 60% target we need to ensure that in the 4th Quarter a total of 80 of the planned inspections are carried out. There are staffing problems within the

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
	<p>an impact on performance. More flexible staffing arrangements are also being explored which again should improve performance in this area. On a positive note the local indicator in terms of food samples taken is ahead of target (100 for the quarter) and further work has been undertaken in terms of pending prosecution against unhygienic premises.</p>	<p>been appointed and will be in post from 1.10.04. Similarly a trainee EHO has been employed and his work in the food sampling and dealing with initial enquiries concerning complaints has eased the demand on existing EHOs.</p>	<p>Team, which will affect achievement of the target in that one EHO has resigned from post and another EHO is on long term sick leave. An additional EHO has been redeployed from elsewhere within the Service and staff have been authorised to carry over 10 days leave into next year, if necessary, to limit staff absence over the next 8 weeks or so. Other work, including taking food samples, is being prioritised with the focus on using staff time to carry out inspections of high risk premises as far as possible.</p> <p>The inspection work in relation to high risk premises does however have to be balanced against other demands in the food hygiene function including revisits to unhygienic premises, taking enforcement action, continuing with some sample work and responding to complaints from the public, none of which contribute to the National Indicator.</p>
Waste Management	<p>The overall recycling targets have been achieved. The removal of further recyclables from the waste stream is expected to commence later in the year when the infrastructure is in place to receive and collect them. This equipment is currently being procured.</p>	<p>A new Senior Waste Officer was appointed in September. DCC's Municipal Waste Management Strategy prepared and presented to Scrutiny in September 2004. Meeting arranged (for Nov.) with Directors from the main landfill provider (WRG)</p> <p>Recycling - Projects identified for capital expenditure this year (WAG grant money) and equipment purchased. Expressions of interest invited for rural bring sites.</p>	<p><u>Minimising risk of disposal costs increases</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held with the Councils main landfill provider. • Meetings also held with neighbouring authorities to promote joint procurement. • Regional Waste group formed to assist in the development of regional facilities. <p>Regional composting facility proposed (in partnership with Conwy BC)</p>

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
		<p>Recycling officer appointed (due to start 1 November). Meetings held with contractor. Action plan produced by contractor</p> <p>Blue box scheme has been re-launched</p> <p>Monthly advertisements placed in County Voice</p>	<p><u>Remove recyclable elements from the waste stream currently going to landfill</u></p> <p>Projects identified for capital expenditure this year (WAG grant money)</p> <p>Equipment purchased. Expressions of interest invited for rural bring sites.</p> <p>Recycling officer appointed in December</p> <p><u>Recycling Targets</u></p> <p>Meetings held with contractor.</p> <p>Action plan produced by contractor</p> <p>Blue box scheme has been re-launched</p> <p>Monthly advertisements placed in County Voice.</p> <p><u>Improve the controls on trade waste disposal and fly tipping</u></p> <p>Individual traders have been re-educated about their legal duties etc. Attention has now shifted to the development of a joint Action Plan with SITA in relation to Civic Amenity sites.</p> <p>A 'Ban the van' initiative (at CS sites) has been endorsed by the Environment Scrutiny Committee.</p>
Highways Maintenance	<p>Highway Maintenance - Performance against targets in both emergency and category 1 repairs (7 day deadline) has been good, with a high level of response. Capital programme schemes for 2004/05 have been determined using the approved prioritisation criteria, with a concentration on principal roads</p>	<p>22 Authorities have agreed to act collectively to procure highways asset advice.</p> <p>There has been considerable improvement in performance in respect of both emergency and category 1 repairs above target level.</p>	<p>22 Authorities agreed to act collectively to procure asset advice. Completed 01/01/05.</p>

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
	<p>which are displaying low skid resistance characteristics. Several serious highway / property flooding issues are also being addressed through the structural maintenance programme, as well as one bridge which has suffered long term width and weight restrictions.</p> <p>Measures aimed at addressing locations with a poor third party claims history are also being addressed utilising risk management funding.</p>		<p>Established procedure Nov. 2004</p> <p>Established procedure, reporting from Finance in arrears – showing improvement of level of repudiation of 3rd Party claims but not yet quantifiable.</p>
Traffic Management and Road Safety	<p>100% of accident reports have been produced within 10 working days of receiving accident information and remedial measures are being taken at accident cluster sites. The Child Pedestrian Skill Training Co-ordinator has resigned which will impact on the proportion of target school children who have completed child pedestrian skills</p>	<p>A report has not been produced as no accidents have been reported</p>	<p>100% of accident reports have been produced within 10 working days of receiving accident information</p>
Vehicle Management and Maintenance	<p>Cabinet approved Depot location and funding 21/04/04. A Planning Application for a new depot was approved by DCC Planning Committee on the 14/07/04.</p>	<p>Delays have occurred due to complications which have arisen in respect of lease and procurement details. A Corporate Fleet Manual to be presented to MMC in November 2004</p>	<p><u>Procure workshop fit – out contract</u></p> <p>Published OJEU notice Tenders to be returned by contractors January 05</p>
Public Realm	<p>Multi-task work teams have been set up in trial areas (in order to eliminate organisational demarcation problems). Some progress has been made on the removal of geographical</p>	<p>Detailed proposals are being discussed with Tourism and Leisure. Noticeable improvements reported where new teams are operating. Further extension of experiment dependent upon outcome of</p>	<p>Draft agreement prepared jointly by Environment & Leisure depts (to give clarity of responsibility for functions) Awaiting final approval as part of the 'A</p>

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
	<p>demarkation problems (between various council departments), but much work is still to be done. We now have an effective enforcement policy against litter, fly-tipping and dog mess, but not enough resources to implement these policies universally. They are being implemented selectively. The issuing of fixed penalty notices for environmental enforcement only commenced in June.</p>	<p>Member priority exercise.</p>	<p>Sharper Focus' initiative with aim of 1/4/05 implementation.</p> <p>Noticeable improvements reported where new teams are operating. Environment Scrutiny working group to consider extension of trial to cover the south of the County. Sand clearance work now covered.</p> <p>94 enforcement actions taken for litter & fly tipping etc. (100 actions is the annual target)</p>
Private Sector Housing	<p>Although only small in number the HMO properties that are being registered is showing steady increase. Two additional Housing Enforcement Officer positions are to be advertised in the near future (3 year contract PIG money) which should further boost work in the registration scheme and general enforcement work ensuring improvements to the quality of residential premises.</p>	<p>The two additional posts have been advertised but without success. Attempts are now being made to engage staff through specialist recruitment agencies. Progress has been slow as result of not being able to recruit staff. Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants is increasing. These grants are mandatory and consequently more staff resources are being allocated to them. This will have an adverse effect on NAWPI 4.1a. Further the reduction in capital allocations in recent years is now having an effect and will add further pressure on PI's.</p>	<p>The Housing Enforcement Team have employed consultants on a temporary basis paid for by PIG money in an attempt to increase the number of visits to HMO's so that poor housing issues can be identified and addressed. Direct action by way of enforcement in terms of making unfit dwellings fit and vacant premises occupied has therefore been limited.</p> <p>In addition to the issues facing the Housing Enforcement Team the reduction in recent years of capital allocations to the Private Sector Housing and Area Renewals Team has had the affect of limited the grants that can be allocated to assist in improving the private housing stock. Further the pressures on the capital allocation has increased as more grant aid is being given to fund the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants. The Team are looking to be more innovative in terms of attracting other sources of</p>

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
			funding to ensure the allocated capital money can be used in such a way as to maximise it's impact in terms of improving the quality of the private housing stock most in need of investment"

Personal Services Directorate – Progress Against Key Issues

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Children's Services	<p>There are continuing pressures on fostering services and a lack of placement choice. This is set against a back drop of a high number of looked after children some of whom have complex needs. 2 young people have left care neither achieved GCSEs. The cost of looked after children is relatively high due to the high number of looked after children who require specialist residential accommodation from the Independent Sector and the need to purchase external foster care provision. The % of children on the child protection register whose cases are being reviewed on time is excellent at 100%. Social work allocation is being targeted to meet those most in need and performance reflects this. The arrival of Canadian social workers will reduce the % of social work vacancies.</p>	<p>The Council will implement a Child Concern Model for Intervention which will improve the planning and provision for Children in Need by Health, Education and key partner agencies in conjunction with Conwy Borough Council. Conwy and Denbighshire have been working on this proposal and have drawn up the brief for the project and a job description for a Joint Co-ordinator. The options for other potential partners are now being explored.</p> <p>The Authority will ensure that 70% of eligible Children in Need receive a service appropriate to their needs. Information is yet to be collected on this Indicator.</p> <p>The Council will produce a commissioning strategy for Children in Need improving the delivery and accessibility of preventative services by April 2005. The Commissioning and Performance Manager is progressing</p>	<p>Conwy and Denbighshire have been working on this proposal and have drawn up the brief for the project and a job description for a Joint Co-ordinator. The process for recruitment is now being developed.</p> <p>Information is being collected on numbers of Children in Need referrals and a method of measuring the appropriateness of the service is being considered.</p> <p>The Family Support Audit is being carried out under the Children and Young People's Framework for 31 March 2005. The Strategy will follow on from the results of this work.</p>

		this action.	
Older People's Services	The cost of providing residential and nursing home care has exceeded target but the cost of providing homecare was below target but lower than the All Wales average unit cost. The rate of delayed transfers of care continues to be excellent and the rate of assessments has reduced in line with the Departments objective to carry out more targeted assessments. The number of people supported in residential care or nursing homes has exceeded target but the number with learning disabilities helped to live at home has slightly reduced.	<p>The HSCWB strategy is going forward for formal adoption to Cabinet and Council in October 2004, and December 2004.</p> <p>The Older People's strategy was adopted in October 2004.</p> <p>The Contact Warden Scheme to support older people in their own homes has now been implemented with the appointment of staff to undertake the work.</p> <p>The plan for the development of an Extra Care Housing scheme is progressing with an initial pilot in Rhyl.</p> <p>Work on a prudential borrowing model for development of the Residential Homes is progressing well.</p>	<p>The HSCWB strategy was formally adopted by Cabinet in October 2004, and full Council in December 2004.</p> <p>The Older People's Strategy was adopted in October 2004. Two Contact Warden posts have been appointed as of October 2004.</p> <p>The plan for the development of an Extra Care Housing scheme is progressing with an initial pilot in Rhyl due to commence building by September 2005.</p> <p>Work has started on a Prudential borrowing model to redevelop Llys Nant Residential Home as an Extra Care Housing development. The Partnership option is also being explored.</p>
Housing Strategy	A Cabinet report on improving the Council Housing Stock was presented to Cabinet on the 20 th July which proposed that a series of seminars be held over the summer to enable Members to be fully briefed prior to submission of papers for consideration by Scrutiny Committees in September.	<p>During August and September 2004 a programme of seminars were held for Members, both to explain the basics of Stock Transfer and to provide more detailed information. These seminars were attended by a core of previous Members and three quarters of new Members.</p> <p>A further report – Improving the Council Housing Stock was received by Cabinet on 28th September 2004. It had been intended to present a report to this Cabinet meeting which recommended to</p>	<p><u>Cabinet – 23rd November 2004</u></p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>To enter into a new round of consultation with Members and tenants on the options for improving the Council Housing Stock to Welsh Housing Quality Standards.</p> <p>1. That a Seminar and Discussion Day (*) be arranged for Members and tenant representatives to explore the new information and assess the</p>




























		<p>Council that Housing Stock Transfer should be finalised as the preferred option for improving the Council Housing Stock. However, several key pieces of information were still outstanding and as a consequence it had not been possible to finalise the report. It was, therefore, recommended that the detailed report be received at a future Cabinet.</p>	<p>options.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That further consultation with tenants be arranged as appropriate, including re-establishing the Housing Options Working Party. 3. That WAG will be consulted on the alternatives of a Provisional Application for Housing Stock Transfer and the Housing Stock Business Plan for Stock Retention with Prudential Borrowing. <p><u>Decision</u> Recommendations approved, but second recommendation amended to include a proposal for a new mechanism to choose the membership of the housing options working party.</p> <p>It was also agreed that members of Dyffryn Community Housing could attend meetings of the working party as observers.</p> <p>* First consultation event held on 20th December 2004 – attended by 14 Members and 15 Tenants.</p>
<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>The demands of implementing the homeless provision for providing temporary accommodation has seen the average time for Bed and Breakfast placement rise and the services is above the projected target time. Robust efforts are being made to ensure that the target time of 4 weeks is reached. Alternatives to B & B accommodation</p>	<p>It is projected to deliver the target on the reduction in the use of B & B accommodation by the efficient, effective monitoring and procuring of alternatives to B&B accommodation for families. This has been achieved by the proactive approach of the Homeless team to use spend to save initiative to achieve measurable goals, use of good</p>	<p>The Homeless Team have, by the use of a range of alternative accommodation options, reduced the number of homeless families placed in B&B. This performance target is being met and we are confident that we can deliver an overall reduction in line with the other target figures on homelessness</p>

	are being sought for all priority need groups, the B & B time has decreased for families but with a consequential rise for other priority groups.	quality private sector accommodation on leasing terms and prevention of homelessness an additional factor.	
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Lifelong Learning Directorate – Progress Against Key Issues

	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
School Performance	Results will be available from WAG October 2004	<p>With reference to the Improvement Plan 04/05, the result for English at KS2 in 2002/03 (Summer 2003 results) was 77.4% against the Wales national average of 78.9%. The result for English at KS2 in 2003/04 (Summer 2004 results) indicate that although Denbighshire pupils' performance improved to 78.2, it was marginally below the Wales national average of 79.0%.</p> <p>The result for Mathematics at KS2 in 2002/03 (Summer 2003 results) was 72.5% against the Wales national average of 74.9%. The result for Mathematics at KS2 in 2003/04 (Summer 2004 results) indicate that Denbighshire pupils' performance improved significantly to 78.2%, slightly exceeding the Wales national average of 74.8%.</p> <p>The result for Science at KS2 in 2002/03 (Summer 2003 results) was 85.9% against the Wales national average of 87.6%. The result for Science at KS2 in 2003/04 (Summer 2004 results) indicate that although Denbighshire pupils' performance improved to 88.5, it was marginally below the Wales national</p>	<p>The commentary for Q2 was based on non-verified data for examination results in July 2004. As there has been no significant change in the data since they were verified in early November, those comments are still relevant</p> <p>Targets for all the core subjects of KS2 were achieved. However, based on the All Wales Comparative Data, pupils' performance was in the lower quartile.</p>

		<p>average of 89.4%. The result for Mathematics at KS3 in 2002/03 (Summer 2003 results) was 67.5% and in line with the Wales national average of 67.5%.</p> <p>The KS3 result for Mathematics in 2003/04 (Summer 2004 results) indicate that although Denbighshire pupils' performance improved to 71.1%, marginally exceeding the Wales national average of 70.9%.</p> <p>In 2002/03 (Summer 2003 examination results), the percentage of 15/16 year olds achieving at least grade C in GCSE English or Welsh, Mathematics and Science in combination was 35% against the Wales national average of 38%.</p> <p>Non-verified results for 2003/04 (Summer 2004 examination results) show that the performance of 34% remains below the Wales national average of 38%.</p>	<p>The KS3 result for Mathematics achieved 71.1% exceeding the targets set of 69.%.</p> <p>The discrepancy between the performance achieved for 2003/04 34% and the target set of 43.3% is recognised. This will be a focus of discussion between officers and senior management in schools when collating future targets.</p>
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Indicator Reference	Description	Responsible Member & Officer	Welsh Comparative data 02/03	2003/04 Annual Target	2003/04 Data	Data Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) July 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) Oct 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) Jan 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar) April 04/05	Performance	2004/05 Annual Target
KEY: Colours denote progress against 04/05 Targets NAWPI Local PI NPA LPA	Slippage against Target 													
	On Target 													
	Ahead of Target 													
	National Assembly for Wales Performance Indicator													
	Local Policy Indicator													
	National Policy Agreement (Bold)													
Local Policy Agreement (Bold)														
COMMUNITY SAFETY														
1.17	The number of domestic violence refuge places per 10,000 population, provided or supported by authority	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	0.65	4.19	4.14	4.19		4.11		4.11				4.14
12.1	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households. CUMULATIVE	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	12.20	12.00	11.20	2.00		2.00		1.00				10.03
12.2 a	Violent offences committed by a stranger per 1,000 population.	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	5.33	10.68	9.81	3.00		3.00		3.00				8.83
12.2 b	Violent offences committed in a public place per 1,000 population	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	11.00	11.37	10.60	3.00		3.00		3.00				9.54
12.2 c	Violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises per 1,000 population	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	1.91	1.84	1.80	0.50		0.30		0.50				1.62
12.2 d	Violent offences committed under the influence per 1,000 population	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	3.80	4.21	3.32	1.00		1.00		1.00				2.99
12.3	Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	17.20	12.08	11.00	2.00		3.00		2.00				9.93
12.4 a	Has the authority established a corporate strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area? If no, go to (b)	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes				Not applicable

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12.4 b	Has the BV authority established a timetable for doing so?	Cllr E Edwards, Mike Denman	N/A	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable		Not applicable				Not applicable
EQUALITIES														
1.1 a	The level of compliance with the authority's approved Welsh Language Scheme (Service delivery)	Cllr S Davies, Colette Bennett	N/A	Good	Fair & Improving	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				Good
1.1 b	The level of compliance with the authority's approved Welsh Language Scheme (Scheme Management)	Cllr S Davies, Colette Bennett	N/A	Good & Improving	Good & Improving	Annual reporting		Annual reporting see comments below		Annual reporting				Good and Improving
NAWPI 1.1 Comments from the Welsh language board are currently being incorporated into a revised draft Welsh Language Scheme which will be processed for approval following consultation. A Bilingual Forum has been set up to progress issues around bilingualism within the Council.														
1.2	The level of CRE's "Standard for Local Government" to which the authority conforms	Cllr S Davies, Colette Bennett	N/A	Level 2	Level 2	Annual reporting		Annual reporting see comment below		Annual reporting				Level 3
NAWPI 1.2 There is a legal requirement to review the Council's Race Equality Scheme by May 2005 this review will assist with identifying actions required to progress to level 3. It is likely that this target will take 3 years to achieve														
1.16 a	Number of racial incidents recorded per 100,000 population recorded. CUMULATIVE	Cllr S Davies, Colette Bennett	37.60	Not set	54.10	Not available See comment below		Not available See comment below		Not available See comment below				20
1.16 b	The percentage of racial incidents that resulted in further action	Cllr S Davies, Colette Bennett	99.27%	Not set		Not available See comment below		Not available See comment below		Not available See comment below				100%
NAWPI 1.16 Due to a decision for the time being to obtain feedback through County Voice rather than Feedback leaflets, the monitoring system will not now be in place until March. Police figures are still being monitored and these indicate 23 incidents for the period Aug 04 - Nov 04, of which 8 were for the period Oct - Nov 04 (December figures are not yet available)														
COUNTY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT														
1.3	Number of complaints to an Ombudsman classified as maladministration	Cllr S Davies, Ian Hearle	10	0	0	0		0		0				0
1.4	The percentage turnout for local elections	Cllr S Davies, Ian Hearle	47.10%	35%	35%	44.65%		44.65%		44.65%				35.00%
LPA 5	Satisfaction on a scale of 1 – 5 with 1 being the highest level of satisfaction. Figure derived from survey analysis	Cllr S Davies, Steve Hatton			2.41	Community Strategy to address funding		Community Strategy to address funding		Community Strategy to address funding				
ICT														

Indicator Reference	Description	Responsible Member & Officer	Welsh Comparative data 02/03	2003/04 Annual Target	2003/04 Data	Data Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) July 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) Oct 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) Jan 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar) April 04/05	Performance	2004/05 Annual Target
1.5	The percentage of interactions with the public which are capable of electronic service delivery and which are being delivered using internet protocols etc. Annually	Cllr S Davies, Peter Wickes	N/A	45.5% average	54.00%	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				64.00%
FINANCE AND PROPERTY														
1.6	The percentage of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days.	Cllr P Marfleet, Cemlyn Foulkes	80.50%	100%	92%	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual Reporting				100%
1.7	The percentage of Council Tax collected. CUMULATIVE	Cllr P Marfleet : Ken Jones	96.27%	96.5%	96.79%	31.80%		59.70%		87.10%				97.00%
1.8	The percentage of non-domestic rates which should have been received during the year that were received. CUMULATIVE	Cllr P Marfleet, Ken Jones	96.58%	96.50%	97.54%	30.67%		63.40%		87.60%				97.50%
1.15	The percentage of the authority's buildings open to the public that are suitable for accessible to disabled people	Cllr J Thompson-Hill, Gareth Evans	18.10%	Not set	1.67%	6.00%		7.00%		11.0%				100%
<p>NAWPI 1.15 Whereas Members [incl. Resources Scrutiny Committee] accept it may be unrealistic given the scale of the issue and available resources, 100 % is the target in view of the legislative deadline [10.04.]. Progress hitherto has been adversely affected by lack of staff resources and serious concern re. evacuation issues. There are also practical difficulties in achieving fully compliant buildings. In view of escalating costs and limited resources, Services are continuously encouraged to consider all alternatives for obviating / minimizing the need for alterations, whilst ensuring accessible service delivery.</p>														
HOUSING BENEFIT/ COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT														
11.1	Whether authority has strategy for combating fraud and error	Cllr P Marfleet : Jackie Walley	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes
11.3 a	Average time for processing new claims	Cllr P Marfleet, Jackie Walley	N/A	47 days	49 days	59 days		44 days		32 days				45 days
11.3 b	Average time for processing change of circumstances	Cllr P Marfleet : Jackie Walley	N/A	10 days	13 days	17 days		15 days		15 days				20 days (Revised from 45 days-see comment below)
NAWPI 11.3 b Target Revised January 2005 with further possible revision in accordance with DWP legislation.														
11.4 a	Percentage of claims where calculation of benefits correct	Cllr P Marfleet : Jackie Walley	97.00%	98.61%	99.00%	98.60%		98.40%		96.80%				98.00%
11.4 b	Percentage of recoverable overpayments that were recovered in the financial year. CUMULATIVE	Cllr P Marfleet : Jackie Walley	48.50%	38.00%	38.00%	10.38%		18.35%		27.50%				38.00%
PERSONNEL														
1.9	The percentage of senior management posts filled by women	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin	16.00%	>25%	25.00%	25.00%		25.00%		22.00%				26.00%
LPA 16	The percentage of senior management positions filled by women – P03 and above	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin		31.00%		33.00%								34.00%

Indicator Reference	Description	Responsible Member & Officer	Welsh Comparative data 02/03	2003/04 Annual Target	2003/04 Data	Data Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) July 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) Oct 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) Jan 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar) April 04/05	Performance	2004/05 Annual Target
1.10	The number of working days/shifts per FTE lost due to sickness absence. CUMULATIVE	Cllr P Marfleet, Linda Atkin	12 days	11 days	11.5 days	10.2 days		6.7days		6.9 days				10 days
1.12	Ill health retirements as a percentage of the total workforce CUMULATIVE	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin	0.52%	0.60%	0.48%	0.10%		0.10%		0.10%				0.60%
1.13	The percentage of total workforce that declare they are disabled per Disability Disc Act 1995 Annual Reporting	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin	1.66%	>2.6%	2.64%	2.60%		2.60%		2.60%				2.60%
1.14	Minority ethnic community staff as a percentage of total workforce Annual Reporting	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin	0.96%	0.60%	0.30%	0.32%		0.32%		0.32%				0.60%
LPA 13	Number of (under 25s) young people to have taken up the scheme for improving recruitment and retention in Denbighshire	Cllr P Marfleet : Linda Atkin		14		Six monthly reporting - Sept and March		Six monthly reporting - Sept and March		19				20
EDUCATION														
NB:	Summer Results 2004 relate to 2003/04 annual target.													
2.1	Average GCSE/GNVQ points score of 15/16 year olds in schools maintained by the authority ANNUALLY Academic Yr (November)	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	40	40	38	Annual reporting		38 (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		40
<p>NAWPI 2.1 In the 2 low performing schools, 28% of the original cohort did not complete year 11 in school and were not present for examinations because of attendance at pupil referral units, poor attendance and exclusions. Target setting is difficult to project accurately as schools assume that all pupils who are on role in year 10 will sit the examination when they transfer to year 11. In reality, as indicated previously, this is not the case and has a negative impact on the accuracy of target setting. Although Denbighshire pupils' performance of 38 points did not meet the target set (40 points) and were below the all wales media of 39 points, the results show that there were only 11 LEAs who performed better than Denbighshire.</p>														
2.2 PA	% of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A*-C or the vocational equivalent ANNUALLY Academic Yr (November)	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	49.70%	56.80%	46.50%	Annual reporting		48% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		52.20%
<p>2.2 The points noted in 2.1 are also relevant and it is interesting to note that in one low performing school only 29% of the cohort achieved grades A* - C, whereas of those who sat the exam, 39% achieved the standard.</p>														
2.3	% of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving one or more GCSE's at grade G or above or the vocational equivalent ANNUALLY Academic Yr (November)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	92.35%	93.00%	90.17%	Annual reporting		90.17% (Verified)		Annual reporting		Annual Reporting		91.30%
<p>2.3 Performance closely matched the target set and reflects the continuous expectations of schools. It is relevant to note the continuous efforts of schools and their commitment to entering all pupils for GCSE examinations. Improvement from 2003 Summer results to 2004 Summer results.</p>														
2.4a P A	% 11 year olds in schools maintained by authority achieving Level 4 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 mathematics test ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	72.73%	69.20%	72.54%	Annual reporting		78.7% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		80.80%

Indicator Reference	Description	Responsible Member & Officer	Welsh Comparative data 02/03	2003/04 Annual Target	2003/04 Data	Data Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) July 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) Oct 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) Jan 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar) April 04/05	Performance	2004/05 Annual Target
2.4b P A	% 11 year olds in schools maintained by authority achieving Level 4 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 English test ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	79.41%	67.60%	77.44%	Annual reporting		78.2% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		77.40%
2.4c P A	% 11 year olds in schools maintained by authority achieving Level 4 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 Welsh (first language) test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	75.00%	71.30%	79.11%	Annual reporting		80.9% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		73.40%
2.4d P A	% 11 year olds in schools maintained by authority achieving Level 4 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 Science test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	85.49%	71.40%	85.89%	Annual reporting		88.5% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		78.30%
2.5 a	% 14 year olds in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 5 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 Mathematics test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	61.96%	69.00%	67.53%	Annual reporting		71.1% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		67.00%
2.5 b	% 14 year olds in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 5 or above on the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 English test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	61.38%	67.00%	62.82%	Annual reporting		63.8% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		67.00%
<p>NAWPI 2.5 b The performance of 63.8% did not match the target set (67%) and was slightly below the all Wales figure of 65.4%. However, it is relevant to note the effective strategies led by the Inspector/Adviser for English and a good example of improvement is evident at Denbigh High School where performance improved from 55% in 2003 to 64% in 2004. Summer 2004 results show an improvement on Summer 2003 results.</p>														
2.5 c	% 14 year olds in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 5 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 Welsh (first language) test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	70.77%	82.00%	74.78%	Annual reporting		69.5% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		79.00%
<p>NAWPI 2.5 c The targets set by secondary schools of 79% proved to be far too ambitious and is reflected in the performance. However, despite the achievement being below expectations, performance did closely match teacher assessment. In reality, only about 15 pupils throughout the County did not reach the expected level 5.</p>														
2.5 d	% 14 year olds in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 5 or above in the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 Science test. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (October)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	67.14%	66.00%	70.53%	Annual reporting		73.1% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		67.00%
2.6	% 15/16 year olds achieving the 'core subject indicator'. Those pupils achieving at least grade C in GCSE English or Welsh, Maths and Science combined. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (November)	Cllr D Owens : Ieuan L Roberts	35.97%	43.30%	34.88%	Annual reporting		34% (Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		42.80%
<p>NAWPI 2.6 The discrepancy between the performance achieved and the target set is recognised. This will be a focus of discussion between officers and senior management in schools when collating future targets.</p>														

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2.7a NPA 3	% 15/16 year olds leaving full time education without a recognised qualification. ANNUALLY Academic Yr (December)	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	3.08%	0.90%	2.87%	Annual reporting		2.7% (35 Pupils out of a cohort of 1,303 - Verified)		Annual Reporting		Annual Reporting		2.20%
The target set for Summer 2004 of 0.9% proved to be an unrealistic one given that the median for All Wales for Summer 2003 was 2.88%. Thirty-five (2.7 %) students left in Summer 2004 without a qualification from a cohort of 1,303, and it is relevant to note that Pupil Referral Units were included in the data for the first time. This was marginally better than the All Wales median for 2003 and also an improvement on Denbighshire's performance in 2003.														
2.8 a	Number of primary pupils permanently excluded per 1,000 primary pupils. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	0.32	0	0.51	Spring Term 2004 - 0.11 (1 Pupil)		Summer Term 2004 - 0		Autumn Term 2004 - 0				0.34
2.8 b	Number of secondary pupils permanently excluded per 1,000 secondary pupils. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	1.68	1.07	1.43	Spring Term 2004 - 0.39 (3 Pupils)		Summer Term 2004 - 0.51 (4 Pupils)		Autumn Term 2004 - 1.14 (9 Pupils)		Annual Total		0.64
2.8 c	Number of special pupils permanently excluded per 1,000 special pupils. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	3.45	0	0	Spring Term 2004 - 0		Summer Term 2004 - 0		Autumn term 2004 - 0		Annual Total		0
2.11 a	Percentage permanently excluded pupils attending <10 hours alternative tuition/week. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	56.50%	0%	7.10%	Spring Term 2004 - 25%		Summer Term 2004 - 25%		Autumn Term 2004 - 44%		Annual Total		0%
2.11 b	Percentage permanently excluded pupils attending 10-25 hrs alternative tuition/week. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	33.50%	0%	92.90%	Spring Term 2004 - 75%		Summer Term 2004 - 75%		Autumn Term 2004 - 22%		Annual Total		75.00%
2.11 c	Percentage permanently excluded pupils attending >25 hrs alternative tuition/week. Reported upon Termly	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	10.10%	100%	0%	Spring Term 2004 - 0%		Summer Term 2004 - 0%		Autumn Term 2004 - 11%		Annual Total		25.00%
Please note in relation to NAWPI 2.11a/b/c 23% of pupils left the county														
2.12 a	Percentage primary classes with more than 30 pupils - reception to year 2 inclusive. ANNUALLY - January	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	2.62%	2.00%	3.45%	Results unavailable								2.00%
2.12 b	Percentage primary classes with more than 30 pupils - year 3 to 6. ANNUALLY - January	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	14.12%	8.00%	14.52%	Results Unavailable								8.00%
2.13 a	The number of statements issued during the year. ANNUALLY - February	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	1893	97	64	Not Available		Aug-Oct 04 18		Nov -Jan 05 2				92
2.13 b (i)	% of statements of special educational needs prepared within 18 weeks excluding those affected by the 'exceptions to the rule' under SEN code of practice. ANNUALLY - April	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	70.20%	100%	81.30%			Aug-Oct 04 6 (75%)		Nov - Jan 05 2 (100%)				90.00%
For statements produced within 18 weeks, with 6 out of 8 produced , the success rate was 75% and was due to exceptional circumstances. The statement deadline was missed by one and two days respectively.														
2.13 b (ii)	% of statements with special educational needs finalised within 26 weeks excluding those affected by the 'exceptions' to the rule under SEN code of practice. ANNUALLY - April	Cllr D Owens, Ieuan L Roberts	72.20%	100%	89.10%			Aug-Sept 04 18 (100%)		Nov -Jan 05 2 (100%)				90.00%

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2.14 NPA 2	The percentage of attendance, those present or on approved educational activities, in secondary schools. ANNUALLY Sept 2002 - May 2003	Cllr D Owens, leuan L Roberts		89.82%	90.02%	90.02% Verified NAWPI Data 2003/04 relating to school year 02/03.								90.50%
Local PI	All Primary Schools to be monitored by subject specialists with support from Education Officers.					16.6% 9 schools completed		3 schools		2				33% 18 schools
Local PI	All Secondary schools to be monitored by subject specialists with support from Education Officers.					100% 8 schools		achieved		achieved				100% 8 schools
SOCIAL SERVICES														
3.1	Stability of placements of children looked after by the authority by reference to the percentage of children looked after on 31 March in any year with three or more placements during the year. (Not cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr M German, Nicola Francis	8.25%	<15%	20.11%	6.06%		9.55%		18.30%				17.00%
NAWPI 3.1 There are continuing pressures on fostering services, a lack of placement choice, and children with complex needs being looked after which will take sustained planning to achieve improvement in placement stability. Improvements have been sought on record keeping accuracy as in some instances changes to legal status have been input incorrectly which adversely affected calculations. Fostering services were the subject of inspection and identified a range of improvements in order to ensure compliance with regulations. Activities to recruit foster carers have been incorporated into the Fostering and Adoption Service Project and will begin to enable the start of a new recruitment drive in 2005/2006.														
3.2 a	Educational qualifications of children looked after by reference to the percentage of young people leaving care age 16 or over with one or more GCSE's at Grade A* to Grade G or GNVQ equivalent one or more (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr M German Nicola Francis	45.36%	75.00%	27.27%	0%		20.00%		25.00%				45.00%
3.2 b	Educational qualifications of children looked after by reference to the percentage of young people leaving care age 16 or over with two or more GCSE's at Grade A* to Grade G or GNVQ equivalent two or more (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr Mike German, Nicola Francis	37.86%	50.00%	27.27%	0%		20.00%		16.60%				38.00%
NAWPI 3.2 The cohort for this indicator is comparatively very small and results can easily be skewed as a consequence. The results of a few children impact significantly on the out turn for this indicator. During 03/04 11 qualifying children left care, 3 of whom gained 10 GCSE's each. Average numbers for this group are 10 per annum. Activities to try to maintain schooling and to ensure critical help is applied to achieve stability at exam times has been key to addressing this factor. Joint work our Education Liaison Officer and the monitoring of Personal Education Plans should continue to achieve some improvements, there will be no changes to this position for the year-end as there are no further exam results due.														
3.3 P.A	The percentage of young people in care on their 16th birthday who have a care plan and/or pathway plan for their continuing care (Cumulative - 6 monthly reporting)	Cllr M German : Nicola Francis	96.00%	75.00%	30.00%	Not Available		Awaiting Audit		66.60%				80.00%
NAWPI 3.3 The Leaving Care Team have resolved some staffing issues and are making steady progress with this indicator. We expect to be on target for the year end.														

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3.4 NPA 11a	The percentage of first placements (for looked after children) beginning with a care plan in place (Cumulative 6 monthly reporting)	Cllr M German : Nicola Francis	65.80%	80.00%	57.9%	Awaiting File Audit In August		36.95%		53.50%				70.00%
Closer monitoring against this PI is occurring which is bringing about better performances. The speed of Care.comm often means accurate, timely recording is still not achieved.														
3.5	Average weekly costs of services for children looked after in foster care or in a children's home (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr Mike German, Nicola Francis	£427	£415	£500	£522		£684.15		£668.13				£515
NAWPI 3.5 There is a relatively high number of looked after children which includes children with complex needs necessitating specialist residential accommodation from the Independent Sector. The Department has also had to purchase external foster care provision to meet need due to the pressures on In-House fostering Services. This will be a key area of change via foster carer recruitment.														
3.6 a	Cost of providing social services to adults by reference to gross cost per week for residential and nursing home care (Expenditure Data = Cumulative, Activity Data = Not Cumulative - 3 monthly)		£419	£390	£405	£406		£434		£439				£425
NAWPI 3.6 aThe higher cost of some specialist placements (MH/ LD) are impacting on the outrun figure.														
3.6 b	Cost of providing social services to adults by reference to gross cost per week for home care (Expenditure Data = Cumulative, Activity Data = Not Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	£101	£70	£56	£69		£58		£68				£58
NAWPI 3.6 b The increase in service provision to enable people to remain in their own home should be viewed as a positive indicator. This does impact however on the cumulative spend. It would seem likely that the target may have been set at a level too low to be achievable.														
3.7 P.A	The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) helped to live at home per 1,000 population aged 65 or over (Not Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	101.76	126.00	122.35	104.00		114.9		117.24				100.00
3.8 NPA 9	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 and over (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	18.15	2.53	1.34	0.10		0.52		1.13				<2.53
3.9 P.A.	The percentage of adult clients receiving a written statement of their needs and how they will be met (Cumulative 6 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	87.00%	97.00%	100%	File Check In October		100%		Six Monthly reporting				99.00%
3.10	The rate of assessments of people aged 65 and over per 1000 population aged 65 and over (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	146.27	165.00	178.65	36.02		72.04		115.27				170.00
NAWPI 3.10 Discussions are currently in progress regarding the appropriateness of data relating to assessments carried out, on the Department's behalf, by Health colleagues being included on Care.Com.														
3.11	Nights respite care provided or funded by authority per 1,000 population aged 18 or over (Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	102.83	117.00	217.54	33.50		80.71		128.45				217.00

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	NAWPI 3.11 No respite care was provided for LD clients at Link House for the whole of November and December 2004 due to building work being carried out to meet Care Standards requirements. Alternative respite provision has been provided for some individuals, but this has been on a day basis as opposed to overnight stays. Despite this the Department's rate of placements does remain above the Welsh average.													
3.12	The percentage of Children on the CPR whose cases should have been reviewed that were reviewed (Not Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr M German : Nicola Francis	72.80%	95.00%	91.70%	100%		100%		100%				90.00%
3.13 NPA 10	The number of people aged 65 or over whom the authority supports in residential care homes or nursing homes per 1,000 population aged 65 or over (Not Cumulative - 3 monthly)	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	29.45	22.00	32.93	32.98		33.70		34.07				41.00
	Performance remains better than predicated. It was envisaged that a much higher rate would be achieved due to a transfer of cases to the Authority last year. However, there has been a significant reduction in the number of people supported in Care Home placements since January 2004. This has positively impacted on the PI meaning that we have significantly come under target – which is positive for this indicator. However, our rate of placements does remain above the Welsh average.													
3.14 a P.A.	The number of adults under 65 whom the authority helps to live at home per 1,000 adults (physical or sensory disabled) Not Cumulative - 3 monthly	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	5.18	10.07	5.34	5.76		7.39		7.37				5.50
3.14 b P.A.	The number of adults under 65 whom the authority helps to live at home per 1,000 adults (learning disabilities) Not Cumulative - 3 monthly	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	3.58	4.00	3.59	3.50		3.59		3.69				3.72
	Whilst performance has improved marginally the Department is still running slightly under target. This may be an issue about data quality.													
3.14 c P.A.	The number of adults under 65 whom the authority helps to live at home per 1,000 adults (mental health problems) 6 Monthly	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling	3.39	9.77	4.75	Manual Collection Oct and March		6.97		Manual Collection Oct and March				5.00
3.15 a P.A.	Percentage of cases of children with an allocated social worker providing a service appropriate to need (children on the child protection register) Not Cumulative - 3 monthly	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis	99.00%	100%	98.1%	100%		100%		100%				100%
3.15 b P.A.	Percentage of cases of children with an allocated social worker providing a service appropriate to need (children looked after excluding 3.15a) Not Cumulative - 3 monthly	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis	98.10%	100%	92.2%	83.00%		88.00%		73.50%				80.00%
3.15 c P.A.	Percentage of cases of children with an allocated social worker providing a service appropriate to need (children in need excluding 3.15 a and b) not cumulative - 3 monthly	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis	83.80%	100%	62.4%	60.00%		60.00%		60.50%				70.00%
	NAWPI 3.15 In line with our risk management plan social work allocation is being targeted to those most in need and performance reflects this.													

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NEW PA	% of 15/16 year olds leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification in local authority care	Cllr P Dobb: Nicola Francis			29.00%	Not applicable		30.80%		Awaiting Data				25.00%
	The cohort for this indicator is very small making performance volatile. At this point in time it does not appear that the target will be met but this can change significantly depending on the number of looked after children aged 16 who leave education during the rest of the year													
NPA 11b	For those children looked after whose second review (due at 4 months) was due in the year, the percentage with a plan for permanence at the due date.	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis	N/A	New		44.00%		54% (provisional)		Awaiting Audit results				60.00%
NPA 12	The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March.	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis	N/A	New	24.00%	7.70%		10.20%		Awaiting Data				20.00%
LPA 1	Increase in number of child care places	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis			4314									4506
Local PI	Child Concern Model Implemented	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis				Work progressing								Child Concern Model implemented
Local PI	Rapid Response Team established	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis				On track								Team in place and base line data established
Local PI	% of child care social workers	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis				On track								15% reduction
Local PI	% of child protection casers checked deemed to be seriously compliant	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis				Further work needed								Audit completed and baseline data established
Local PI	% staff meeting national targets for qualifications	Cllr P Dobb : Nicola Francis				Further work needed								1
Local PI	Costed and timed Development Plan	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				On track								Identify priority developments in older people's development
Local PI	Older People's Strategy agreed	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				On track								Develop strategy and link to locality planning
Local PI	Number of people taking up Direct Payment Scheme	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				10								20

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Local PI	Establish Contact Warden Scheme	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				On track								Contract Warden Scheme established
Local PI	Project Plan for development of residential homes/related developments agreed	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				On track								Project Management Plan developed for extra care developments
Local PI	% social work vacancies	Cllr P Dobb, Neil Ayling				Further work needed								Audit completed and baseline data established
Pages from the QPR which report on the Local Indicators above been inadvertently left out. This is being followed up with the service.														
HOUSING														
4.1 a	The percentage of unfit private sector dwellings made fit/demolished - direct LA action. Annually	Cllr P Dobb : Gary Sumner	0.046	0.052	0.062	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				0.070
4.1 b	he percentage of private sector dwellings vacant for 6mths+ reoccupied from LA action. Annually	Cllr P Dobb : Gary Sumner	0.0155	0.0056	0.0049	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				0.0100
4.2	Average SAP energy efficiency rating of LA owned dwellings	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A	52.00	51.60	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				53.0
4.5 a	Rent arrears of current tenants as a proportion of rent roll	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	0.0268	0.039	0.0435	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				0.0370
4.5 b	Rent arrears of former tenants as a proportion of rent roll	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	0.020	0.013	0.015	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				0.013
4.5 c	Rent arrears of current and former tenants written off as not collectable as a proportion of rent roll	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	0.0123	0.0090	0.0040	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				0.0037
4.6	Proportion of decisions on homelessness applications made and notified within 33 days	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	0.876	0.930	0.957	0.960		0.950		0.970				0.950
4.7	Average relet times for LA dwellings let during the financial year	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A	46 calendar days	41.8 calendar days	48 calendar days		41 calendar days		47 calendar days				39 calendar days
4.10 a	Percentage of repairs completed within target time (a) classed as emergency	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	89.50%	95.00%	93.20%	81.10%		Not Available		71.89%				95%
4.10 b	Percentage of repairs completed within target time (b) classed as urgent	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	72.20%	90.00%	89.70%	86.60%		Not Available		76.47%				90%
4.11	Average time taken to complete non-urgent responsive repairs	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A	50 days	43.3 days	41 days		38 days		43 days				42 days
4.12	Does the authority follow CRE's code of practice in rented housing?	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes

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4.13 a	Are there landlord wide Tenant Participation Compacts (TPCs)?	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	N/A	Yes	Yes - Jan 04	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes
4.13 b	When was the most recent review of a landlord wide TPC in partnership with tenants?	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	N/A	Quarterly Basis	Jan-04	May-04		Sep-04		Nov-04				Quarterly
4.13 c	What proportion of tenants are covered by local or group-specific TCPs?. Annual	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	0.20	5.00	0	0		0		0				0.05
4.14	The number of homeless households placed by the authority in temporary housing for more than six months. Annual	Cllr P Dobb : Paul Quirk	444.80	Nil	5.80	12.00		11		14				5
4.15	Average rent lost per tenant through dwellings being left vacant during the financial year. Annual	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	£77.35	£32.81	£28.91	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				£29.07
NPA 6a	A reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for homeless families with children, except in emergencies.	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A		105	17		22		11				70
	The Homeless team have, by the use of a range of alternative accommodation options, reduced the number of homeless families placed in B&B. This performance target is being met and we are confident that we can deliver an over reduction in with other target figures on homelessness.													
NPA 6b	Reduction in the average length of time people spend in temporary accommodation by all households during the period of the agreement	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A		39 weeks			14.6 weeks		18.4 weeks				33 weeks
NPA 7b	Percentage reduction in energy use and carbon dioxide emission in the housing stock:- a) Housing Within the County of Denbighshire	Cllr P Dobb, Paul Quirk	N/A		a) 0.94%	-		-		-				a) 1%
	The improvement of 400 Council dwellings per year to achieve the energy efficiency requirement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard will contribute to the overall target of improving public and private sector housing stock.													
Local PI	No of meetings No of tenants involved					Decision Sept 04 following Seminars		see comment below						25 25% (1,000)
Local PI	Contact with tenants Responses to documents					Jan-05		see comment below						90% 5%
Local PI	Turn out to vote on Housing Stock Transfer					Feb/March 05		see comment below						50%

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A further report – Improving the Council Housing Stock was received by Cabinet on 28th September 2004. It had been intended to present a report to this Cabinet meeting which recommended to Council that Housing Stock Transfer should be finalized as the preferred option for improving the Council Housing Stock. However, several key pieces of information were still outstanding and as a consequence it had not been possible to finalise the report. It was, therefore, recommended that the detailed report be received at a future Cabinet.														
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES														
5.1 a (i) P.A	Percentage of municipal waste recycled or reused. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	7.92%	7.50%	6.79%	10.90%		7.30%		6.76%				10.5%
5.1 a (ii) P.A.	Percentage of incinerator residues, beach cleansing wastes, rubble and abandoned vehicles recycled. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	78.10%	70.00%	80.48%	98.00%		100%		100%				95%
5.1 b P.A.	Percentage of municipal waste composted. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	4.15%	7.50%	6.32%	7.60%		8%		7.48%				7.5%
NAWPI 5.1 b The amount of compostable material collected in the winter months is always lower.														
5.1 c P.A	Percentage of municipal waste used to recover heat, power and other energy sources. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	0	0%	0%	0%		0%		0%				0%
5.1 d P.A.	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	84.16%	82.00%	83.23%	81.40%		79%		79.89%				79%
5.5 P.A.	Percentage of highways and relevant land inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	94.02%	95.00%	95.80%	97.00%		97.00%		98.00%				96%
5.7 P.A.	The percentage of population served by kerbside collection of recyclables. Quarterly	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker	50.00%	44.00%	55.00%	52.80%		52.80%		52.80%				55%
NPA 7a	Percentage reductions in carbon emissions in the non domestic public stock	Cllr E Williams : Gareth Evans			2842 tonnes									2312 tonnes
LPA 14	New high quality jobs created through financial support programme - Cumulative	Cllr E Williams : Gareth Evans			247 (over 3 years)	14		37		99.5				57
LPA 15	Implement BREEAM Standard for all new designs for DCC sponsored buildings which are non residential	Cllr E Williams : Gareth Evans				-		-						100%
LPA 4	Increase in affordable housing by a combination of (i) public sector programme and (ii) 30% element in new private housing schemes	Cllr E Williams : Graham Boase				0		0						85
Officers of the Service are in discussion with the Housing Manager from Personal Services on the definition/wording of this indicator. Records from this Service indicate that decisions relating to planning applications for Affordable Housing have not yet been implemented on the ground, since the Affordable Housing Policy of 30% was adopted by the Council.														
Local PI	Number of houses in multiple occupation entered onto the Council's register	Cllr E Williams : Graham Boase				3		0		4				30
Local PI	Development of cost effective medium to long term disposal options	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker						Meeting arranged with main provider		see comment below				Negotiate with prospective suppliers
Meeting held with the Councils main landfill provider - Meetings also held with neighbouring authorities to promote joint procurement. Regional Waste group formed to assist in the development of regional facilities. Regional composting facility proposed (in partnership with Conwy BC)														

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Local PI	Tonnages removed – recyclable elements	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				0		30 (green waste)		55 (green waste)				150
Local PI	Number of notices issued for trade waste disposal and fly tipping (cumulative)	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				10		16		19				50
Local PI	Budget combined under one management unit	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				0		0		0				66% combined
Local PI	% of work covered by new area teams	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				20%		20%		30%				40% of work
Local PI	Improved customer reaction (annual survey)	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				annual		annual		annual				20% improvement
Local PI	Number of enforcement actions taken for litter and fly tipping	Cllr E Williams : Steve Parker				39		45		94				100
TRANSPORT														
6.1	Cost of highway maintenance per km on principal roads. Annually	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent	£21,966.27	£7,885.00	£6,258.06	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				£3,211
6.3 a	Condition of principal roads. Annually	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent	1.80%	Not set	11.0%	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				12%
6.3 b	Condition of non-principal roads. Annually	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent	22.7%	Not set	14.6%	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				30%
6.4	Percentage of street lamps not working. Quarterly	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent	N/A	0.5%	1.76%	0.41%		0.39%		0.49%				0.7%
6.10	The percentage of total length of footpaths and other rights of way easy to use by the public. Annually	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent	43.70%	65%	56%	Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				64%
Local PI	Improve performance in respect of emergency repairs	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				100%		Not Available		Not Available				96%
Local PI	Improve performance in respect of actionable repairs	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				95%		96%		96%				80%
Local PI	Increase level of third party claims repudiated	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Not Available		Not Available		Not Available				10%
Established procedure, reporting from Finance in arrears - showing improvement of level of repudiation of 3rd Party claims but not yet quantifiable.														
Local PI	Increase proportion of pre-salting actions completed before frost forms	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Winter Months only		Winter Months only		Winter Months only (Reportable end of quarter 4)				96%
Local PI	Accident report produced within 10 working days of receiving accident information	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				100%		No accidents reported		100%				

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Local PI	Implement three schemes per annum – accident cluster sites	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Reported at end of financial year		Reported at end of financial year		Reported at end of financial year				
Local PI	Proportion of target school year population who have completed child pedestrian skills	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Not available		See comment below		Not Available				100%
Progress was affected by resignation of Child Pedestrian Skill Training Co-ordinator														
Local PI	Improve proportion of safety checks carried out on appointed day (annual)	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				5%
Local PI	Reduce level of reported accidents (annual)	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				70
Local PI	Reduce vehicle downtime (annual)	Cllr E W Williams : Steve Kent				Annual reporting		Annual reporting		Annual reporting				5%
PLANNING														
7.1 a	Does the authority have a Unitary Development Plan in place? If no, go to (b) and (c)	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes				Yes
7.1 b	Is there a deposit Unitary Development Plan in place?	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A				N/A
7.1 c	What percentage of the population of the authority is covered by local plans which were adopted in the last 5 years?. Annually	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	33.00%	100%	100%	100%		100%		100%				100%
7.3	The number of advertised departures from the adopted development plan approved by the authority as a percentage of total permissions granted	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	0.48%	<2.5%	0.40%	0.33%		0.72%		0.43%				<1%
7.4	The percentage of planning applications determined within 8 weeks. Quarterly	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	62.81%	75.00%	70.50%	72.70%		59.50%		51.30%				70%
NAWPI 7.4 The further reduction in the figure for the last quarter is due to a number of factors, some of which are beyond the control of the Service - an increase in the number of applications for the quarter (408 applications compared to 375 for the equivalent quarter in 2003); a significant increase in appeal workload, delays in recruitment of a Planning Officer to fill a vacant post until mid - November; delays caused by reporting to and deferrals at Planning Committee; and bedding in of new working arrangements at central office. The following measures are anticipated to result in improved performance in the final quarter - increased delegation agreed from 1 January 2005; all Planning Officer posts filled for the whole quarter; review of working practices to improve speed of processing applications; and training programme to allow more flexibility amongst support staff."														

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7.6	Quality in customer service (Planning Officers Society Wales checklist). Quarterly	Cllr E W Williams: Graham H Boase	7/11	11	11	11		11		11				11/11
7.7	The percentage of standard searches carried out in 10 working days. CUMULATIVE	Cllr E W Williams: Graham H Boase	90.40%	65.00%	55.10%	40.60%		62.6%		95.80%				65%
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS														
8.1 a	The percentage of food premises inspections that should have been carried out that were for high-risk premises. Quarterly	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	90.60%	100%	74.90%	9.50%		24.40%		40.80%				60%
NAWPI 8.1 a Officers have experienced difficulty with the relevant software package which records the visits to each individual fod premises. Consequently a "back up" system has also been used by the team Leader. The data has been checked and the information provided for the first tow quarters has been amended. The cumulative figure at the end of the the third quarter is 40.8% (Target = 45%), as provided by the software system. However the Teram leader estimated the true figure to be approximately 44%. Work is continuing to improve the accuracy of the software system.														
8.2 a	Score against the checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health standards.	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	69.16%	90.00%	84.00%	83.50%		83.50%		83.50%				90%
8.2 b	Score against the checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards.	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase	70.11%	90.00%	84.00%	83.50%		83.50%		83.50%				90%
NAWPI 8.2 A Virtual Enforcement Group is reviewing the Enforcement Policy which may raise the performance figure for the next quarter.														
Local PI	Total number of food samples for the year	Cllr E W Williams : Graham H Boase				100		258		376				375
CULTURAL SERVICES														
LPA 8	Number participating in the Healthy Living Initiative	Cllr S Roberts : Ann Gosse			650	-		750		897				682
7.8 a	Is a local biodiversity action plan in place for the authority's area? If no, go to (b)	Cllr S Roberts : Ann Gosse	N/A		No	Yes - Plan launched June 2003		Yes - Plan launched June 2003		Yes - Plan launched June 2003				Yes
7.8 b	Will there be such a plan in place within the next 12 months?	Cllr S Roberts : Ann Gosse	N/A		Yes	Completed		Completed		Completed				Yes
9.1	The number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups. CUMULATIVE	Cllr S Roberts : Ann Gosse	140,291	9379	9384	2,783		4,976		6,294				9,660
9.2	The number of visits to public libraries per 1,000 population CUMULATIVE	Cllr G Kensler, Ann Gosse	4,377.12	6,300	6509.73	Not available		3534		Not Available				6,600
9.3	The number of swims and other visits to swimming pools and sports centres per 1,000 population CUMULATIVE	Cllr G Kensler, Ann Gosse	9,162	9388	9394	2,322		4,881		6,349				7,990

Indicator Reference	Description	Responsible Member & Officer	Welsh Comparative data 02/03	2003/04 Annual Target	2003/04 Data	Data Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun) July 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep) Oct 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) Jan 04/05	Performance	Data Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar) April 04/05	Performance	2004/05 Annual Target

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Finance and Personnel

DATE: 22 February 2005

SUBJECT: Revenue Budget 2004/05

1 DECISION SOUGHT

That in the light of the budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the attached appendices, Members consider any actions necessary to reduce the balance of overspendings on services.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The need to deliver the Council's agreed budget strategies for the current financial year and avoid budget pressures in 2005/06.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Local Authorities are required under section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The projections undertaken at the end of January 2005 show a potential overspend at year end of £0.522m (£0.380m at the end of December 2004). This increase is attributable to the identification of a potential budget pressure relating to invoices raised to colleges for the provision of transport, which have been disputed. Implications for 2005/06 can be mitigated by amending service provision. Action is being taken to confirm the legal and contractual basis for charging and a verbal update will be provided to Cabinet.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It remains imperative for Directorates to identify measures to offset the impact of the anticipated budget pressures during the remaining weeks of the current financial year.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Lead Cabinet members will be required to consult with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action to prevent overspends in 2004/05.

**7 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.

8 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the figures in the appendices and consider remedial actions to align projected spending levels with approved budgets.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005**

Directorate	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net Expenditure (Previous Report) £000s
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Lifelong Learning (excluding schools delegated)	28,086	-9,474	18,612	28,325	-9,080	19,245	239	394	633	492
Environment	29,526	-8,322	21,204	29,398	-8,302	21,096	-128	20	-108	-97
Personal Services	47,338	-20,143	27,195	47,755	-20,602	27,153	417	-459	-42	-79
Chief Executive	3,370	-876	2,494	3,431	-869	2,562	61	7	68	88
Resources	7,595	-2,243	5,352	7,954	-2,631	5,323	359	-388	-29	-24
Corporate, Miscellaneous & Benefits	18,802	-15,342	3,460	18,802	-15,342	3,460	0	0	0	0
Total All Services	134,717	-56,400	78,317	135,665	-56,826	78,839	948	-426	522	380
Capital Financing Charges/Investment Income			10,931			10,931			0	0
Precepts & Levies			4,737			4,737			0	0
			93,985			94,507			522	380

Note:

The Management Accounting rules of the Council require debtor account entries to be reversed in respect of amounts outstanding for more 30 days after the due date. In the event that debts cannot be collected, services will be required to meet the cost of the debt write-off. This may impact on the actual outturn achieved by services at the year end.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005**

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net Expenditure (Previous Report) £000s
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Individual School Budgets	47,544	-5,036	42,508	48,044	-5,536	42,508	500	-500	0	0
School Funds Held Centrally	15,687	-4,256	11,431	15,772	-3,808	11,964	85	448	533	378
Non school Funding	1,219	-817	402	1,219	-817	402	0	0	0	0
Leisure Services	6,553	-3,387	3,166	6,698	-3,410	3,288	145	-23	122	114
Culture	2,923	-317	2,606	2,923	-317	2,606	0	0	0	0
Countryside	1,107	-658	449	1,137	-688	449	30	-30	0	0
Youth	597	-39	558	576	-40	536	-21	-1	-22	0
	28,086	-9,474	18,612	28,325	-9,080	19,245	239	394	633	492
Total Lifelong Learning	75,630	-14,510	61,120	76,369	-14,616	61,753	739	-106	633	492

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005**

Comments	Current Month	Previous Month
	£ 000s	£ 000s
Individual School Budgets: Schools are becoming more reliant on income generation to support their capitation budgets. The table above reflects the efforts of schools to generate additional income in order to invest in equipment etc. The income includes donations from school funds, vending machine sales etc.		
Education: School Funds Held Centrally		
School Transport: Additional costs arising from contract retendering. A Further Education college has queried the legitimacy for charges being levied in respect of providing transport of students to college. Invoices to the value of £96k have been disputed. If this income proves to be irrecoverable the impact in 2004/05 is estimated at £156k.	44	44
	156	0
	200	44
Special Educational Needs: Shortfall of income due to reduction in Out of County placements in Special Schools. The variance has reduced from last month due to the identification of additional income (following the recent Consultants appraisal) and a reduction in expenditure as a result of newly agreed joint funding and an Out of County pupil having left. The continued review of the Behavioural Support Service has identified a more accurate predictive mechanism which when applied to the base data has increased the projected outturn position by £30k. The underspends in other areas e.g. free school meals and vacancy management are being maintained.	317	348
	97	67
	-81	-81
	333	334
Culture and Leisure: Effect of closure at Rhyl Leisure Centre for refurbishment. Withdrawal of funding for security at Ffrith Beach. Backdated gas & NNDR invoices relating to Ruthin Leisure Centre Increased staffing costs & reduced income at Royal International Pavilion Impact of reduced revenue at Pavilion Theatre. Miscellaneous savings achieved through management actions.	83	80
	16	16
	24	15
	14	21
	38	28
	-53	-46
	122	114
Youth: Delayed appointments	-22	0
TOTAL	633	492

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
ENVIRONMENT
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005**

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net Expenditure (Previous Report) £000s
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Development Services - (Note 1)	7,679	-3,211	4,468	7,520	-3,052	4,468	-159	159	0	0
Transport & Infrastructure	8,575	-3,046	5,529	8,592	-3,063	5,529	17	-17	0	0
Planning & Public Protection - (Note 2 & 3)	3,719	-1,462	2,257	3,779	-1,581	2,198	60	-119	-59	-53
Environmental Services - (Note 3)	8,456	-575	7,881	8,443	-589	7,854	-13	-14	-27	-22
Director & Support - (Note 3)	1,097	-28	1,069	1,064	-17	1,047	-33	11	-22	-22
Total Environment	29,526	-8,322	21,204	29,398	-8,302	21,096	-128	20	-108	-97

Notes:

1. Restructuring within the service and a review of its operations indicate that income and expenditure will be reduced.
2. Projected increased Building/Development Control income as well as additional DEFRA grant for Trading Standards.
3. Savings as a result of the delay in recruitment.

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
PERSONAL SERVICES
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net Expenditure (Previous Report) £000s
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Children Services	8,634	-1,646	6,988	9,093	-1,682	7,411	459	-36	423	343
Adult Services	31,005	-12,279	18,726	30,908	-12,540	18,368	-97	-261	-358	-280
Business Support & Development	1,481	-104	1,377	1,427	-107	1,320	-54	-3	-57	-92
	41,120	-14,029	27,091	41,428	-14,329	27,099	308	-300	8	-29
Non HRA Housing	6,218	-6,114	104	6,327	-6,273	54	109	-159	-50	-50
Total Personal Services	47,338	-20,143	27,195	47,755	-20,602	27,153	417	-459	-42	-79

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05

PERSONAL SERVICES

POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005

Comments	Current Month £000s	Previous Month £000s
Children's Services: The increasing projected overspend is due to the number of specialist placements, both residential and fostering (one current placement costs £4k per week). Specialist placements continue to cause a serious budget pressure. Community Development - provision has been made in the outturn for the writing back to revenue of an unpaid debt of £14k in relation to payroll services provided to a community project.	423	343
	423	343
Adult Services: Learning Disabilities: A detailed budget review has highlighted an estimated overspend of £307k. Cost increase in family support, work opportunities and residential placements continue to cause pressure.	307	294
Mental Illness: An overspend of £149k is projected due to the cost of residential placements.	149	166
Older People: The projected service underspend is due to mainly to the receipt of higher than anticipated residential care grant. A reduction of £14k in previously reported outturn arises because of an increase in residential and nursing placements. A further reduction of £15k under spend is due to a reduction in the level of maintenance income from residential clients.	-175	-206
PDSI: The increased overspend is due to Direct Payment £91k spend now being reported here rather than in Other Adult Services. This has partly been offset by reductions in Community Care expenditure and grants to voluntary organisations totalling £32k.	181	122
Performance Management & Commissioning: The increase in anticipated under spend is due to savings made through slippage on staff appointments.	-143	-129
Supporting People: The reported under spend is due to slippage on planned projects. Detailed analysis of all projects is ongoing. Any overspend above the £250k reported will be carried forward to meet cuts in the 2005/06 grant.	-250	-250
Other Adult Services: The under spend reported includes the balances brought forward from 2003/04. The increase in anticipated under spend has arisen due to the spend for Direct Payments being transferred to PDSI.	-368	-277
Cefndy Enterprises This under spend relates to an increased sales forecast.	-59	0
	-358	-280
Business Support & Development: An under spend is shown because the balance of Supporting People grant not allocated to projects is recorded here. The reported under spend has reduced mainly because of the increasing cost of independent investigation of complaints and CRB checks.	-57	-92
	-57	-92
TOTAL	8	-29

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004/05
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RESOURCES, CORPORATE & MISCELLANEOUS
POSITION AS AT END JANUARY 2005

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net Expenditure (Previous Report) £000s
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Chief Executive's Department	3,370	-876	2,494	3,431	-869	2,562	61	7	68	88
Resources Directorate:										
Finance	4,046	-1,731	2,315	4,313	-1,998	2,315	267	-267	0	0
Audit	416	-41	375	423	-48	375	7	-7	0	0
I.T	2,059	-339	1,720	2,153	-433	1,720	94	-94	0	0
Personnel	1,074	-132	942	1,065	-152	913	-9	-20	-29	-24
	7,595	-2,243	5,352	7,954	-2,631	5,323	359	-388	-29	-24
Corporate & Miscellaneous	3,497	-57	3,440	3,497	-57	3,440	0	0	0	0
Benefits	15,305	-15,285	20	15,305	-15,285	20	0	0	0	0
	18,802	-15,342	3,460	18,802	-15,342	3,460	0	0	0	0
Total Chief Executive's, Resources, Corporate & Misc. and Benefits	29,767	-18,461	11,306	30,187	-18,842	11,345	420	-381	39	64

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR P J MARFLEET, LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

DATE: 22 February 2005

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET 2005/06 TO 2007/08

1 DECISION SOUGHT

For Members to note the impact of the debate at County Council on February 8 on the budget proposals included in Appendix 1, to note the latest position regarding budget efficiency savings in 2005/6 and recommend to full Council the amended budget proposals for 2005/6 to 2007/8.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Members considered the budget proposals for 2005/6 to 2007/8 as recommended by Cabinet at County Council on 8 February.

2.2 During the debate and in subsequent review the following changes to the detail have been identified as necessary;

i) The allocation of £25k from the proposed contingency for additional grant aid to CAB to help them fund the merger of the current North & South Denbighshire structure to improve management of the service.

ii) Amendment to the allocation of procurement savings to ensure compliance with Fair Funding regulations. It should be noted that £50k of the target saving still needs to be identified. This exercise will be completed by the time of the County Council meeting on the 24 February.

iii) The reallocation of the Chief Executive's budget to Directorates as a result of the recent restructure will also take place shortly. This exercise will be completed by the time of the County Council meeting on the 24 February.

iv) The final testing of the detail of proposed efficiency savings in the Lifelong Learning Directorate will be included in the report to County Council and will be reported verbally to members at Cabinet.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Local Government Act 1992.

Part 1 of Local Government Act 2003.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Revised proposals for service budget levels in 2005/6 are detailed in appendix 1.

Target levels for service budgets for 2006/7 and 2007/8 are shown in appendix 2.

The latest proposals for service efficiency savings are detailed in appendix 3.

5 SECTION 151 OFFICER STATEMENT

5.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the observations of the Section 151 Officer on the Budget as currently proposed.

5.2 Robustness of Budget Estimates

The final review of the outstanding proposals for £190k of efficiency savings still needs to take place at the time of writing the report. The final detail will have to be agreed for the report to Council on 24 February. I will update members at the Cabinet meeting of my views on the robustness of these figures.

5.3 Adequacy of Reserves

The latest projections of pressures in 2004/5 for Lifelong Learning will have the potential effect of needing to draw on reserves to fund the increased level of pressures. Again the results of a review of the position prior to the Cabinet and Council meetings will be reported to members at the meetings.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Efficiency savings proposals have been arrived at during a series of meetings between officers and Lead Cabinet Members. These proposals have been considered and accepted by service Scrutiny Committees.

Proposed increases in spending, recognising pressures and additional resources made available by the Assembly for specific services have been discussed with Lead Members and Scrutiny Committees.

The Corporate Executive Team have considered the overall position as recommended.

The budget proposals have been debated at Cabinet and full Council

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

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

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1** That Members note the revised service budget proposals detailed in appendix 1, together with the efficiency savings proposals detailed in appendix 3 and recommend the revised budget package to County Council for approval.
- 8.2** That Members recommend the resulting 4.5% impact of the proposals on Band D of Council Tax in 2005/6 to full Council.
- 8.3** That Members note the likely budget position for 2006/7 & 2007/8 and endorse the proposal to carry out further reviews of service budget requirements to identify additional efficiency savings to boost reserves, fund the development of priority areas and reduce pressure on Council Tax in these years.

1. Budget Requirement 2004/5 to 2005/6

	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	
	Cash limited Budget 2004/5	Transfers in & out of Settlement	Adjusted Cash limited Budget 2004/5	Inflation Allocation 2005/6	Provisional procurement savings	Committed Changes 2005/6	2004/05 & 2005/6 Pressures	Passported Growth	Standstill Budget 2005/6	EFFICIENCY SAVINGS TARGETS	Budget 2005/6	Increase over 2004/5 adjusted
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Lifelong Learning - Schools budgets *	42,508		42,508	1,332	0		307 (7)	987 (9)	45,134	-353	44,781	5.35%
- Other Education	11,833		11,833	461	-78		495 (7)		12,711	-240	12,471	5.39%
- Culture & Leisure	6,780		6,780	157	-75				6,862	-90	6,772	-0.12%
Environment	21,204	-1,320 (1)	19,884	538	-102	80 (1&4)		148 (1&10)	20,548	-310	20,238	1.78%
Personal Services	27,191	2,202 (2)	29,393	712	-110	523 (5)	770 (8)	450 (11)	31,738	-400	31,338	6.62%**
Resources	5,352		5,352	159	-68				5,443	-80	5,363	0.21%
Chief Executive ***	2,494		2,494	73	-17	-94 (4)			2,456	-37	2,419	-3.01%
<hr/>												
Corporate	117,362	882	118,244	3,432	-450	509	1,572	1,585	124,892	-1,510	123,382	4.35%
Fire/Sea Fisheries Levies	3,460	-430 (1)	3,030	95		25	70	116 (1&12)	3,336		3,336	10.10%
Capital Financing / Interest received	4,737	-930 (3)	3,807	168					3,975		3,975	4.41%
Contingency	10,891		10,891						10,891		10,891	0.00%
INFLATION	0		0		-50	675		171 (12)	796		796	
Contribution to Reserves									0		0	
<hr/>												
	136,450	-478	135,972	3,695	-500	1,209	1,642	1,872	143,890	-1,510	142,380	4.71%
<hr/>												
2. Level of Funding												
Revenue Support Grant	86,850	-478	86,372	2,767				1,651	90,790		90,790	
NNDR	19,642		19,642	-3					19,639		19,639	
Deprivation grant	157		157	7					164		164	
LABGI	0		0					221	221		221	
<hr/>												
Service Reserves/b/f savings	106,649	-478	106,171	2,771	0	0	0	1,872	110,814	0	110,814	
Council Tax Yield	1,024		1,024	0		-1,024			0		0	
Less improved Tax Base 2004/5	28,777		28,777	924	-500	1,933	1,642		32,776	-1,510	31,266	
						300			300		300	
<hr/>												
	136,450	-478	135,972	3,695	-500	1,209	1,642	1,872	143,890	-1,510	142,380	

* Schools Budgets may be adjusted for planned transfer of element of SEN budget

** Includes ongoing costs funded in 2004/5 from Service Reserves

*** Elements of CEO budget to be reallocated to Directirates following restructure

Council Tax collection increase -->	13.90%	8.65%
Council Tax collection increase (ex SP) -->		7.78%
Expenditure increase -->	5.82%	4.71%
Expenditure increase (ex SP) -->		4.53%
Supporting People adjustment - £000s -->		250

Notes	£000
1. PFI funding transferred to Specific Grant & full year effect	-1,336
2. Residential Allowances & Children First from Specific Grant	2,202
3. Flood Defence & Magistrates levies transferred out	-930
4. 2004/5 bids funded from one off sources	-314
5. Full year impact of 2004/5 bids (Children & Elderly)	523 **
7. Threshold/Leadership £307k, SEN £320k, Transport £175k	802
8. Children's £260k, Elderly £160k, Learning Diff £100k, Supporting People £250k	770
9. Teacher's Workload - 797k, KS3 - 153k, Music - 37k	987
10. Land Fill Tax	100
11. Health & Social Care - 450k,	450
12. LABGI advance used to part fund Customer Contact Centre	221

Impact at Band D Council Tax 4.5%

1. Budget Requirement 2005/6 to 2007/8

	Projected Budget 2005/6	Inflation 3.00% 2006/7	Committed Changes 2006/7	Growth for Priority Services	Projected Budget 2006/7	Inflation 3.00% 2007/8	Committed Changes 2007/8	Growth for Priority Services	Projected Budget 2007/8
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Lifelong Learning - Schools budgets *	44,781	1,343	0		46,124	1,384			47,508
- Other Education	12,471	374	0		12,845	385			13,230
- Culture & Leisure	6,772	203	0		6,975	209			7,184
Environment	20,238	607	0		20,845	625			21,470
Personal Services	31,338	940	270 (1)		32,548	976			33,525
Resources	5,363	161	0		5,524	166			5,690
Chief Executive	2,419	73	0		2,492	75			2,566
	123,382	3,701	270	0	127,353	3,821	0	0	131,174
Corporate	3,286	99	530 (2&3)		3,915	117			4,032
Fire/Sea Fisheries levies	3,975	119	0		4,094	123			4,217
Capital Finance/Interest received	10,891		500 (4)		11,391	0	500 (4)	603 (9)	12,494
Contingency	625		200 (5)		825	0			825
Inflation	0		-500 (6)		-500	0			-500
Contribution to Reserves	0		500 (7)		500				500
Further Efficiency Savings	0		-500 (8)		-500				-500
	142,159	3,919	1,000	0	147,078	4,061	500	603	152,242
2. Level of Funding									
Revenue Support Grant	90,790	2,996			93,786	3,564			97,350
NNDR	19,639	648			20,287	771			21,058
Deprivation grant	164	5			169	5			174
LABGI	0				0				0
	110,593	3,649	0	0	114,242	4,340	0	0	118,582
Council Tax yield	0				0	0			0
	31,566	270	1,000		32,836	-279	500	603	33,660
	0				0				0
	142,159	3,919	1,000	0	147,078	4,061	500	603	152,242

Council Tax collection increase

4.00%

2.50%

RSG 3.30%
NNDR 3.30%

RSG 3.80%
NNDR 3.80%

Notes

1. Full year effect of Demographic pressures in 2005/6
2. Housing Stock Transfer impact
3. Customer Contact Centre - full year impact of staffing costs
4. Effect of Capital Programme
6. Further savings from improved procurement
7. Provision for contribution to Reserves
8. Further efficiency savings
9. Prudential Borrowing costs for development of Council Priorities

£000
270
400
130
500
-500
500
-500
210 (+1440k in 2007/8)

Appendix 3

2005/6 Potential Budget Savings

3) Directorate detailed proposals

	£000	£000
a) Lifelong Learning		
Schools Delegated Budgets		353
Education non delageted		
- 1.5% reduction in non pay budgets ***	120	
- take account of reduced free meals take up	<u>50</u>	170
Culture & Leisure		
- increased fees & charges wef 01/04/05	38	
- reduce support to outside bodies	27	
- other efficiencies and reductions	<u>25</u>	90
Additional saving to be identified ***		70

		683

b) Environment		
Income generation		
Car parks	100	
Decriminalisation net position	50	
Other fees & charges	<u>50</u>	200
Slippage in filling vacancies		30
Trading surplus		50
2004/5 underspend c/f		100
less Image Improvement (oneoff 2004/5)		-70

		310

c) Personal Services		
Children's Services		
- Reduced travel costs and slippage filing vacancies		38
Adult Services		
- increased fees & charges	110	
- cap increase for private res care providers	80	
- contract review of expensive placements	30	
- slippage in filling posts	<u>42</u>	262
Support & Development		
- cash limit non pay budgets/vacancy slippage		15
Non HRA Housing		
- increased fees & charges	10	
- take account of reduced level of B & B	<u>75</u>	85

		400

d) Resources		
Finance - freeze PM post and increase income		30
Audit - down grade posts		11
ICT - reduced mtce costs & vacancy		25
Personnel - vacancy savings		14

		80

e) CEO/County Clerk		
Recent restructure proposals		37

		1510
		=====

Note : *** detail to be agreed.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

DATE: 22 February 2005

SUBJECT: Housing Revenue Account Budget 2004/05

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the current financial year.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The need to deliver the Council's agreed budget strategies for the current financial year.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Housing Act 1985, Part II.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The projections undertaken at the end of January 2005 show a potential net under-spend at year end of £210k (Appendix 1). This represents no change to that forecast one month ago. These figures were also reported to Cabinet on 25 January 2005 when setting the HRA budget for 2005/06.

A comprehensive review of the Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts has been undertaken. The Provision is now actually higher than the arrears currently owed by tenants. There is a 'best practice' formula for calculating the level of provision required. This shows that the Provision is over-funded by £286,612 – this amount, therefore, will be transferred back into the HRA.

Expenditure pressures continue on gas boiler maintenance (£180k) and legal costs associated with disrepair claims (£80k). Last month, the receipt of Climate Energy Grant (£200k) was used to fund the potential overspend in the repairs budget. In view of the revised financial position, this has now been 'released' to fund additional repairs expenditure.

Also included within the budgets, for this year, was £60,000 for the stock transfer ballot. As this will not happen before April 2005, the allocation has been removed from the budget for this year.

Rental income has increased because voids are lower this year and sales have been slower than originally forecast.

Debt charge costs are forecast to be £33k lower than originally estimated, but this has no financial gain to the Council, as the HRA subsidy payment (to WAG) is increased by a similar amount.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The improvement in the overall budgetary position is welcomed, but it will be necessary to remain vigilant in the management of budgets to ensure that the anticipated surplus is delivered at the end of the financial year.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Lead Cabinet members will be required to consult with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action to prevent overspends in 2004/05.

7 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.

8 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the figures in Appendix 1 and consider any remedial action to align projected spending levels with approved budgets.

Housing Revenue Account ~ 2004/05

<u>2003/04</u>		<u>2004/05</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
Actual £		Revised Budget £	Forecast Out-turn £	
			Variance £	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
930,338	Supervision & Management - General	971,469	959,647	-11,822
206,524	Supervision & Management - Special	202,511	184,200	-18,311
145,969	Welfare Services	134,265	115,822	-18,443
78,922	Homelessness	83,222	79,201	-4,021
415,317	Rents	430,012	404,610	-25,402
2,605,253	Repairs and Maintenance	2,536,060	2,794,234	258,174
<u>4,382,323</u>	Total - Management and Maintenance	<u>4,357,539</u>	<u>4,537,714</u>	180,175
5,099,232	Rent Rebates	57,489	57,489	0
1,408,151	Debt Charges	1,118,204	1,085,131	-33,073
0	C.E.R.A.	0	0	0
0	Subsidy	2,518,943	2,552,753	33,810
100,000	Provision for Bad Debts	50,000	-286,612	-336,612
<u>10,989,706</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>8,102,175</u>	<u>7,946,475</u>	<u>-155,700</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
8,547,660	Rents (net of voids)	8,293,676	8,352,650	58,974
86,944	Garages	92,500	88,050	-4,450
14,572	Interest (R.T.B. mortgages)	15,000	15,000	0
2,701,299	Subsidy	0	0	0
0	Other Income	0	0	0
<u>11,350,475</u>	Total Income	<u>8,401,176</u>	<u>8,455,700</u>	<u>54,524</u>
360,769	Surplus / Deficit (-) for the Year	299,001	509,225	210,224
301,301	Balance as at start of year	662,070	662,070	0
662,070	Balance as at end of year	961,071	1,171,295	210,224

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources

DATE: 22 February 2005

SUBJECT: Prudential Indicators 2005/06 to 2007/08

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To recommend to Council the setting of Prudential Indicators for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2003 introduced the current system of controls over local authority capital investment. It replaced the regulatory framework that existed under Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The current system is based on self-regulation by local authorities themselves but there is a requirement under the legislation to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities that has been adopted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
- 2.2 The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Prudential Code sets out the indicators that must be used by local authorities to demonstrate that these objectives have been fulfilled. The indicators are intended to support and record local decision-making and are not designed to be used as comparative indicators.
- 2.3 The Code specifies that the same body that takes the decisions for the setting of a local authority's budget must undertake the setting and revising of Prudential Indicators. In Denbighshire's case this is Full Council. The Indicators must be set before the commencement of the financial year as part of the budget setting process. Revisions to these Indicators can be undertaken at any time during the financial year.

Prudential Indicators:

- 2.4 The Council Fund indicators are based on the decisions of Full Council regarding the Revenue Budget and Capital Plan made at its meeting of 8 February 2005. It should be noted that the Capital Plan was not subject to debate at that meeting and will be reconsidered by Council at its meeting of 24 February 2005.
- 2.5 The Housing Revenue Account indicators have been calculated in accordance with the budget approved by Cabinet at its meeting of 25 January

2005. It will be noted that indicators for the Housing Revenue Account are not shown for 2006/07 and 2007/08. This reflects Council's current decision regarding stock transfer.

2.6 The individual Prudential Indicators recommended for approval are set out below:

2.7 Capital Expenditure

The actual capital expenditure for 2003/04 is recorded in the Statement of Accounts for that year, approved by Council in September 2004.

Levels of Council fund capital expenditure are lower in 2006/07 and 2007/08 when compared with 2005/06. This reflects the fact that precise details regarding the amounts of special funding available from external organisations is not known at this stage. Decisions regarding the general funded element of the Capital Plan for these years have yet to be finalised by Council and this also contributes to the reduced levels of capital expenditure shown for those years.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Estimate	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
1		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	Capital Expenditure:					
	Council Fund	19,959	26,061	28,437	14,771	8,794
	Housing Revenue Account	2,090	3,684	7,136	0	0
	TOTAL	22,049	29,745	35,573	14,771	8,794

2.8 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This is an indicator of affordability and demonstrates the revenue implications of capital investment decisions by highlighting the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet the borrowing costs associated with capital spending.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Estimate	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
2		%	%	%	%	%
	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:					
	Council Fund	7.58	7.88	7.66	7.74	8.21
	Housing Revenue Account	16.28	12.83	10.81	0.00	0.00

2.9 Capital Financing Requirement

The capital financing requirement highlights the amount of borrowing required to finance the capital spending identified in the Capital Plan. In order to

ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing will only be used for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the capital financing requirement.

The Corporate Director – Resources confirms that the Council had no difficulty in meeting this requirement in 2003/04, nor are any difficulties anticipated for the current or future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the budget.

No	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	31-Mar-04	31-Mar-05 Estimate	31-Mar-06 Estimate	31-Mar-07 Estimate	31-Mar-08 Estimate
3	Capital Financing Requirement:	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	Council Fund	98,855	101,522	112,531	116,381	117,124
	Housing Revenue Account	13,266	9,897	7,714	0	0
	TOTAL	112,121	111,419	120,245	116,381	117,124

2.10 Authorised Limit for External Debt

The Council has an integrated treasury management strategy and has adopted the Cipfa Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. At any point in time the Council has a number of cashflows both positive and negative, and manages its treasury position in accordance with its approved treasury management strategy and practices. This means that overall borrowing arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the authority and not those simply arising from capital spending.

The Authorised Limit is based on the estimate of the most likely, prudent but not worst case borrowing requirement, with in addition, sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for operational management, for example unusual cash movements.

It should be noted that the Authorised Limit for 2005/06 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

No	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2004/05 Estimate	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
4	Authorised limit for external debt:	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	Borrowing	116,000	131,000	128,000	130,000
	Other long term liabilities	980	0	0	0
	TOTAL	116,980	131,000	128,000	130,000

2.11 Operational Boundary

This limit is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit and reflects the most likely, prudent but not worst case borrowing requirement, but without the additional headroom to allow for operational management.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2004/05 Estimate	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
5	Operational boundary:	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	Borrowing	111,000	126,000	123,000	124,000
	Other long term liabilities	980	0	0	0
	TOTAL	111,980	126,000	123,000	124,000

2.12 Actual External Debt

The actual external debt at 31 March 2004 is identified in the Statement of Accounts for 2003/04 that was approved by Council in September 2004.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	31-Mar-04
6	Actual External Debt:	£000s
	Borrowing	109,047
	Other long term liabilities	980
	TOTAL	110,027

2.13 Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions

This is an indicator of affordability that shows the actual impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax and Housing Rent levels. It demonstrates how the revenue budget is growing (or reducing) as a result of capital investment decisions being taken in the current budget round.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
7	Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions:			
	Increase in Band D Council Tax	£0.00	£0.00	£16.46
8	Increase in average weekly housing rents	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

The Council's Capital Plan as currently approved for 2005/06 has a neutral impact on Council Tax and Housing Rents. This reflects the fact that capital costs are being financed from traditional resources (grants and capital

receipts) and that any borrowing undertaken is supported through the Revenue Support Grant System. There are accordingly no increases in Council Tax and Housing Rents arising from the Capital Plan (subject to any changes to the 2005/06 Revenue budget which impact on the Capital Plan, which may be proposed by Cabinet at its meeting of 22 February 2004).

The increase in Band D Council Tax projected for 2007/08 reflects the proposal in the Revenue Budget report to increase the provision for Capital Financing Charges by £0.603m to undertake prudential borrowing as a means of expanding the Capital Plan to address capital investment requirements.

2.14 Upper Limit for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure

The Council's current loan debt portfolio consists entirely of fixed rate interest loans. Decisions regarding whether to draw down new loans on a fixed interest basis will be determined by expectations of anticipated interest rate movements as set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. This limit has been set to provide the necessary flexibility to draw down loans on a fixed interest basis.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
9	Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure:	100%	100%	100%

2.15 Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure

The Council does not currently hold any loans on a variable interest rate basis. Decisions regarding whether to draw down new loans at variable rates will be determined by expectations of anticipated interest rate movements. This limit has been set to ensure that the Council is not exposed to interest rate rises which could adversely impact on the Revenue budget. It does however provide the ability to take advantage of the flexibility which variable rate loans provide, without exposing the Revenue budget to undue risk.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
10	Upper limit for variable rate exposure:	35%	35%	35%

2.16 Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested over 364 Days

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that might arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2005/06 Estimate	2006/07 Estimate	2007/08 Estimate
11	Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days:	£000s 3,000	£000s 3,000	£000s 3,000

2.17 Maturity Structure of new Fixed Rate borrowing in 2005/06

This indicator is a control measure over a local authority having large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates. It shows the proportion of projected new fixed rate borrowing that can mature in each period. The Council's existing debt portfolio has concentrations of maturing debt in the bands up to 10 years. This will limit the extent to which new borrowing can be allowed to mature in these periods.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR			
12	Maturity structure of new fixed rate borrowing during 2005/06:		upper limit	
			lower limit	
		Under 12 months	37%	0%
		12 months and within 24 months	34%	0%
		24 months and within 5 years	52%	0%
	5 years and within 10 years	7%	0%	
	10 years and above	100%	0%	

2.18 Adoption of Cipfa Treasury Management Code

This is the principal indicator in respect of treasury management and demonstrates that the Council has adopted the principles of best practice.

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR
13	Adoption of Cipfa Treasury Management Code:
	Denbighshire County Council approved the adoption of Cipfa's Code of Treasury Management at its Council meeting of 26 March 2002.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 2003 determines the requirement for local authorities to set Prudential Indicators.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no cost implications arising as a result of the setting of Prudential Indicators.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 The Council's Capital Plan for 2005/06 has a neutral impact on Council Tax and Housing Rents. Capital costs are being financed from traditional resources (grants and capital receipts) and borrowing will be supported through the Revenue Support Grant System. Accordingly there are no increases in Council Tax and Housing Rents arising from the approved Capital Plan.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 The Council's Capital Plan and Revenue Budget have been prepared in consultation with Heads of Service, Corporate Directors, Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet and Council.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 Capital expenditure and its financing impacts on all policies of the Council.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council the setting of the Prudential Indicators for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 (subject to any amendments which may be required arising from decisions affecting the Revenue Budget which may be made during the Cabinet meeting of 22 February 2005).

REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / CORPORATE DIRECTOR:
RESOURCES**

DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2005

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE PENSIONS
GREEN PAPER**

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To approve the response to the Green Paper as detailed in Annex A (Questionnaire).
- 1.2 To note the potential industrial action by unions following consultation on the Green Paper.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The increasing costs of Final Salary Pension Schemes have been widely documented recently. In the Green Paper the Government is proposing ways of reducing this financial liability.
- 2.2 The Employers Organisation has been leading the response on behalf of local authorities to the whole matter of pension reform and this Green Paper in particular. Their response (summary only) is included in this paper as Annex B. The more detailed paper is available from the Head of Personnel.
- 2.3 Annex A is the proposed completed version of the questionnaire.
- 2.4 Whilst this response reflects the role of local authority as an employer, unions have also had an opportunity to respond separately on the Green Paper. Locally UNISON has held a ballot on the impact of the Green Paper, the outcome of which was to proceed with a formal ballot for industrial action. Other unions are also holding formal ballots. There is therefore the possibility of some form of industrial action in March although discussions are taking place nationally to avoid them.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 111 Local Government Act 1972.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Pensions are a major element of the payroll costs of the Authority. As an employer, it is therefore essential to be able to maintain pension costs at an affordable level.

The main concern of this consultation is therefore the future sustainability of pension liabilities.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The current pressures on Local Authority Pension Funds have arisen from 4 issues.

1. The contributions holiday taken by local Councils (Clwyd CC) when actuarial valuation rules were eased in the 1980s.
2. The poor performance in recent years of the stock market with the resulting reduction in income levels to funds.
3. The removal of tax credits on investment income of funds.
4. The increased life expectancy of pensioners.

While items 1 & 2 may be seen as temporary pressures with item 2 being potentially cyclical, items 3 & 4 are potentially permanent pressures, hence the need to review the overall impact of pension contributions on Councils.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

This consultation document is widely distributed (as previously referred to). This document is the Authority's response as an employer.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Pensions have traditionally been one of the substantial elements of the financial package for working in local government.

Bearing in mind the current difficulties that we have in recruiting specialist staff, it is necessary to consider the overall impact that changes to the Pension Scheme may have. The decision, as an employer, is not therefore simply around Finance but equally becomes a Personnel consideration. The authority has to be mindful of the need to protect existing and future employees.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To approve the response to the Green Paper as detailed in Annex a (Questionnaire).
- 8.2 To note the potential industrial action following consultation on the Green Paper.

Annex A

Questionnaire for employers on key points in the EO/LGPC draft response to the Green Paper: Facing the future – Principles and propositions for an affordable and sustainable local government pension scheme

Introduction

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain employers' reactions to the key points being made in the Employers' Organisation for local government (EO)/Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC) draft response to the Green Papers issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) in 2004.

It would be helpful if, having fully considered the Green Paper and the individual elements of, and reasoning behind, the **draft response in Annex B**, employers could indicate their agreement, or otherwise, to the main points being made in that response. Employers are asked to complete and return this questionnaire to: The Local Government Pensions Committee, Employers' Organisation for local government, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG by **28 February 2005**.

Based on the views presented in Annex B please indicate your agreement or otherwise with the following key points being made in the EO/LGPC draft response to the Green Papers

Please tick one
Agree Disagree

Q.1. The Scheme forms part of the overall remuneration package and there is a balance to be struck within that overall package between pay and pensions (deferred pay)



Q.2. The LGPS should have a benefit structure broadly in line with that in other comparator public sector schemes



Agree Disagree

Q.3. With regard to the cost of the Scheme, please indicate which of the three options below you most support. Within your preferred option please indicate your preferred sub-option (where appropriate):

Q.3. Option 1

We are supportive of targeting an employer contribution rate in respect of future service accrual that is equivalent to that under the current Scheme (after the effects of the removal of the 85 year rule from the current Scheme have been taken into account); or

Q.3. Option 2

We are cautious about targeting an employer contribution rate for future service accrual that is equivalent to that under the current Scheme (after the effects of the removal of the 85 year rule from the current Scheme have been taken into account). Targeting a slightly lower employer rate (of, say, a reduction of 1%) would be justified, would be more acceptable to employers (and to Council tax payers) and would be more likely to ensure the longer term affordability and sustainability of the Scheme. This could be achieved by:

- **Sub-Option 2A:** reducing the value of the benefits package outlined in the Green Paper by a target figure of 1% whilst retaining an average employee contribution rate of 7%; or
- **Sub-Option 2B:** retaining the value of the benefits package outlined in the Green Paper but increasing the average employee contribution rate by 1% (i.e. from 7% to 8%)

Q.3. Option 3

As per option 2 but with a larger reduction in employer contribution to be achieved via:

- **Sub-Option 3A:** target a larger reduction in the benefit package (to save more than 1%), or
- **Sub-Option 3B:** target a larger increase in the employee contribution rate (beyond 8%)
- **Sub-Option 3C:** target both a larger increase in the employee contribution rate and a larger reduction in benefits

	Agree	Disagree
Q.4. A new-look LGPS should be a final salary Defined Benefit scheme. This should be open to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) employees and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) councillors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• There should be no Defined Contribution scheme as a top-up to the main scheme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• There should be no Defined Contribution scheme as an alternative to the main scheme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• There should be no facility for members to purchase added years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• There should be a facility for members to purchase additional scheme benefits based on an actuarially set charge for purchasing £100 of annual pension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.5. The Scheme should cover the same range of employers as now	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.6. Employees should be allowed to contribute at any age (subject to the Inland Revenue limit of age 75)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.7. The employee/councillor contribution rate should be the same ⁴ for all scheme members (not a graded/banded contribution rate dependent on the level of earnings)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.8. We are inclined to retain the current definition of pensionable pay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.9. The accrual rate per year of membership and the commutation rate should be no less favourable than the other main comparator public sector pension schemes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.10. The Scheme should have a Scheme Retirement Age (SRA) of 65. Benefits taken before SRA should be subject to an actuarial reduction, other than in the case of ill health retirement, whilst benefits drawn after SRA should be subject to an actuarial increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.11. Flexible retirement, linked to down-shifting (i.e. moving to a lower graded post) or a reduction in hours, should be permitted from April 2006 and members availed of this facility should be allowed to continue paying into the Scheme in their remaining employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ The actual level to be set out in your answer to Q. 3 above.

	Agree	Disagree
Q.12. The new Inland Revenue flexibilities should be built into the LGPS from April 2006.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special provisions should be made for members whose benefits exceed the new lifetime or annual allowances 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nor should a Scheme specific earnings cap be retained in respect of the future membership of those employees currently subject to the earnings cap of £102,000 per annum (although a fair and equitable solution will need to be found in respect of their accrued membership) 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.13. Benefits payable on redundancy/efficiency retirement prior to Scheme Retirement Age (SRA) should be payable at the employee's choice, at an actuarially reduced rate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employer should have the option to waive or reduce the actuarial reduction at the employer's cost 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.14. We are in favour of a two tier ill health system <i>[If you disagree with the above statement, go to question 15]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree that the benefits of those who are certified as being permanently incapable of any gainful employment should be based on their prospective service to age 65 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
With regard to the second tier, please tick the box which represents your favoured option:		
Q.14. Option 1 We are generally in favour of a second tier of un-enhanced ill health retirement benefits payable for life, but we are not convinced of the equity of a review system; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.14. Option 2 We are generally in favour of a second tier of un-enhanced ill health retirement benefits but believe these should only be payable for a limited period of time, say 2 years; or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.14. Option 3 We believe there should be no second tier of ill health retirement benefits. Instead, the member would be provided with a deferred pension and the employer could make a one off lump sum termination payment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Agree	Disagree
Q.15. The death in service lump sum should be 3 times final pensionable pay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.16. There should be no short term survivor pensions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.17. We are supportive of the introduction of partners' pensions (particularly if, as seems likely, the other public sector schemes are moving towards their introduction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But we feel there are a number of equity issues surrounding the proposals contained in the Green Paper which need to be considered 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.18. A surviving spouse's/partner's pension should not be reduced if there is a large age differential between the couple	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.19. Unless a child is disabled, a child's pension should cease at age 18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.20. We are not in favour of adjusting a person's period of accrued membership if they move between jobs in local government, or if they move into a different salary band (if tiered employee contributions are introduced), in order to take account of the differences in pay levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.21. The transfer of pension rights from other (non-club) pension schemes into the LGPS should purchase a period of membership in the Scheme or,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme should provide that transfers purchase additional benefits based on an actuarially set charge for purchasing £100 of annual pension 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.22. Transferring existing scheme members from the current Scheme to a new-look LGPS has merit, as all contributors would then be in a single Scheme, but only if the service conversion is workable, fair and equitable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.23. On the wider front, we see merit in there being one set of Scheme rules covering, for example, local government, teachers and the NHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q.24. We are in favour of revoking the current Compensation Regulations and replacing them with a general power for employers to make a one off payment of up to 2 years pay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q.25. If you do not agree with the first statement in Q.4. above (i.e. the LGPS should be a final salary Defined Benefit scheme for both employees and councillors) what alternative would you prefer? (please tick as appropriate)

Agree Disagree

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • A final salary Defined Benefit scheme for employees plus a career average Defined Benefit scheme for councillors, or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • A career average Defined Benefit scheme for all employees and councillors, or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Defined Contribution scheme for all employees and councillors, or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional comments:

Signed Date

Designation (in capital letters)

For and on behalf of (name of employer in capital letters)

Please return the completed questionnaire by **28 February 2005** to:
 LGPC
 Employers' Organisation for local government
 Layden House
 76 – 86 Turnmill Street
 London
 EC1M 5LG
 Fax: 0207 296 6739

Annex B

Draft response from the Employers' Organisation and the Local Government Pensions Committee to the Green Papers

The draft letter below has three main sections:

Section A – introduction

Section B - summary of our response (NB: conclusions regarding the cost of the scheme are subject to consultation. Details of the options presented to employers for consultation are summarised in this section)

Section C - outline of our key objectives for a new-look LGPS

- ensuring that the pension scheme meets the needs of the employer as part of the remuneration package
- ensuring that the scheme is affordable and sustainable
- ensuring that the scheme is simple and efficient
- ensuring that the scheme dovetails well with state pensions policy

Section D - detailed comments on the Green Paper

- scheme membership principles
- contributions – employers and employees
- scheme benefits in a new-look LGPS
- defined contribution top-up scheme/added years facility
- flexible retirement
- survivor benefits
- ill health retirement and income protection
- compensation
- Inland Revenue changes
- transitional arrangements
- governance
- simplification

Appendix 1, Annex B - alternative types of pension arrangements

Appendix 2, Annex B - possible impact of the Pensions Commission report (due Autumn 2005)

Draft letter

Nicola Rochester
Local Government Pensions Division
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Zone 2/E6
Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6DE

Jean Steel
Policy Officer LGPS
Scottish Public Pensions Agency
7 Tweedside Park
Tweedbank
Galashiels
TD1 3TE

31 March 2005

TE/EE/100
terry.edwards@lg-employers.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Rochester/Ms Steel

Response from the Employers' Organisation and the Local Government Pensions Committee to the Green Paper: Facing the future – Propositions and principles for an affordable and sustainable local government pension scheme

Section A: introduction

1. The Employers' Organisation for local government (EO) and the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGPC) are pleased to respond to the Green Paper enclosed with the Office's letter of 4th October 2004 and the Agency's letter of 25th November 2004.
2. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the propositions and principles set out in the Green Paper and to contribute to policy development on essential pension matters.
3. It is right to consider the future form and content of the LGPS in order to both stabilise its affordability, particularly as people are living (and drawing benefits) for longer, and to take a fresh look at the pension element of the employment package for staff in local government at a time when the overall pay and workforce strategy is undergoing modernisation.
4. The review is also timely as it fits with the current wider national debate about the future of pension provision. The key themes in the debate - the security of the pension promise, the appropriate balance between state and private provision and the right level at which to set current contributions in order to provide an adequate pension in retirement, are all highly relevant to the review of the LGPS.

5. At the beginning of the original Stocktake exercise the Employers' Organisation asked local authorities whether the EO/LGPC should take the lead in assessing the issues raised by the Stocktake and 64% of respondents replied in the affirmative. That mandate has been taken forward in preparing this response to the Green Paper.
6. Our approach to the Green Paper has been to assess the validity of the policy aims that we seek to achieve through the scheme, to set this in the context of national (State) pensions policy, and then to respond to the specific issues raised in the Green Paper.

Section B - summary of our response (NB: this response is subject to consultation - details of the options presented to employers are summarised here)

7. In summary, our conclusions are:
 - i. the Scheme forms part of the overall remuneration package and there is a balance to be struck within that overall package between pay and pensions (deferred pay)
 - ii. the LGPS needs to remain as attractive to prospective and current employees as possible and should, as far as is possible, match the provisions in the other main comparator public sector pension schemes
 - iii. with regard to the cost of the Scheme (*one of the following will be entered depending on which of the following options the majority of authorities responding to the EO/LGPC consultation exercise select – see paragraph 20 below for further details*)
 - *Option 1*
We are supportive of targeting an employer contribution rate in respect of future service accrual that is equivalent to that under the current Scheme (after the effects of the removal of the 85 year rule from the current Scheme have been taken into account); or
 - *Option 2*
We are cautious about targeting an employer contribution rate for future service accrual that is equivalent to that under the current Scheme (after the effects of the removal of the 85 year rule from the current Scheme have been taken into account). Targeting a slightly lower employer rate (of, say, a reduction of 1%) would be justified, would be more acceptable to employers (and to Council tax payers) and would be more likely to ensure the longer term affordability and sustainability of the Scheme. This could be achieved by:

- a) *reducing the value of the benefits package outlined in the Green Paper by a target figure of 1% whilst retaining an average employee contribution rate of 7%; or*
 - b) *retaining the value of the benefits package outlined in the Green Paper but increasing the average employee contribution rate by 1% (i.e. from 7% to 8%).*
- *Option 3*
As per option 2 but:
 - a) *target a larger reduction in the benefit package (to save more than 1%), or*
 - b) *target a larger increase in the employee contribution rate (beyond 8%)*
 - c) *target a larger reduction in the benefit package and a larger increase in the employee contribution rate*
- iv. a new-look LGPS should be a final salary Defined Benefit scheme open to both employees and councillors; there should be no Defined Contribution scheme, either as a top-up to, or as an alternative to, the main scheme and no facility for members to purchase added years; but we would support the option for members to be able to purchase additional scheme benefits based on an actuarially set charge for purchasing £100 of annual pension
 - v. the Scheme should cover the same range of employers as now with employees being able to contribute at any age (subject to the Inland Revenue limit of age 75)
 - vi. the employee/councillor contribution rate should be the same for all scheme members (not a graded/banded contribution rate dependent on the level of earnings, for the reasons expounded in paragraph 39 below)
 - vii. whilst, in principle, we would be in favour of basing contributions and benefits on basic pay, we have a number of reservations over the practicalities of this suggestion and, on balance, we are inclined to retain the current definition of pensionable pay (see paragraph 42 below)
 - viii. the accrual rate per year of membership and the commutation rate should be no less favourable than the other main comparator public sector pension schemes
 - ix. we are not in favour of adjusting a person's period of accrued membership if they move between jobs in local government, or if they move into a different salary band (if tiered employee contributions are introduced), in order to take account of the differences in pay levels

- x. a transfer of pension rights into the LGPS from other (non-club) pension schemes should purchase a period of membership in the Scheme or, alternatively, the Scheme could provide that transfers should purchase additional benefits based on an actuarially set charge for purchasing £100 of annual pension
- xi. the Scheme should have a Scheme Retirement Age (SRA) of 65. Benefits taken before SRA should be subject to an actuarial reduction, other than in the case of ill health retirement, whilst benefits drawn after SRA should be subject to an actuarial increase
- xii. flexible retirement, linked to down-shifting (i.e. moving to a lower graded post) or a reduction in hours, should be permitted from April 2006 and members availed of this facility should be allowed to continue paying into the Scheme in their remaining employment
- xiii. the new Inland Revenue flexibilities should be built into the LGPS from April 2006. No special provisions should be made for members whose benefits exceed the new lifetime or annual allowances nor should a Scheme specific earnings cap be retained in respect of the future membership of those employees currently subject to the earnings cap of £102,000 per annum (although a fair and equitable solution will need to be found in respect of their accrued membership)
- xiv. benefits payable on redundancy/efficiency retirement prior to Scheme Retirement Age (SRA) should be payable at the employee's choice, at an actuarially reduced rate, with the option for the employer to waive or reduce the actuarial reduction at their cost
- xv. we are in favour of a two tier ill health system and agree that the benefits of those who are certified as being permanently incapable of any gainful employment should be based on their prospective service to age 65. With regard to the second tier (one of the following will be entered depending on which of the following options the majority of authorities responding to the EO/LGPC select – see paragraph 73 below for further details)
 - *Option 1*
We are generally in favour of a second tier of un-enhanced ill health retirement benefits payable for life. We are not convinced of the equity of a review; or
 - *Option 2*
We are generally in favour of a second tier of un-enhanced ill health retirement benefits but believe these should only be payable for a limited period of time, say 2 years; or

- *Option 3*
We believe there should be no second tier of ill health retirement benefits. Instead, the member would be provided with a deferred pension and the employer could make a one off lump sum termination payment

- xvi. the death in service lump sum should be 3 times final pensionable pay and there should be no short term survivor pensions
- xvii. unless a child is disabled, a child's pension should cease at age 18
- xviii. we are supportive of the introduction of partner's pensions (particularly if, as seems likely, the other public sector schemes are moving towards their introduction) but we feel there are a number of equity issues surrounding the proposals contained in the Green Paper which need to be considered (see paragraph 67 below)
- xix. a surviving spouse's/partner's pension should not be reduced if there is a large age differential between the couple
- xx. transferring existing scheme members from the current Scheme to a new-look LGPS has merit, as all contributors would then be in a single Scheme, but only if the service conversion is workable, fair and equitable
- xxi. on the wider front, we see merit in there being one set of Scheme rules covering, for example, local government, teachers and the NHS
- xxii. any significant changes to the State pension arrangements following recommendations from the Pensions Commission in the Autumn of 2005 could have major implications for pension scheme design, not just for the LGPS, but for all pension schemes
- xxiii. we are in favour of revoking the current Compensation Regulations and replacing them with a general power for employers to make a one-off payment of up to 2 years pay

Report to Cabinet

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R W HUGHES, LEADER

DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2005

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To revoke the notice to withdraw from the Local Government Association, following the agreement between the WLGA and LGA on a new relationship between the two bodies.

2. Reason for Decision

2.1 The Cabinet agreed on 25 November 2003 to issue protective notice of withdrawal from the LGA that would take effect on 31 March 2005. This arose from the review in the relationship between the LGA and the WLGA which would better reflect the devolution settlement. In giving notice to the LGA, we indicated that we would consider revoking it if a new relationship between the WLGA and LGA was collectively agreed.

2.2 The WLGA has now successfully negotiated with the LGA a new relationship involving

- An autonomous association for Welsh authorities
- Special membership of the LGA with involvement in non devolved policy areas, including voting rights on the election of the chair
- Individual full membership of the LGA by Welsh local authorities should they choose (currently 20 authorities, including 3 fire authorities, have given a notice to quit the LGA but have indicated that they will reverse this decision should an amended relationship be negotiated)
- Representation on central bodies
- A service level agreement with the LGA for specific services. These would include corporate, policy development, lobbying, tracking Welsh Bills, joint work. Access to central government and sign posting
- There would be small additional capacity in Wales
- No increase in costs and no recovery of liabilities

2.3 The proposals were endorsed by the LGA executive on 27 May and confirmed at the meeting of the LGA's general Assembly on 15 December and by the WLGA's Coordinating committee on 17 December.

2.4 One consequence of the agreement is that the subscriptions from Welsh local government to the LGA will reduce by £119k. Some of this will be used to purchase non-SLA services such as payroll, members' database, access to member facilities at local government House, access to the information centre, and receipt of First magazine.

2.5 The WLGA Coordinating Committee has agreed that the remaining funding be reinvested in the WLGA in the following services:

- Wales-specific Westminster intelligence
- WLGA social services capacity including supporting councils in dealing with the next round of joint reviews
- Allowances scheme for certain WLGA postholders
- WLGA events
- Contingencies (future costs and liabilities e.g. office in Brussels).

3 Power to make the Decision

Section 143 of the Local Government Act 1972 (subscriptions to associations of local authorities).

4. Cost implications

4.1 Nil overall – the reduction in subscriptions for membership of the LGA would be offset by an increase in subscriptions to the WLGA. As part of the new relationship, the total amount would be paid to the WLGA which would then contract with the LGA.

5. Financial Controller Statement

The proposal does not increase the annual subscription due from Denbighshire, but enables the WLGA to expand its services and maintain important links with the LGA.

6. Consultation

None.

7. Impact on other policy areas

Access to some LGA services is important in respect of non-devolved areas such as benefits and in dealing with Bills that affect Wales.

8. Recommendation

8.1 To revoke the notice of withdrawal from the LGA.

Background papers: Report to Cabinet 25 November 2003
Report to WLGA Co-ordinating Committee 17 December 2004 about relationship with LGA

**CABINET, ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND DELEGATED DECISION
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12

MONTH	RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT	LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE	PERSONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
March 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital - C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C	Deposit LD Plan - Approval of Charges - C		Heather and Hillforts - C Urdd Eisteddfod Staging / Proposals / Programme - C Scala Development Study Progress Report - A	Improving Housing Stock - C Commissioning Strategy for Older People - C Extra Care Housing Developments in Prestatyn - C Payment for Skills - Fostering – C Social Care Workforce Development Plan - DD
April 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital - C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C Progress Against ACiW - C	Affordable Housing – C Public Transport Tender Exercise - C / D		Prestatyn Hillside Local Nature Reserve Designation - D Denbigh Museum Designation Feasibility - A	
May 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital - C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C Corporate Quarterly Performance Report - C	Affordable Housing – C		Youth Services Best Value Final Report – C Managing School Places: Publication of Formal Proposals - C	SSIW Adult Service Report / Action - C

KEY: C ~ CABINET
A ~ ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
D ~ DELEGATED DECISION

June 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				Emergency Duty Team - C
July 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				
August 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				
September 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C Customer Service Centre Update - C				
October 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C	Approve Deposit LD Plan for Public Consultation - D		Managing School Places: Decisions on Implementation of Changes - C	

KEY: C ~ CABINET
A ~ ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
D ~ DELEGATED DECISION

	Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				
November 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital – C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C	Approve Deposit LD Plan for Public Consultation - C		Managing School Places: Submission of Proposals to Ministe if there are objectionsr - C	
December 2005	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital - C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				
January 2006	Monthly Budget Monitoring Report: Revenue and Capital - C Housing Revenue Account Budget - C				

KEY: C ~ CABINET
A ~ ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
D ~ DELEGATED DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning

DATE: 22 February 2005

SUBJECT: Managing School Places

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To note the findings of the Managing School Places review
- 1.2 To note the main proposals within this report as measures to ensure the most efficient use of resources in Education that will improve the quality of provision and buildings and impact on performance
- 1.3 To authorise county officers to commence on a consultation exercise on the proposed 2 phase programme of rationalisation of primary school places as detailed in the Report
- 1.4 To authorise officers to continue with the review of Standard Number of Prestatyn area primary schools

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 Background and Update
 - 2.1.1 This report brings back the findings of the Managing School Places review in accordance with the decisions taken and criteria set by Cabinet in November 2002, September 2003 and January 2004. It includes specific proposals which seek to meet changing educational needs in Denbighshire and also the rationale which has been used in developing them. Members are reminded that the management of school places is not a static process and that 3 schools/sites have already closed: Nantglyn, Graianrhyd and St Winefride's, St Asaph as part of an ongoing consultative process.
 - 2.1.2 The main aims of the proposals are to ensure most efficient use of resources in Education to improve quality of provision and buildings and to impact on performance. It is also considered that the proposals will impact positively on equality of opportunity for all pupils.
 - 2.1.3 The proposals are concentrated on the primary school provision because of an imbalance in provision across the county which polarises around under-provision in the north and over-provision elsewhere in the county.
 - 2.1.4 The situation is not as urgent in the secondary sector although it is acknowledged that there are specific issues in some areas. The most prominent of these is the future sustainability of the Blessed Edward Jones

High School in Rhyl (Voluntary Aided), which is the subject of ongoing positive discussions with Diocesan Education officials.

- 2.1.5 Members will appreciate that the proposals require that they are founded on sound, objective principles. To this end the criteria listed below were agreed by Cabinet to provide the basis on which the review should be carried out. It should be noted that where two or more neighbouring schools are highlighted by the criteria, rather than make a judgement between them, it is proposed that both schools would cease to be maintained and a new school established to accommodate all pupils for fairness and consistency.
- 2.1.6 Members should be aware that Welsh Assembly Government Guidance Circular 23/02 School Organisation Proposals informs us that:

"Proposals for changes in the organisation of schools must be seen against the background of the WAG's commitment to drive up standards of teaching and attainment in all schools. LEAs...should bear in mind...in particular that the interests of learners should override all others...The Minister would not normally be prepared to approve closure of a popular and effective school...In the case of rural schools...the case for closure has to be robust and the proposals must be in the best interest of educational provision in the area."

The draft guidance issued in support of Circular 23/02 also states:

"The Minister must be convinced that in agreeing with an LEA proposal to close a school, the alternative proposed must be in the educational interests of the children of the area. The Minister is not normally in a position to approve proposals unless it can be demonstrated that the alternative provision will represent at least equivalent quality and diversity of education at a total lower cost."

2.1.7 Review Criteria

1. Pupil budget greater than 125% or less than 90% of the DCC average
2. Proximity of nearest Infant/Junior Schools is less than 0.5 mile
3. More than 25% of capacity spare, over 30 places unfilled
4. School building condition: cost per pupil as a % of DCC average
5. School occupancy exceeds 110% capacity
6. Access to Language-/Culture-/Denominational-specific provision in the county
7. Year groups: fewer than 8-10 pupils in any Primary year group, less than 80 pupils in a Secondary cohort
8. Community Impact/Future Sustainability: schools with fewer than 30 pupils on roll over a 3 yr period (Small School)
9. Headteacher has more than 50% timetabled teaching commitment
10. Transport journey-to-school times: 45mins primary, 60mins secondary

- 2.1.8 The assessment of schools against the quantitative criteria is summarised in Annex 1 Quantitative Criteria. This is the basis for including schools in the proposals for action – either as a school for proposed closure or as a school receiving pupils by transfer.

The inclusion or exclusion of schools has been further considered case by case under the qualitative criteria (6, 9 and 10 in the above list). Members should nonetheless be aware of the impact of the following proposals on communities and the Welsh language. It is anticipated that there will be considerable opposition from groups and bodies with particular interest in these and related matters.

2.2 First Phase – implementation date September 2006

- Cease to maintain Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, Llandyrnog and Ysgol Bodfari; accommodate pupils in a community primary school established in the existing premises at Llandyrnog
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Pantpastynog, Prion; pupils transfer to Ysgol Twm O'r Nant and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Heulfre and Ysgol Gwaenynog; accommodate pupils in an all-through primary school using the existing premises on the Gwaenynog site
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Rhewl; pupils transfer to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy; pupils transfer to Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Llantysilio; pupils transfer to Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl: pupils from Bryneglwys transfer to Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Corwen and Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern; pupils from Ysgol Llandegla transfer to Ysgol Bro Famau, Llanarmon and Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Carrog; pupils transfer to Ysgol Caer Drewyn

There is a separate proposal to establish a Welsh medium primary school on the same site as Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen with effect from September 2005. If this proposal is implemented, pupils transferring to Llangollen would be able to transfer to either school depending on parental choice and linguistic ability.

2.3 Second Phase – implementation when capital funding available

- Consequent on the establishment of a new Welsh Medium school in Ruthin as already contained in the approved School Organisation Plan:
 - Cease to maintain Ysgol Cyffylliog
 - Cease to maintain Ysgol Clocaenog
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Bodnant Infants and Ysgol Bodnant Junior and accommodate pupils in an all-through primary school
- Build new primary school in Rhyl

2.3.1 Members should note that funding has been secured for a new school in Prestatyn to be built in the period 2005 – 2008. This will require a 'rezoning' of catchment areas for all Prestatyn primary schools and possible revision of Standard Number for the present schools.

2.4 Members will be aware that a review of school places in the county has been in process for a significant time:

- District Audit recommendations: audit in 1997
- 98-2000: Statistical data collection procedures revised
- 11 point Action Plan based on July 2001 DA follow-up report
- School consultations held in Prestatyn, Rhyl, Ruthin & Llangollen Oct 2001
- Objective criteria for review agreed by Cabinet Nov 2002
- Cabinet Approval for consultation secured Sept 2003
- Project Manager Recruited & Appointed Nov 2003
- Consultation Events held Dec 2003 – July 2004
- Scenarios modelled Dec 2004

2.5 The need for a review is founded on several factors including:

- changes in the demographics of the county: robust pupil number projections generally along the coastal belt and falling rolls in many schools elsewhere in the county
- a need to demonstrate needs of all pupils in Denbighshire are being appropriately met
- making best use of resources available while providing high quality education

2.6 Further background information is available from previous Cabinet Reports, notably:

- 26th November 2002
- 25th September 2003
- 27th January 2004

2.7 The proposals seek to improve Education provision for learners in Denbighshire. There is a marked difference in Managing School Places across the county polarising around:

- too few places to meet demand in the schools in the north of the county, and
- schools in the rural hinterland having too few pupils living in the local vicinity

2.8 The average cost per pupil of primary education in terms of school funding allocation is much higher in some small rural schools compared with a relatively low allocation in much larger schools in more urban areas. See Annex 2 Budget Comparison (Part 2 Item due to privileged/commercially sensitive content) for a comparison of budgets for all schools. The range of cost per pupil is from £1820 to £6750 with the DCC average at £2550. (Members should note that this Annex uses Jan 04 PLASC figures for pupil numbers. Jan 05 figures will probably not be confirmed by WAG until May this year.)

Small schools often cannot provide sufficient interaction with peers to provide a balanced education – particularly impacting on learning (and recreational) activities which require interaction between learners: PE, Music, Drama, etc. but also in terms of curtailed group dynamics limiting social development and awareness of diversity of others.

Equitable access to specialist learning resources – equipment and services – can be difficult for small schools to achieve. Although there is anecdotal evidence of good cooperation and sharing between some schools, such instances are at best a compromise for learners.

- 2.9 Many school buildings are old and therefore costly to maintain – a persistent drain on financial resources. Furthermore, old buildings are not easily adapted to or upgradeable to keep pace with the demands of modern teaching and learning requirements, e.g. difficult to cable for ICT networks.

Some schools do not offer some important specialist accommodation, e.g. separate dining rooms/assembly halls/gym or games area or adequate office/administration/staffroom facilities. Some schools are particularly difficult to adapt in order to comply with the requirements of the Disability and Discrimination Act 1995

- 2.10 Old buildings are expensive to maintain and run. They tend to be thermally inefficient with draughty, single-glazed windows and high ceilings. Frequently they have suffered from inconsistent investment in past years leading to poor fabric condition and decorative order.

Annex 3 Maintenance Cost shows the Maintenance Cost per pupil per school as a yardstick measure using the results of a condition survey undertaken by independent surveyors in 2000. Whilst some progress has been made to address some of the improvements recommended in that survey, the lack of investment in other schools means that the overall position is unlikely to have improved across the county as other problems have arisen been added to the list of outstanding maintenance/improvement works. Members should note that the survey findings from 2000 are in the process of being updated.

- 2.11 Members need to take into account a number of issues arising from the proposals in this report. These are summarised as follows:

2.11.1 Capacity of Staff

It is anticipated that responses to the formal consultation are likely to run into significant numbers for each school affected. Presently there is not sufficient staff capacity to respond to large numbers of objections. If the proposals are approved, a business case for additional staff to undertake the implementation of any approved proposals may need to be developed as a matter of priority. The sufficiency of resource to deal with consultation responses will have a direct impact on the ability to implement within timescale.

Given the potential impact of the proposed programme of change, it is important that implementation is led by the Corporate Director including an appropriate public and media profile and attendance at consultation meetings, supported by appropriate Education Management Team colleagues.

2.11.2 Communication and PR

Given the sensitivities and controversy which may arise as a result of any approval given to the above proposals, there is an imperative requirement to communicate any plans in an open, consultative, considered and controlled manner. The scale of this will place heavy demands on service personnel. There are several diverse protocols to observe which cannot be circumvented but which arise from requirements outlined in 2.9.3 and 2.9.4. Members will wish to consider requesting a PR strategy and schedule for release of information and enquiry response handling. It may also be beneficial for Members to take the opportunity to learn from the experience of Members and officers of other Authorities in Wales who have been through the process of ceasing to maintain schools.

2.11.3 Consultation

In its Follow up Report on Managing School Places, dated 11 October 2002, District Audit noted in its Main Conclusions that “The Authority has made very good progress on implementing the recommendations” and “The consultative approach taken with schools and other partners is commendable.” It is considered important that this principle continues to be upheld.

The two stage consultation plan approved by Cabinet for the MSP review has concluded the first stage with the presentation of the above proposals to Members. The second stage is to take the approved proposals back to the relevant stakeholders prior to publication of statutory notices.

Parties for consultation would include:

- Diocesan Authorities
- Trade Unions – teaching and other staff
- All affected (neighbouring) schools
- Neighbouring Education Authorities
- DCC Admissions Forum
- Denbighshire Headteachers’ Association
- Governors
- School Staff
- Parents
- Wider Community Stakeholders

After the period of consultation on the proposals, statutory notices are prepared and published. There is no further negotiation/consultation on the proposals – only objections.

2.11.4 Statutory Notices

In order to effect any changes in education provision, statutory notices will need to be published *for each school affected*. There is a prescribed period for objections, enquiries and responses to be submitted to DCC. Officers must respond to each of these – usually individually. The Welsh Assembly Government scrutinise carefully the responses given by the authority and only when satisfied that they have been dealt with appropriately will a decision on the proposals be sought from the Minister. The minimum expected timescale for completing this part of the formal process is 6 months following the Notices response period. Any outstanding objection will cause the ministerial decision process to be delayed and the timescale for implementation extended. Annex 5 is taken from draft guidance supporting the Welsh Assembly Government Circular School Organisations Proposals 23/02 and shows the potential timescale for formal processes to be completed once Cabinet approval to proceed has been secured. Members should be aware that any objections or late decision by WAG will cause the proposed September 2006 implementation date to be missed.

2.11.5 Information Sharing

The statutory processes require comprehensive information to be made available in support of the consultation process. WAG will test to ensure that information has been made available and has been readily accessible by all parties. Precise details to be made available include:

- what is planned
- to whom it should be communicated
- specific details of the changes including pupil age groups, language medium, pupil numbers, location, etc.
- the proposed date of implementation

It is proposed to develop a publication scheme for each course of action approved by Members. Information will be made available through normal channels including, as appropriate, libraries, schools, public notice boards, County Voice, Denbighshire Website and the local press.

2.11.6 Capital Investment

It will not be possible to implement the First Stage proposals without some capital investment at schools receiving additional pupils:

- Ysgol Gwaenynog site: 4 classrooms and additional toilets
- Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr: 1 classroom
- Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Corwen: 2 classrooms
- Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern: 1 classroom

Second Phase proposals (new build schools) will require significant funding to be made available for:

- New Welsh Medium school, Ruthin

- Relocation of Bodnant Infants
- New school, Rhyl

Further detail included at section 4 Cost Implications and Appendix 1(Part 2 Item due to privileged/commercially sensitive content). Members should note that capital investment in the above requirements for Phase 1 would, by necessity, precede any potential capital receipts arising from disposal of vacated sites.

Works to undertake the schemes in the first phase need to commence towards the end of 2005/06. The majority of costs will be incurred in 2006/07 to enable completion to be achieved by September 2006. Phase 2 works would commence when sufficient resources are available.

Council at its meeting of 8 February considered its strategy options for the development of the Council's Capital Plan over the period 2005/06 to 2007/08. Whilst resources are expected to be available to fund Phase 1 works in 2006/07, it must be recognised that there are other demands for capital investment across the council's services. Resources Scrutiny Committee is to be asked to continue the development of a prioritisation methodology which will be used to determine whether schemes are to be included in the Capital Plan.

The availability of capital resources to undertake Phase 2 works will be largely governed by the strategy adopted by Council in relation to Council Tax setting for future years. The prioritisation methodology will be used to determine the content of the Capital Plan.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

The Managing School Places review is undertaken in accordance with guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1732 Education Wales – The Education (School Organisation Plans) (Wales) Regulations 2003 which refers to Section 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The power to commence the consultation procedure is contained within section 29 of the School Standards and framework act 1998 and the relevant regulations are Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) 1999 as amended. These are Cabinet functions.

Following completion of consultations, it will in effect fall to Council to agree the issue of statutory notices, because approval of the School Organisation Plan is a function of the Council. The closure, merger and opening of schools, other than those already contained in the School Organisation Plan, would require amendments to that Plan.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Priorities & Principles

The review has proceeded according to the following priorities. It is appropriate then that the financial implications are considered in this context:

- Any consequential savings will be reinvested in Education, i.e. revenue savings will be reallocated to school budgets and capital receipts will contribute towards the investment required in school premises
- Unfilled, potentially surplus primary school places are identified and rationalised
- Insufficient primary school places are addressed as a matter of urgency through new schools as soon as funding is made available
- Pressures in secondary schools are addressed as the next priority

4.2 Financial Considerations

4.2.1 Staffing

Members should be aware that it is not possible to redeploy Headteachers as they are appointed by Governors to serve a specific school. Therefore, Headteachers of schools to be closed will be nominated for redundancy. It is not prudent to make assumptions about who might successfully apply for the headship of any new school opening as a consequence of other schools merging. Consequently, the worst case scenario of all Headteachers being entitled to redundancy payment in line with their terms and conditions indicates that a sum of £197,000 would need to be found in order to effect the proposed closures.

While it may be possible to redeploy some other school staff, a similar worst case scenario has been modelled at a potential cost of £243,000 giving a potential total of £440,000 related to severance of staff. While schools receiving pupils from a closed school may require additional staff, this is a budget matter and has been reflected in the financial modelling. In order to model potential net gains/costs of the proposals, it is important that a consistent approach is taken. In reality, it would be expected that there would be some redeployment of staff affected by school closures. Members are advised that any employee who successfully secures another post immediately with us or another council or employer covered by the Modification Order would not be entitled to fully retain any redundancy payment.

4.2.2 Other School Budget Issues

Staffing is the most costly area of expenditure in a school budget. There will be saving realised as a result of closures – particularly in other revenue cost areas – utilities, maintenance and, perhaps in some cases, catering and transport. It is anticipated that the net outturn will not be significant on a global scale in light of the education budget and that transport costs will probably rise as a result of needing to transport pupils to an alternative school.

4.2.3 Transport costs

Clear policy guidelines are needed here as the issues are complex, and any precedents are likely to endure for some years along with associated additional costs.

In modelling the additional cost of transporting transferred pupils, it is only possible to use an imprecise figure of 'daily cost per pupil transported'. This figure has been calculated from the annual home-school transport expenditure, the number of pupils transported in the year and the number of school days per year. This figure has been applied to the pupil numbers of each school in the proposal. The precision of the figure is further diminished by several variables and 'unknowns' which come to bear, i.e. parental choice of school, eventual numbers of pupils travelling, determination of appropriate routes and appropriate size of vehicle, etc.

The above calculation would indicate an additional cost of some £195,500 per year. The unreliability of this figure would render it invalid for financial planning but may serve to indicate an 'order of magnitude' at best. It should therefore be treated with caution. A sensitivity consideration by specialist officers indicates that a more realistic figure would be £270,960 for Phase 1 – but caution is again advised due to the complexity of variables about which assumptions have been made when calculating this.

4.2.4 Financial Summary

The sheets at Appendix 1 (Part 2 Item due to privileged/commercially sensitive content) summarise potential costs and savings as revenue and capital sums. Detailed site valuations, including assumptions, are included in Annex 4 Site Valuations (Part 2 Item due to privileged/commercially sensitive content).

Revenue Savings

The projections in Appendix 1 (Part 2 Item due to privileged/commercially sensitive content) indicate:

- a possible gross saving of some £582,000 in schools' actual costs offset by additional transport costs currently estimated at £195,500 producing a net saving of £387,000
- this equates to an increase in the DCC average allocation per pupil of some £52.

Members should note that there will be some savings on building maintenance on sites that close and are disposed of. However, until disposal there will be an ongoing need for protective maintenance of the properties.

If Phase 1 is implemented as proposed:

- the range of cost per pupil will be between £1820 and £3450 (as compared to £1820 to £6750) in Section 2.6 above with the exception

of the two small schools included in Phase 2 which cost £5680 and £5100 per pupil – and have a total of 45 pupils between them

- The number of schools exceeding the DCC average cost per pupil by 25% reduces from 15 schools to 7

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The final agreed proposals will need to be accommodated within the Council's 3 year Capital Programme, highlighting funding opportunities such as a potential revenue budget saving to support Prudential Borrowing for the resulting works.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Extensive consultation has been a feature of the Managing School Places review. In summary, the consultation schedule included:

Date	Venue	Parties Consulted
October 2001	Rhyl, Prestatyn, Denbigh, Llangollen	Schools – Heads and Chairs of Governors
December 2003	Denbigh High School	Denbigh Area Schools Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
January 2004	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee	Scrutiny Members
February 2004	Denbigh High School	Denbigh Area Schools Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
February 2004	Brynhyfryd, Ruthin	Ruthin Denbigh Rural Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
March 2004	Denbigh High School	Ruthin Denbigh Rural Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
March 2004	Caledfryn	Informal meeting with Members and Leader to discuss scope of review, etc.
March 2004	Ysgol Rhewl	Governors & Parents
		Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
April 2004	Brynhyfryd	Ruthin Denbigh rural Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
June 2004	Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Corwen	South of County Rural Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
June 2004	Ysgol Llywelyn, Rhyl	Rhyl Area Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community
June 2004	Ysgol Penmorfa, Prestatyn	Prestatyn Area Schools: Staff, Governors, Parents, wider community

In addition there have been many project team meetings involving senior staff from the Lifelong Learning Directorate to discuss the development of the review and consider at length the feed back from each consultation event. The proposals presented herein have, consequently, been developed with due regard to the views, concerns and ideas expressed in the Stage1a Consultation process.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The MSP review will impact upon the following policy developments:

- UDP 1996 - 2011
- Development of the DCC Capital Programme
- Transport Policy Review – WAG/DCC
- Welsh Education Scheme – WLB/DCC
- Foundation Stage Changes - WAG
- Disability Discrimination Act - WAG/National
- Asset Management Plans - DCC
 - Corporate
 - Directorate
- Admissions Policy - DCC
- Education Strategic Plan 2002 – 2005 - DCC
- School Organisation Plan 2003 – 2006 - DCC
- School Building Improvement Grants 2005 – 2010 - WAG
- Community Learning Resource 2003 - 2006 - ELWa

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Members are recommended:

8.1.1 To note the findings of the Managing School Places review

8.1.2 To note the main proposals within this report as measures to ensure the most efficient use of resources in Education that will improve the quality of provision and buildings and impact on performance

8.1.3 To authorise county officers to commence on a consultation exercise on the proposed 2 phase programme of rationalisation of primary school places as follows:

First Phase – implementation date September 2006

- Cease to maintain Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, Llandyrnog and Ysgol Bodfari; accommodate pupils in a community primary school established in the existing premises at Llandyrnog
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Pantpastynog, Prion; pupils transfer to Ysgol Twm O'r Nant and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr

- Cease to maintain Ysgol Heulfre and Ysgol Gwaenynog; accommodate pupils in an all-through primary school using the existing premises on the Gwaenynog site
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Rhewl; pupils transfer to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy; pupils transfer to Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Llantysilio; pupils transfer to Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl: pupils from Bryneglwys transfer to Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Corwen and Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern; pupils from Ysgol Llandegla transfer to Ysgol Bro Famau, Llanarmon and Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Carrog; pupils transfer to Ysgol Caer Drewyn

Second Phase – implementation when capital funding available

- Consequent on the establishment of a new Welsh Medium school in Ruthin as already contained in the approved School Organisation Plan:
 - Cease to maintain Ysgol Cyffylliog
 - Cease to maintain Ysgol Clocaenog
- Cease to maintain Ysgol Bodnant Infants and Ysgol Bodnant Junior and accommodate pupils in an all-through primary school
- Build new primary school in Rhyl

8.1.4 To authorise officers to continue with the review of Standard Number of Prestatyn area primary schools

Annexe 1: Quantitative Criteria

School / Criteria	Pupil budget greater than 125% of the DCC average	Pupil budget less than 90% of DCC average	More than 25% of capacity spare, over 30 places unfilled	School occupancy exceeds 110% capacity	School building condition: cost per pupil as a % of DCC average	Year groups: fewer than 10 pupils in any Primary year group	Sustainability: schools with fewer than 30 pupils on roll over a 3 yr	Proximity of nearest Infant/Junior Schools is less than 0.5 mile	No. of Criteria met
Cyffylliog C P	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		5
Prion V P	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		5
Rhewl C P	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		5
Carrog C P	✓		✓		✓	✓			4
Clocaenog C P	✓				✓	✓	✓		4
Denbigh, Ysgol Gwaenynog	✓		✓		✓			✓	4
Glyndyfrdwy C P	✓				✓	✓	✓		4
Gwyddelwern C P	✓			✓	✓	✓			4
Llanarmon Yn Iâl & Llanferres CP	✓		✓		✓	✓			4
Llandyrnog C P	✓		✓		✓	✓			4
Bodfari C P	✓		✓			✓			3
Bryneglwys V P & Llandegla V P	✓		✓			✓			3
Llantysilio V P	✓			✓		✓			3
Pentrecelyn C P			✓		✓	✓			3
Prestatyn Bodnant Juniors		✓		✓				✓	3
Trefnant V P Controlled				✓	✓	✓			3
Betws Gwerfil Goch C P					✓	✓			2
Cefn Meiriadog C P					✓	✓			2
Denbigh, Ysgol Frongoch		✓						✓	2
Denbigh, Ysgol Heulfre			✓					✓	2

School / Criteria	Pupil budget greater than 125% of the DCC average	Pupil budget less than 90% of DCC average	More than 25% of capacity spare, over 30 places unfilled	School occupancy exceeds 110% capacity	School building condition: cost per pupil as a % of DCC average	Year groups: fewer than 10 pupils in any Primary year group	Sustainability: schools with fewer than 30 pupils on roll over a 3 yr	Proximity of nearest Infant/Junior Schools is less than 0.5 mile	No. of Criteria met
Llanbedr D C			✓			✓			2
Llandrillo C P					✓	✓			2
Llanfair D C controlled	✓					✓			2
Llanrhaeadr C P	✓					✓			2
Meliden C P			✓		✓				2
Prestatyn Bodnant Infants				✓			✓		2
Prestatyn Penmorfa		✓		✓					2
Rhyl, Llewelyn C P		✓			✓				2
Rhyl, Ysgol Mair R C		✓	✓						2
St Asaph Ysgol Esgob Morgan		✓					✓		2
Tremeirchion V P Controlled			✓			✓			2
Denbigh, St Brigids		✓		✓					2
Corwen C P						✓			1
Cynwyd C P						✓			1
Denbigh, Ysgol Y Parc							✓		1
Denbigh, Ysgol Twm o'r Nant			✓						1
Gellifor C P						✓			1
Henllan C P						✓			1
Rhuddlan C P					✓				1
Rhyl, Ysgol Bryn Hedydd		✓							1
Rhyl, Christchurch					✓				1

School / Criteria	Pupil budget greater than 125% of the DCC average	Pupil budget less than 90% of DCC average	More than 25% of capacity spare, over 30 places unfilled	School occupancy exceeds 110% capacity	School building condition: cost per pupil as a % of DCC average	Year groups: fewer than 10 pupils in any Primary year group	Sustainability: schools with fewer than 30 pupils on roll over a 3 yr	Proximity of nearest Infant/Junior Schools is less than 0.5 mile	No. of Criteria met
Rhyl, Ysgol Dewi Sant		✓						1	
Ruthin, Borthyn Controlled			✓					1	
St Asaph Infants Controlled							✓	1	
Bodelwyddan C P								0	
Dyserth Hiraddug C P								0	
Llangollen C P								0	
Prestatyn Ysgol Y Llys								0	
Rhyl, Emmanuel								0	
Ruthin, Rhos Street								0	
Ruthin, Ysgol Pen Barras								0	

Schools meeting 3 or more of the above criteria have become the focus of the review. For 'borderline' schools (meeting 2 or 3 criteria), the value and nature of the relevant quantitative criteria has been considered in comparison with county averages. For example, a school may exceed its capacity by more than 10% but have a relatively low maintenance cost per pupil. Specific knowledge of the condition of premises may also have a bearing on potential plans for a particular school.

Annex 3: Maintenance Costs

School	Cost per school in 2000	Cost per pupil Jan 03	% DCC Average
Bryn Clwyd	£ 185,000.00	£ 7,708.33	669%
Bro Famau			
Llanarmon	£ 241,000.00	£ 6,179.49	536%
Cyffylliog	£ 57,000.00	£ 3,352.94	291%
Glyndyfrdwy	£ 89,000.00	£ 3,296.30	286%
Rhewl	£ 101,000.00	£ 3,060.61	266%
St Winefride's R.C.**	£ 105,000.00	£ 2,837.84	246%
Cefn Meiriadog	£ 103,000.00	£ 2,340.91	203%
Llandrillo	£ 106,000.00	£ 2,208.33	192%
Bro Elwern	£ 96,000.00	£ 2,086.96	181%
Christchurch	£ 801,000.00	£ 2,069.77	180%
Melyd	£ 212,000.00	£ 2,058.25	179%
Pantpastynog			
Prion	£ 51,000.00	£ 2,040.00	177%
Trefnant	£ 91,000.00	£ 1,716.98	149%
Clocaenog	£ 55,000.00	£ 1,666.67	145%
Carrog	£ 71,000.00	£ 1,613.64	140%
Llywelyn	£1,032,000.00	£ 1,600.00	139%
Gwaenynog (i)	£ 129,000.00	£ 1,573.17	137%
Y Castell	£ 294,000.00	£ 1,462.69	127%
Betws Gwerfil			
Goch	£ 61,000.00	£ 1,452.38	126%
Maes Hyfryd	£ 84,000.00	£ 1,423.73	124%
Pentrecelyn	£ 90,000.00	£ 1,406.25	122%
Llanfair D.C.	£ 82,000.00	£ 1,389.83	121%
Dyffryn Ial	£ 74,000.00	£ 1,370.37	119%
Gellifor	£ 114,000.00	£ 1,310.34	114%
Penbarras	£ 249,000.00	£ 1,303.66	113%
Y Llys	£ 273,000.00	£ 1,287.74	112%
Rhos Street	£ 242,000.00	£ 1,287.23	112%
Bodfari	£ 54,000.00	£ 1,285.71	112%
Llantysilio	£ 42,000.00	£ 1,272.73	110%
St. Asaph V.P.	£ 142,000.00	£ 1,256.64	109%
Dewi Sant	£ 434,000.00	£ 1,215.69	106%
Bro Famau			
Llanferres	£ 70,000.00	£ 1,186.44	103%
Bodnant (I)	£ 288,000.00	£ 1,180.33	102%
Twm o'r Nant	£ 271,000.00	£ 1,178.26	102%
Hiraddug	£ 216,000.00	£ 1,148.94	100%
Tremeirchion	£ 60,000.00	£ 1,132.08	98%
Heulfre (j)	£ 107,000.00	£ 1,091.84	95%
Emmanuel	£ 401,000.00	£ 995.04	86%
Y Faenol	£ 111,000.00	£ 917.36	80%
Caer Drewyn	£ 110,000.00	£ 909.09	79%
Llanbedr	£ 59,000.00	£ 907.69	79%

Frongoch (j)	£ 210,000.00	£	901.29	78%
Bro Cinmeirch	£ 33,000.00	£	891.89	77%
Y Parc (i)	£ 123,000.00	£	773.58	67%
Bodnant (J)	£ 223,000.00	£	733.55	64%
Bryn Hedydd	£ 262,000.00	£	620.85	54%
Borthyn	£ 74,000.00	£	556.39	48%
Mair R.C.	£ 211,000.00	£	553.81	48%
Bryn Collen	£ 124,000.00	£	475.10	41%
Penmorfa	£ 297,000.00	£	471.43	41%
Esgob Morgan (J)	£ 64,000.00	£	429.53	37%
Henllan	£ 30,000.00	£	329.67	29%
St Brigid's (Primary)	£ -	£	-	0%
DCC Average	£9,104,000.00	£	1,151.82	

** St Winefride's closed Aug 2004

The following outlines the process of consulting and publishing notices. Please note that proposals may require longer for processing by WAG than indicated here:

Step	Action/Event	Expected Duration	Target Date	Comment
1	Review of School Places	3 – 9 Months	Dec 2004	Includes Consultation Meetings – up to July 2004
2	LEA/Promoters approve consultation on options for area X	1 – 2 Months depending on who takes decision	February 2005	2 preferred options identified (WAG words!)
3	Relevant Parties provided with summary document outlining 2 options and invited to meeting – option to respond in writing (within 6 weeks) issued		March & April 2005	
4	Meeting Held. Summary Document available at meeting. Views Exchanged. Invitation issued for written views to be submitted. (within e.g. 4 weeks)	Steps 3 & 4 may take 6 – 8 weeks	March April 2005	
5	LEA/ Promoters consider responses to consultation following closing date. Preferred option decided upon in light of views expressed. Decision taken to publish proposals. Schedule 4 information prepared for submission to Assembly	4 weeks depending on urgency	May 2005	If new option emerges during consultation which LEA/Promoters wish to consider, the Steps 2-5 are repeated
6	Proposals published giving opportunity for statutory objections. Published notice and Schedule 4 information submitted to the Assembly	2 Months	June/July 2005	School Holidays to be avoided!!!
7a	If NO Objections are received, and proposal not called in for decision, LEA/Promoters determine proposals	2 Months	October 2005	
7b	In the case of objections, LEA collates objections, responds and submits to Assembly for determination. For other proposals, Assembly collates objections and requests promoters' comments	1 Month	November 2005	
8	Minister for Education determines proposals	3 Months	February 2006	

Post Feb 2006 – Preparation of Formal Statutory Staff Consultation (and possible issuing of redundancy notices) to take effect 31 August 2006

MSP Cabinet Report Jan/Feb 2005

Annex 5 – Indicative timescales – Key dates for DCC – Assuming NO delays or need for re-consultation on revised proposals

Item	Date/timeframe	Action	Who Involved	Comment
i	4 Feb 05	Pre-release briefing meetings PR and Communications plan	Officers, Deputy Leader Lead Member LL	09.00 hrs – Trem Clwyd
ii	9 Feb	Pre-release Briefing – Diocesan Education Officers	RC & CiW Diocesan Officers, DCC Officers	14.00 hrs – County Hall
iii	11 Feb	Pre-release Briefing – Unions DTJNC & LLJCC	Officers and Union Reps (DTJNC/LLJCC members)	09:15 hrs Conf Rm 3 County Hall
iv	11 Feb	Pre-release Briefing Schools	Heads, (Chairs of Govs), Officers,	11.00 a.m. Ysgol Twm O'r Nant
v	11 Feb	Pre-release Briefing – AMs, MPs and MEPs	Denbighshire AMs, MPs and MEPs, DCC Officers Leader/Deputy/Lead Member LL	12.30 – 13.30 Conf Rm 1 County Hall
vi	11 Feb	Pre-release Briefing – DCC Elected Members & LL Scrutiny	At Elected Members and LL Scrutiny Co-opted members	14:00 Conf. Rm 1, County Hall
vii	15 Feb	Press Briefing	Local Press, DCC Officers Leader/Deputy/Lead Member LL	15:00 County Hall Ruthin
1	22 Feb	Proposal presented to Cabinet: Approval to proceed with Consultation	Lead Members, Officers	Decision will enable forward planning to be firmed up
2	Post 22 Feb	Feedback MSP findings to Key stakeholders & Cabinet's view (Newsletter)	Lead Member LL/Officers	This concludes the agreed 2 stage consultation process for MSP – i.e. is Stage 2

MSP Cabinet Report Jan/Feb 2005

Annex 5 – Indicative timescales – Key dates for DCC – Assuming NO delays or need for re-consultation on revised proposals

Item	Date/timeframe	Action	Who Involved	Comment
3	Feb - Mar	Consultation Documents Prepared	Officers *Resource implication as para2.11 in the MSP report	One required for each scenario approved by Cabinet. Each document requires clear proposals, rationale and detailed background information.
4	29 Mar (Latest)	Cabinet or Lead Member approve Consultation Documents and authorise progression to formal consultation	Lead Member(s), Officers	Consultation documents need to be 'signed off' prior to publication/release into public domain
5	Mar -Apr	Consultation Documents shared with key stakeholders	Key stakeholders, Members, Officers	Consulted parties have 6 wks to respond to consultation documents in writing
6	April – May	Meetings held – Consultation documents presented	Local Community & Stakeholders	Written responses to Consultation Document invited (4 wks)
7	May	Consideration of consultation responses.	Lead Member LL, Officers	If new options emerge, re-consultation is necessary!
8	24 May (latest)	Formal proposals prepared, and approval sought to publish (Statutory Notices) "Schedule 4" information prepared for submission to WAG	Cabinet/Lead Member LL, Officers	
9	June/July	Statutory Notices Published & submitted to WAG with Sched 4 info	DCC, Community & Stakeholders	2 months for statutory objections to be raised – School holidays to be avoided!
10	Oct	If NO objections, DCC determine proposals	Full Council/Cabinet/ Lead Member LL	LL to be advised about who makes final decision (IH/NG).
11	Nov	If objections received, DCC collate, respond and submit to WAG for determination	Full Council/Cabinet/ Lead Member LL /Officers, WAG	
12	Feb 2006	Minister determines proposals	WAG	WAG try to work to 3 months turn-around – often takes longer!

Item	Date/timeframe	Action	Who Involved	Comment
13	By Easter 2006 (Latest)	Statutory consultation with staff	DCC, Unions, Staff	Easter deadline is critical to Sept 2006 implementation.

The above schedule will also need to dovetail with the capital planning and building schedule required to implement Phase 1 proposals.

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT BY: Chief Executive
DATE: 22 February 2005
SUBJECT: Restructuring and Retirement Costs

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the completion of the restructuring of the Chief Executive's Department, approve the costs associated with the restructuring and early retirements and note the next steps in developing area partnerships / area working.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Restructuring

On 2 November 2004 the proposed restructuring of the Chief Executive's Department and County Clerk's Department was announced. This arose as a result of the need to align the resources within the Chief Executive's team with corporate responsibilities, reduce overheads associated with supporting area partnerships and take advantage of the opportunities for rationalisation following the relocation of the legal and administrative team in Ruthin.

Following the completion of the consultation on 1 December 2004, the following changes were implemented:

Function	Transferred to
Emergency Planning Team	Environment
Crime and Disorder Team	Environment
Social Inclusion	Personal Services
Children and Young People Partnership	Personal Services
Strategic Policy Unit (including Area Partnerships)	Resources
Cabinet Support	Resources
Equalities Unit	Lifelong Learning
Public Relations	Lifelong Learning

These changes came into effect on 1 February 2005

The consultation on area partnerships did not provide a clear or consistent response. As a consequence further work is required and this is covered in 2.3.

2.2 Costs and Savings of Restructuring and Early Retirement

As a consequence of these changes, the Corporate Services Manager, Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy and Principal Policy Officer left the organisation at the end of January 2005. Two area partnership managers who did not find roles in the Strategic Policy Unit have subsequently found jobs in other directorates.

In addition, the Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning took early retirement with effect from 30 November 2004.

As reported to Council on 8 February 2005, the total additional cost to be incurred by the Council as a consequence of these four departures is £301k, covering Pension Fund Strain,

Redundancy payments and Added Years Lump Sum Payments. As indicated at Council, costs in relation to the former Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning were the lowest of these costs. The three other staff held less senior positions within the Authority.

It must be emphasised that the costs quoted above relate to the financial impact to the Council, and are not the same as the financial settlements that the individual will receive.

As previously indicated it is proposed that as much of the costs as possible are incurred in 2004/05 although regulations allow costs to be covered over a three year period. Costs will broadly break even in 2005/06 and 2006/07 but by 2008/09 annual savings will be generated (even after allowing for efficiency savings). These figures allow for a provision of £40k for recruitment costs.

On an ongoing basis there are Added Years Pension payments of £12k per annum in total to be made for all four staff involved. More detailed information will be provided in Part II.

The Cabinet agreed the decision to enter into an Agreement with the former Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning on 2 November 2004. The report at that time did not give the precise costs for the reasons detailed in the report and these reasons remain valid. In line with the information given to Council on 8 February 2005, it can be confirmed that the total one-off costs in relation to the former Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning were less than £75k.

The implication of the restructuring and early retirement decisions have been discussed with the Audit Commission on an ongoing basis. This report formalises all the decisions that have been taken as well as detailing the financial decisions.

2.3 Area partnerships and Area working

The consultation on Area Partnerships proved inconclusive. As a consequence the APs will continue to be supported albeit at a reduced level until a further consultation is undertaken in line with the decision taken at Council in December 2004. The Lead Member for Communities will shortly restart the consultation process firstly seeking the views of all Members.

David Davies will support the Prestatyn and South APs whilst Hannah Griffin will support the Central and Rhyl APs.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (Appointment of Staff) and Superannuation Act 1972 (Provision of Pensions) together with regulations made thereunder.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost implications of the restructuring proposals are covered in 2.2 above.

Further details about the adjustments to Directorate Budgets as a result of the restructuring of the Chief Executive's Department will be provided at the Council meeting on 24 February 2005. It will have no impact on the overall budget for 2005/06.

It is not considered that there are any financial implications arising directly from this paper.

It could be however that a significant shift towards area working could result in changes in financial structures and responsibilities.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The costs falling in 2004/05 will be funded from savings in the corporate budget for capital financing charges resulting from the slippage in capital payments in 2005/06 and in later years will be funded from ongoing savings resulting from the restructure.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The restructuring proposals have already been consulted upon extensively.

Certain aspects revolving around Area Partnerships and their future roles remain to be clarified and will be the subject of further consultation.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The changes to the Chief Executive's Department in particular have had a significant impact on the corporate responsibilities within the authority, with each Directorate picking up additional responsibilities.

The proposals are consistent with the recommendations within the Corporate Improvement Assessment that the senior management team needs to focus on more strategic and operational issues.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 To note the completion of the Chief Executive's department restructuring

8.2 To approve the restructuring and early retirement costs incurred, as detailed in section 2.2

8.3 To note the changes to Directorate Budgets as a result of the restructuring will be tabled at the Council meeting on 24 February 2005, as part of the finalisation of the budget process

8.4 To note the forthcoming consultation on the future of Area Partnerships, including discussions on the possibility of area based delivery.