

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Tuesday 21 March 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Business & Communications; P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Communities; R W Hughes, Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration; M A German, Lead Member for Children and Young People; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Finance and Personnel; D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; 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 J R Bartley; M Li Davies; G C Evans; D Hannam; K N Hawkins; C L Hughes; G A Jones and D A J Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources, Legal Services Manager and the Financial Controller.

APOLOGIES

County Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor R W Hughes welcomed the Head of Sixth Form and 3 members of Prestatyn School Council to the meeting.

Councillor S Roberts reported that the Heather and Hillforts Project has won a medal in the Europa Nostra European Cultural Heritage Awards, which is recognition on a European scale of the value of the project.

1 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 February 2006 were submitted.

Announcement: Councillor R W Hughes reported that Denbighshire had not been successful in the Excellence Wales Awards this year but participating in the event would prove to be a good benchmark for the future.

Item 3 Monitoring the Authority's Key Performance Indicators:
Homelessness [page 4] - Councillor P A Dobb asked that "lowest" be deleted from the last line of the paragraph.

Item 5 Accountability Arrangements - Local Health Board: Councillor P A Dobb referred to the provision of out of hours prescriptions raised by Councillor M LI Davies, and advised that out of hours chemists were on a rota so pharmacy provision would not always be in Prestatyn or Colwyn Bay.

Item 6 Response to the Current Consultation on the Local Government Pension Scheme:

The Chief Executive referred to officers of the Fire Service being able to retain the right to retire at age 50 and the anomaly that Local Government employees would not be able to have the same rights.

Councillor P J Marfleet said that the sixth paragraph should read "... Between teachers and other local government employees, and asked as to how"

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

PRESENTATION: NORTH WALES SECONDARY CARE REVIEW

Members received a presentation from Andrew Butters, Project Director, North East Wales NHS Trust. Mr Butters was accompanied by Mr Gren Kershaw, Chief Executive of the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust. [A copy of the presentation slide has been sent to all Members.]

Mr Butters' presentation, entitled "Designed for North Wales" covered the Consultation Document, with the formal consultation process beginning in April 2006. A national review on secondary care services was taking place and a service fit for the next 20 years was required. The reasons for changes to the present service provision, the service vision, information on both acute and satellite sites were given. The Reasons for Change were two fold - an evolutionary change which highlighted population projections and NHS challenges. Mr Butters said the over 65 population would increase by 40% over the next 20 years which would lead to more demands on the Health Service.

It was important to manage long term conditions in the community whenever possible and to reduce hospital admissions and lengths of hospital stays. These could be achieved through local diagnostic and followup clinics or centralising some specialist services. Five options had been put forward and it was felt that North Wales would be best served by consolidating specialist services on 3 major sites, namely Bangor, Bodelwyddan and Wrexham.

Councillor P A Dobb referred to a meeting of the Local Health Board she had attended along with the Chair of Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing where concern had been registered regarding the need for further significant work on the implications of

the proposals for primary care, social care, financial strategy and the sequencing of the implementation. The document did not outline the consequences to the Authority on service provision and what it would mean to the community in the number of beds lost for example. Mr Butters said he had attended the same meeting and had taken on board the concerns raised.

Councillor E C Edwards said his Ward had one of the best community hospitals in Wales - Ruthin - and he was concerned regarding the future of all community hospitals. He was pleased the Authority had been included in the consultation at an early stage and supported the Lead Member and Corporate Director in their work on this issue.

Mr Kershaw informed Members that a significant thrust of the secondary care for the next 20 years was the main hospitals. It was possible community hospitals could be affected by the secondary care review and the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust were considering provision at community hospitals.

Councillor S A Davies echoed the concerns expressed for community hospitals and also the financial issues which would have an effect on the services the Local Authority would possibly have to provide as a result of this Review. Councillor R W Hughes said a letter had been sent to Dr Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Assembly outlining concerns regarding service provision and financial issues. It was essential that the consultation addressed the 'end use' of the services.

Councillor D Hannam outlined her concerns regarding access to services and sites and felt that the NHS was not providing adequate services for the elderly in its current format, particularly in regard to district nursing provision. Mr Kershaw responded that waiting times were shorter and were being targeted to come down even further. He was not aware of any cuts in district nursing services. In response to a query from Councillor M LI Davies, Mr Kershaw said it was hoped to take on extra land adjacent to Glan Clwyd Hospital but the land could not all be used for car parking and travel plans / public transport provision were under consideration.

Councillor R W Hughes thanked Mr Butters and Mr Kershaw for the presentation and the opportunity for discussing the Review.

3 BEYOND AREA PARTNERSHIPS

Councillor E C Edwards presented the report seeking approval to the recommendations identified in the report relating to the future support of Area Partnerships and their Steering Groups and the endorsement of future community engagement.

Councillor Edwards informed Members that the Area Plans [Community strategy documents] would remain in place but they would be revised and added to. In response to a query from Councillor P J Marfleet regarding the Council's Constitution, the Deputy Chief Executive: Corporate Director:

Resources said the Area Partnerships could continue if they so wished but they would not be supported by the Authority.

Councillor D A J Thomas stated that the only consultation in Rhyl had been with the Elected Members' Group and not the Town Council and that there was no Terms of Reference for the cluster meetings. He then referred to the future distribution of monies from the North Hoyle Fund which had previously been the responsibility of the Area Partnership.

Councillor Edwards said all the Town and Community Councils had been given the opportunity to participate in the consultation proceedings and meetings had been convened in the north and south of the County to which any Town or Community Council could attend. However, Rhyl had not attended either of the meetings.

The Deputy Chief Executive: Corporate Director: Resources said discussions were being held with Npower regarding the distribution of the North Hoyle Community Fund.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree and recommend to Council on the 4 April 2006:-

- [1] *That the Authority ceases to provide officer support from the Strategic Policy Unit to the Area Partnerships, their forums and Steering Groups*
- [2] *That the reference to Area Partnerships in the Council's Constitution is amended to refer to Area Elected Members' Groups and these Members' Groups adopt the role of monitoring progress against the respective Area Plans*
- [3] *The Strategic Policy Unit establishes 'cluster meetings' with Town and Community Councils to discuss service delivery and act as an interface with Clerks and Chairs*
- [4] *The Area Elected Members Groups engage with Town and Community Councils to discuss service delivery with support of the Strategic Policy Unit at regular intervals as determined by the Elected Members Groups.*

4 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2005 / 2006

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (revenue and capital) for 2005-2006, which showed a potential net underspend of £268k at the year end against the revised budget. Members were asked to approve an extension to the current central heating contract of two years in line with Contract Procedure Rules.

With regard to the central heating contract, Councillor Dobb said the company was local to the Authority and local people were employed, as were

apprentices. Councillor M A German said a good relationship had been established between the contractors and householders.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the latest financial forecast position [revenue and capital] of the Housing Revenue Account for 2005-2006 and the rolling forward of the capital plan to the next financial year. Cabinet also agree to award the contract extension for 2 years as per the original contract, in compliance with CPR 10.1(d).

5 REVENUE BUDGET 2005-2006

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report asking Members to note the budget performance figures for the current financial year.

The potential underspend currently totalled £592k and he congratulated officers for their hard work, particularly those in Social Services for making savings in administration. However, the Supporting People Grant had been cut by 10% this year by the Westminster Government was again likely to be reduced in the coming year. An additional grant of £88k towards the funding requirement of the PARIS project had been received.

Other potential but unquantifiable pressures were the impact of the Single Status Pay Review and appeals against the recent Council Tax revaluations.

RESOLVED that Members note the budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the appendices to the report.

QUESTIONS FROM PRESTATYN HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL

Tom Beech, Chair of School Council: raised concerns regarding the onsite security following recent arson attacks at Prestatyn and Rhyl High Schools.

Councillor J Thompson Hill responded to the questions and said the security of pupils and staff was paramount and the Authority was in the process of spending £200k to improve security at various school sites, which included Prestatyn and Rhyl High Schools. Work was ongoing with both the Police and Fire Authorities. He reminded the pupils that budgets had to be balanced and it was not always possible to fund all the work required.

Councillor P J Marfleet said the Authority had recently to fund £100k insurance excess as a result of 4 fires in schools the previous year. Upgrades had been carried out to the sprinkler systems.

Councillor E C Edwards said he was a firm believer in CCTV and its benefits and said the Joint Action Group would consider these issues. He thanked the Corporate Director: Environment and his staff for their work on schools maintenance and the replacement of CCTV cameras.

Shaun Evans, School Head Boy: raised concerns regarding the poor condition of school toilets, not only at Prestatyn High School.

Councillor D Owens said the Council was aware of the need to improve school toilets. He said the quality of school buildings was one of the main priorities set by the Authority and £200k had been spent over the last year. This issue would be considered as part of the capital funding 2006-2007 discussions later in the day, where school buildings including toilets would be considered for further funding. Councillor R W Hughes said school toilets were the highest priority for young people in schools.

Sarah Shepherd, School Head Girl: asked for information on the latest position regarding the proposed All Weather Pitch at Prestatyn, which was the largest secondary school in the County.

Councillor S Roberts explained that it had taken 3 years to obtain the necessary planning permission as it had been necessary to ensure adequate provision of a drainage scheme for the project with a hydro cell beneath the pitch which would hold the water draining away to ensure its gradual release into the drainage scheme. Funding of the scheme was not yet in place and a variety of funding avenues were actively being pursued.

Both the Chief Executive and Councillor R W Hughes thanked the school representatives for attending and for their confident manner and questions and asked them to relay the information to their School Council.

6 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor S A Davies presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme. He informed the meeting that the Part I Cabinet papers were available on the website prior to meetings.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

7 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Part I Urgent Items.

At this juncture (11.30 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 paragraph 20 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART II

8 PRIORITISATION OF CAPITAL SCHEMES FOR 2006-2007 CAPITAL PLAN

The Chief Executive presented the report seeking Members' approval to the allocation of £3m to capital projects highlighted in column 6 of Appendix 1 for inclusion in the 2006-2007 Capital Plan. Members were also asked to recommend to Council the proposals of how the balance of £1m should be spent, as shown in column 7 of Appendix 1 to the report.

Members were advised that further opportunities would be available for assessment of projects later in the year. Members would also be able to promote or demote projects or give different allocations to those in the appendices, which would mean an increase / decrease for some projects.

Councillor P J Marfleet said although Members had been encouraged to contact the Principal Management Accountant, he had not received any requests for information or comments. He complimented the Principal Management Accountant and staff on their work.

Councillor E W Williams said it was important to ensure that the projects on the list could not be funded from other sources, for example Objective 1.

Members discussed in detail a number of projects including Aberwheeler, school toilets, the Denbigh ICC and the Bedford Street Youth Centre.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning referred to the County's Asset Management Plans for schools and the priorities contained therein and suggested refurbishment of school toilets should be considered as one issue in line with the Asset Management Plans. He reminded Members of the health and safety issues which needed to be addressed. The Corporate Director: Environment agreed and said the safety of pupils when in the Authority's care was the priority. Members agreed school councils should be asked to consider improvements to the management of school toilets. The Chief Executive suggested the formation of a small task group of Members and young people to consider the issue of school toilets.

Councillor E C Edwards welcomed the prioritisation list which followed most of the Council's priorities. He suggested the monies for school projects should be put together with the Corporate Director of Lifelong Learning then making a decision on the priorities. Councillor Edwards also suggested the CCTV and school security projects should be put together.

Members discussed prioritisation of the list and agreed that items included on the current list which were not completed would be first on the next list.

RESOLVED that Members approve the allocation of £3m to capital projects highlighted in column 6 of Appendix 1 for inclusion in the 2006-2007 Capital Plan. Members also agree to recommend to Council the proposals of how the

balance of £1m should be spent, as shown in column 7 of Appendix 1 to the report. It was further agreed that Councillor D Owens lead a Task Group of interested Cabinet Members, relevant officers and school council representatives to consider school toilet provision.

9 CAPITAL PLAN 2005-2006

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report for Members to note the latest projected position on the 2005-2006 element of the Capital Plan.

Members discussed the current projects, including the School Buildings Improvement Grant and the indications that the future annual allocations would be less than in previous years.

Capacity to deliver the various projects was of general concern and it was noted that capacity was stretched not only in Local Authorities but also in the private sector. The Corporate Director: Environment stressed the need to look collectively at multi-year programmes and the need for project management methodology to be consistently used. He said the culture of annual funding mechanisms should be changed and that the capacity issue could be improved by collaboration. He also stressed the need to report any slippage effectively and quickly.

RESOLVED *that Members note the position of the 2005-2006 element of the Council's agreed 3 year Capital Plan.*

10 EXTENDING CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE BY 12 MONTHS TO 31.03.2007 FOR THE SEASHELLS SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking to extend the Seashells Supported Accommodation project contract due to expire on 31.03.2006 to 31.03.2007 or until a Strategic Relevance decision had been made, whichever is sooner.

RESOLVED *that Members agree to extend the Seashells Supported Accommodation project contract due to expire on 31.03.2006 to 31.03.2007 or until a Strategic Relevance decision had been made, whichever is sooner.*

11 WRITE OFF OF DEBT

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report seeking approval to write off a debt for rental charges for a retail unit in the Children's Village and to ask the Corporate Director: Resources to identify any weaknesses in existing procedures, reporting back to Cabinet within 3 months on any revised proposals.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet agree to write off a debt for the sum specified in the report for rental charges for a retail unit in the Children's Village and ask the*

Corporate Director: Resources to identify any weaknesses in existing procedures, reporting back to Cabinet within 3 months on any revised proposals.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

**REPORT BY: IAN MILLER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

DATE: 25 APRIL 2006

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the progress made to date and to agree the work that is ongoing and the future actions.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Corporate Improvement Assessment was undertaken during 2004 and an Action Plan to address the issues raised was agreed by Cabinet in November 2004. An update on the Action Plan was then reported to Cabinet in May and September 2005.

2.2 The attached Appendix 1 provides a further Action Plan update, detailing the position as at March 2006.

2.3 Many of the initial actions have now been achieved either in full or in part and it is considered important to ensure momentum and direction is maintained on these actions.

2.4 Further actions now need to be agreed to ensure this progress continues and that the corporate methodologies adopted provide the support required and translate into service improvements. Appendix 2 provides an example of improvements within service areas to date.

2.5 There are three service areas where it is proposed that attention remain focused. These service areas have been proposed because they are either areas where we perform below the Welsh average or where there is a high level of risk if performance is not improved

- Children's Services, especially placement stability for looked-after children
- School Improvement KS3 and LS4
- Waste Management

2.6 It is also imperative that we continue to focus on the organisational development work which has resulted in the improvements to date, and it is proposed that the following areas will receive attention

- HR Management and the Culture/Values of the organisation
- Efficiency Agenda, including the development of customer focus
- Reviewing how Support Services are delivered

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, to secure continuous improvement.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct cost implications arising from the update. Actions proposed are included in the work programme and budgets of the individual services concerned.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

5.1 Outstanding issues do not appear to present significant financial implications that go beyond current budget provision for the services concerned. Any costs incurred will need to be contained within these provisions.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6.1 A full report on progress including the proposed areas for focus was considered by Corporate Governance Committee on the 29 March 2006. At the meeting members applauded the considerable improvements within each directorate since the time of the original report and supported the proposals for continuing improvement in the identified key areas welcoming the focus in Waste Management. Members felt that there was a need to focus efforts in recycling where the biggest return could be achieved; however there was a need to ensure that residents in deprived areas would not be ignored in this process.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

7.1 The Corporate Improvement Assessment has important implications on how the Council works and is organised. The main focus of the improvement actions is the development of performance management, HR management and project management, with improvements resulting in improved service delivery.

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
To continue to implement the CIA Action Plan and report progress to Corporate Governance and Cabinet	Chief Executive Corporate Director Resources	As detailed in the Action Plan attached Appendix 1

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To note the progress being made

9.2 To endorse the areas for improvement and development as detailed in 2.5 and 2.6

Corporate Improvement Assessment

Action Plan Update

Recommendation	Completed	Still outstanding
Common approach to project management	Project management team in place Project management methodology developed Capital Prioritisation Methodology introduced £200k Feasibility / collaboration / efficiency budget introduced Feasibility Capital Budget in place	High number of projects remains a concern, with a lack of project managers in place. Structured reporting methodology to be developed Additional training required
Invest in development of CET, including external facilitation, mentoring etc.	Development programme underway with CET involvement in PSMW initiatives	Investment in staff and members will continue to be an ongoing matter
Review role of corporate directors Clear allocation of corporate responsibilities among directors and among Cabinet Members	Reviewed November 2004 Chief Executive's department restructured Revised corporate responsibilities implemented Job Descriptions agreed Portfolios agreed Jun 2004 Reviewed Jan 2005 – no change Role descriptions agreed at Full Council April 2006	
Change how CET members operate – be more strategic, empower heads of service etc.	Role of MMC being reviewed and clarified Achieved greater clarity of roles between corporate directors and heads of service	Need to maintain ongoing focus for MMC
Peer Reviews	WLGA and WAO approached	

	<p>One Director involved in Peer Reviews</p> <p>Corporate Director: Resources now an IDEA accredited peer, with Chief Executive and another Corporate Director booked on accreditation course in June 2006. Certain members have been involved in peer reviews</p>	<p>Opportunities to be identified</p>
<p>More informal opportunities for Members and officers to meet</p>	<p>Group Leader meetings</p> <p>Informal Cabinet meetings in place</p> <p>Member seminars held regularly as required</p>	
<p>Consistent use of personal development reviews across the Council, action taken against poor performers</p> <p>Consistent application of sickness absence policy</p>	<p>Performance Appraisal System devised and implemented</p> <p>Tenders returned for the introduction of revised Leadership Management programme</p> <p>New policy in place. Cross-directorate group set up to implement</p>	<p>Focus next six months on ensuring that performance appraisals are fully implemented across all directorates</p> <p>Review to be undertaken after 6 months</p> <p>Exit interviews being. Summary of findings reported to CET on 6 monthly basis</p> <p>Continue to focus on sickness and absence, more detailed statistics to be reported to CET to be undertaken during 2006</p>
<p>Decision on future management structure of personnel</p>	<p>Agreed to retain decentralised structure, subject to review particularly on the consistency of application of HR policies</p>	<p>Further review proposed</p>

Review of number / deployment of personnel officers	Central Personnel team strengthened	
Focus on performance indicators that matter	New performance management framework in place April 2005 resulting in simplified reporting of key indicators Regular reporting of indicators to scrutiny and cabinet	Improvement not yet translated in all cases into service improvements
Develop a succession planning framework	Succession planning format in place	Corporate Training programme being reviewed to be more targeted towards business, with attendance being an essential part of career progression Personnel working on methods of identifying managers of the future including the development of the 'Academy' which forms part of the Policy Agreement
Complete workforce development plan based on emerging competence framework	Behavioural competencies framework developed and incorporated into PDR and appraisal system HR Strategy and Workforce Planning document updated	
Establish structured Member development programme within competence-based framework	Member training proposals in place Job Descriptions for Members and Cabinet Members agreed at Full Council April 2006	
Review scheme of delegation	Finance Regs updated Review of delegated decisions undertaken and additional delegations agreed during 2005	

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 2004

Each directorate has made considerable improvements since the time of the original reports which have contributed to the continuous improvements made within the Council. Some of the key areas of activity are detailed below.

Social Services and Housing

A series of inspection reports from both the Social Services Inspectorate Wales and the Care Standards Inspectorate have evidenced significant improvements in both Adult and Children's Social Services in Denbighshire over the past year. The Adult Services review team judged that key services were inconsistent but some people had been well served and considered that the authority was mainly well placed to sustain and improve services. After a difficult year in 2004, Children's Social Services received positive inspections of both foster care and adoption services.

Both in Social Services and Housing, performance against statutory and core performance indicators continues to show year on year improvement (with a few exceptions mostly due to changed WAG definitions). The SSIW inspection of adult services noted the Council's sustained good performance over transfers of care from hospital. Rent arrears continued to fall. While still having high placement breakdown rates, Children's Social Services nevertheless managed to improve performance against assessment and care planning PIs and maintained 100% social worker allocation of children on the Child Protection Register and 100% completion of child protection reviews on time.

Environment

Since the Environment Directorate restructuring was completed in 2004, considerable progress has been made in improving service delivery in a number of key areas, and this has carried on over the past year. In addition to structural changes which enabled a greater focus on service delivery to take place, the use of the performance management methodology has also had a significant impact within services provided. Specific examples of areas where improvement has taken place are set out below:

Waste Management

The creation of Environment Services, and the integration of teams which were previously separate, have had a marked change on the Council's approach to Waste Management. The Council successfully achieved the 2005-2006 Welsh Assembly Government's targets for recycling, and the groundwork is in place for achievement of future year's targets. The Authority proposes to roll out fortnightly collections from the beginning of the new financial year, and is at the forefront of promoting collaboration activity in waste treatment facilities and waste management across North Wales.

Public Realm

Front line teams were integrated into a public realm service during the last financial year, and there is evidence to suggest that service quality has already improved significantly as a result. Further work will be required in future years to cement this improvement, and to ensure that the residents of Denbighshire are getting the best service possible.

Public conveniences: a new management team and processes have resulted in significant measurable improvement in terms of the quality of the public convenience

service across Denbighshire. Standards are now consistently higher, levels of complaints have reduced, and an innovative approach to the delivery of the service and to the construction of new facilities is taking place.

Planning Services

The team continues to perform extremely well, particularly in terms of percentage of applications being determined within 8 weeks. The service has also been at the forefront of e-government and has recently received plaudits for its website. The Authority, which was the first in Wales to produce a UDP, is well advanced in working towards the production of an LDP.

Overall, the Directorate continues to make progress in delivering improvements to service, as well as operating within the financial and resource constraints that exist. Challenges for the forthcoming year include the successful delivery of a significantly increased capital programme progressing the challenging waste management agenda, continuing the process of embedding performance and operational planning, and putting preparatory work in place for the forthcoming convergence programme.

Lifelong Learning

Education

The Student Finance team were named the best in Wales (and fourth in England and Wales) for processing student awards in 2005. 96.5% of applications received by the due dates were approved (1,450) from the 1,502 applications assessed.

Major building projects have been completed at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn - Glasfryn residential unit, Ysgol Bro Famau (Llanarmon site), Ysgol Hiraddug, Dyserth, Ysgol Brynhedydd, Rhyl. These total approximately £1.9m. Major projects are also currently ongoing at Cefn Meiriadog, Llanferres, Ysgol Y Faenol, Rhyl High School, Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn - Ty'n Fron site and Gwynfryn. These total approximately £3.6m.

Project management capacity for the whole Directorate remains an issue (in addition to £50k pressure met in 2006/7) in view of the high level of activity

A School Security Working Group has been established comprising representatives from DCC, Fire Service and Police Authority. Through this partnership working £200k of school security improvements are currently being undertaken. The group has been entered for a Wales Golden Flame Award for innovation and community improvement.

The ICC in Rhyl is going from strength to strength and is proving to be a positive catalyst to bring together a variety of agencies such as the playgroup, the schools, the councillors and the education department.

The Community Focused Schools initiative has also adopted the methodology to give it direction and coherence. WAG has complemented our approach based on clustering and bringing together primary and secondary schools to collaborate on the allocation of the grant. This will ensure collaborative actions and lead to a real community focus. The Minister for Lifelong Learning attended the recent workshop held at Coleg Llysfasi on February 16 and commended the approach.

Culture and Leisure

Investment in improving facilities for the community, especially leisure centres. Eg major refurbishment of Rhyl Leisure Centre, new full size ATP at St Asaph, refurbishment of St Asaph Sports Hall, new ATP at Llangollen, DDA works to enhance access, improved signage, and upgrading changing areas at Ruthin, Corwen, Denbigh and St Asaph. In addition we also completed the Meliden MUGA and refurbished Loggerheads Country Park toilets.

Major successes in securing external funding, such as £3.1 m for Ruthin Craft Centre, £1.5m for Heather and Hillforts, and £1.5m for the Scala.

Some great examples of working with the local community to develop and improve sites and services, e.g. nearly £500k secured from Cyd Coed to invest in Countryside Sites at Rhyl, Denbigh and Prestatyn.

A very positive assessment of our performance in relation to the Welsh Public Library Standards, which has demonstrated that we are one of the top performing Library Services in Wales.

Resources

The Taxation and Benefits teams have continued to make great progress, with the Taxation team in particular performing at the highest national levels. This has contributed to the ongoing financial recovery of the Council

The first phase of the implementation of a Council wide Customer Contact Centre has been completed, with work ongoing to introduce further stages. This process has been led by the IT department and the overall demands on this team continue to be very high. Every major project these days almost certainly has an IT input.

The Strategic Policy Unit has been created since the restructuring of the Chief Executive's department, and from the start has made a positive to the co-ordination of strategy, policy and the overall planning of the Council.

Most of the work of the Directorate is in delivering support services and each service continues to make solid progress. The HR team has been fully involved in the developments in relation to the Corporate Improvement Assessment.

Corporately one of the unresolved priorities is to determine whether it would be more effective to have a centralised finance and personnel teams.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R HUGHES LEADER

DATE: 25 APRIL 2006

**SUBJECT: ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST IMPROVEMENT PLAN 05/06
WORK PROGRAMME**

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 That Members note progress against the key targets in their portfolio in the Improvement Plan's Work Programme as attached at Appendix I and request further information where required.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Section Two of the Authority's Improvement Plan 05/06 includes a Work Programme which details the Council's key improvement actions and targets for the year. The Work Programme reflects the Council's priorities and significant risks and also supports the themes of the Community Strategy. The key actions and targets identified ensure improvement will be made in those areas.

2.2 The report attached in Appendix I provides an update of progress against the key actions and targets in the Work Programme for 2005 - 2006. It provides an opportunity for Members and Officers to reflect on good achievements and also to identify where progress has not been made so that remedial action can be taken.

2.3 It is positive to note that progress has been made in nearly all areas although a number of key targets have not been met and the reasons may need to be explored by Scrutiny Committees. Key targets which have not been met may need to be rolled over to subsequent years and included in the Improvement Plan's Work Programme for 2006 – 2009.

2.4 Key actions from the Improvement Plan will help to deliver aspects of Denbighshire's Vision, it is therefore important that progress against these targets is monitored.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Section 3, 6 and 5 of the Local Government Act 1999.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There maybe cost implications to the Authority in meeting its key targets.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The Council's current 3 year budget strategy, 2006/7 to 2008/9, identifies the intention to further develop priority services, after allowing for mandatory pressures and also recognises the need to secure the Council's financial reserves, within an overall position of improving the level of Council Tax relative to other Welsh authorities.

Services will identify within their Business Plans how they will deliver the remaining key actions and targets within the Improvement Plan within the overall service budget provisions.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 Appendix I has been compiled using information provided by the Corporate Performance Management Group and Heads of Service.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 It is essential that the Authority progresses its key actions in order to meet the strategies and policies it has agreed. Priorities from the Improvement Plan will help to deliver aspects of the Vision and it is therefore important that progress against these actions is monitored.

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
The reasons for non achievement of targets are explored and reported to Informal Cabinet	Lead Member with Lead Officer	25 May 2006

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members note progress against the key targets in their portfolio in the Improvement Plan's Work Programme as attached at Appendix I and request further information where required.

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELL- BEING			
Cathy Curtis-Nelson	Launch "Health Challenge Denbighshire", a flagship local project developed to reflect and contribute to, 'Health Challenge Wales' and aiming to improve the health and well-being of Denbighshire people.	The Health Challenge Denbighshire Action Plan has been agreed and formally accepted	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Launched at Denbigh and Flint Show in August 2005.</p> <p>Partners signed up to a coordinated action plan in September 2005</p> <p>Agreed Health Promotion Programme for 2006. Actively pursuing Champions for each Health Promotion area.</p> <p>Awareness raising activity includes Attendance at events e.g. Walking Festival (working with Countryside and Leisure); Staff Health Day (working with Occ Health Dept); Farmer's Auction (working with MIND) ; Keep Well this Winter Campaign (working with many Depts and Partners); Open Day (working with Communities First)</p> <p>Purchase of a range of health promotion producers e.g. Smokerlyzers, Hand washing signs, Poop the Scoop bags</p> <p>Variety of leaflets and promotional items purchased/produced e.g. Health Lunches leaflet.</p> <p>Health Challenge Denbighshire web site launched in April 2006</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Simon Kaye/Paul Quirk	Start building the Rhyl Extra Care Housing scheme by October 2005	Acquisition of site formally July 2005. Bid made to WAG for funding in 2005/2006 but WAG have delayed making any decisions on Extra Care Funding until 2006.	<p>TARGET NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>Although the target to start building the scheme by October 2005 was not achieved, significant progress has been made.</p> <p>WAG funding for the scheme at West Parade, Rhyl was secured in January 2006. The build is anticipated to start in July 2006.</p>
Neil Ayling	Maintain good performance in helping older people and younger adults live at home and keeping delayed hospital discharge rates low	New revised performance indicator definitions make it difficult at this stage to make a judgment about performance in relation to the older people and younger adults supported in the community however performance continues to be very positive in relation to the low number of delayed discharges from hospital.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Reporting processes to facilitate comparative data for new/revised definitions was issued in March 06. The initial application of these processes is indicating positive performance for the number of people helped to live at home. In addition sustained effort has been undertaken to ensure that we kept the number of people who experience a delayed discharge from hospital to a minimum and that we met our target to be amongst the best in Wales for this indicator.</p>
Neil Ayling	Launch integrated Mental Health Partnership in July 2005	The Integrated Adult mental Health Partnership was formally launched on 4th July 05	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Launched in July 2005</p>
Simon Kaye	30% affordable housing in all new housing developments, subject to certain limitations	Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing was approved by Full Council in July 2005. To date, a total of 213 affordable housing units have been given planning consent as part of this policy. Achievement will depend upon actual developments.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>By the end of March 2006, 243 affordable housing units have been given planning consent.</p> <p>Having formally adopted the policy, there is now a requirement to develop detailed procedures by December 2006 and review the Supplementary Planning Guidance by December 2007 that can be used by developers and other key partners to secure 30% of affordable housing on all sites.</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Paul Quirk	Reduce the numbers of homeless families in Bed and Breakfast to 35	Policy Agreement now in 2nd year with target of 35. First quarter figure = 12 homeless families in Bed & Breakfast. Steady reduction required in remainder of quarters to achieve target.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED but indicative figures show that there will be an improvement on figures from the previous year. While the target figure of 35 will be exceeded it will not affect the Policy Improvement Grant as WAG have confirmed that significant progress has been made throughout the year in reducing the number of homeless families in Bed & Breakfast. accommodation.
Paul Quirk	Agree the method of achieving Welsh Housing Quality Standard in Council housing by 2012 and develop detailed project plan	Further consultation with Tenants and Members - submission of draft HSBP to WAG.	TARGET ACHIEVED Council decided in February 2006 to retain the housing stock and implement the HSBP. Revised HSBP and programme March 2006.
Graham Boase	Improve private sector houses	In the first quarter 52 private sector houses were improved as a result of direct financial assistance (grants and loans). Additionally, 30 houses received non-financial assistance or advice in order to improve the condition of their dwellings. 35 dwellings within a Renewal Area were signed up to the repair scheme. Also 3 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) met the registration standards and 13 others were inspected within the same period.	TARGET ACHIEVED By the end of the 3rd quarter a total of 220 houses were improved or adapted as a result of direct financial assistance. More than 50 properties received non-financial assistance or advice. 60% of dwellings eligible for renewal area scheme signed up to the scheme. Nearly 66 % of all completed grants contained energy efficiency measures. 27 Houses in Multiple Occupation met the HMO Registration Scheme standards during the year. A further 11 dwellings were improved through enforcement action.
Graham Boase	Inspect 428 high risk food premises	During the first quarter we inspected 82 high risk premises (12.5%). We also carried out 47 re-visits in the same quarter. 93% of the food samples taken between April and June complied with the national food guidance. In terms of training, 50 businesses attended an in-house training seminar relating to food safety	TARGET ACHIEVED Great efforts have been made by staff in the food safety team and they should be congratulated for achieving the target of visiting over 428 high risk food premises, bearing in mind the staff difficulties which have been encountered over the past 12 months.

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
COMMUNITY SAFETY			
Graham Boase	Reduce anti-social behaviour from 4,011 to 3,409 reported incidents	The total number of offences reported up to September was 1938. If this continues the figure will exceed the target for the year and so the Community Safety Partnership has considered the implications. It has been noted, however, that annually levels of anti social behaviour have increased over the summer period and so further analysis has been commissioned into this trend to determine whether any specific action is needed. This will be further considered at the November meeting of the Partnership Steering Group.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED On 1 st December 2005, National Standards of Incident Recording were implemented by North Wales Police (following a directive from the Home Office to all police forces). One of the biggest changes following the implementation is that the category of ASB (and juvenile ASB) is no longer used. In order to measure any increase/reduction in ASB we must ensure we are comparing historical ASB figures with comparable new categories of disorder. This work is on-going. Prior to the implementation, in November 2005 reported ASB had increased by 9%, or 229. Schemes such as the yellow card scheme run by North Wales Police actively encourage the public to report all incidents of ASB that they see.
Graham Boase	Reduce the number of violent crimes committed within the County by 15% from 2,179 to 1,852 reported incidents	The total number of offences reported up to September was 972 which, if continued, would exceed the annual target. The Partnership has, however, pursued a policy of encouraging increased reporting of certain crimes such as domestic violence, and this has contributed in part to the increases. As is the case in respect of anti-social behaviour which is detailed above, offences traditionally increase over the summer period and so these figures will also be analysed to determine whether further action is needed. This will also be considered at the November Community Safety Partnership meeting.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED The total number of violent crimes reported up to 10 th March 2006 was 2073, an increase of 1% when compared to the same period the previous year. Alcohol related violent crimes (ARVC) has been identified as a priority by the Community Safety Partnership for the forthcoming year and work is already underway in formulating a multi agency action plan to reduce ARVC in Rhyl Town Centre. This will be in place for the summer months (traditionally a peak time) and the world cup which is expected to have an impact on offending (based on previous sporting events).

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Graham Boase	Provision of a Crime & Disorder training programme for Members, Directors and Senior staff.	The Partnership has secured funding to enable it to deliver training to Members and a limited number of officers. This will be delivered in the period up to the end of March 2006.	<p>TARGET NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>The Principal Policy Officer attended the 'Training the Trainers' Course. This Officer has since left the authority so the training will need to form part of the 2006/07 work plan for the Community Safety Partnership.</p>
Graham Boase	Reduce the number of juvenile offences from 1,004 to 853 reported incidents	It is not presently possible to report on the number of offences committed by juveniles because of changes in recording systems. It is anticipated that the systems will be operational by the end of the third quarter of the year and so it will then be possible for the target to be reviewed by the Partnership and for any action to be taken.	As reported previously, figures will not be available from North Wales Police until the end of April 2006
Graham Boase	Reduce the number of domestic abuse offences and effectively support victims of domestic abuse and encourage increased reporting of incidents.	Give the issues relating to violent crime referred to above the Community Safety Partnership has agreed to review this target. The increase in reporting of incidents continues to be a priority, but this will result in the overall number of offences increasing also. In view of this the Partnership has agreed to encourage the Home Office to revise the target criteria so that it now becomes the number of offences brought to justice rather than a reduction of the number of reported offences.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Up to 10th March 2006, 7% of crimes were tagged as being domestic related. This is down from 11% the previous year. However, as reported previously, this is not a positive result as increased reporting of domestic incidents is a positive result. This target must be revised for next year.</p>
David Farquhar	Road accidents - reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 40% and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2010	Data provided monthly by N.W.P. It is unrealistic to provide a progress report half way through any year as figures are based on a full 12 months data. DCC continue to be on target	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Awaiting final confirmation of figures from North Wales Police but based on the available data received from North Wales Police for 2005, it looks likely that this target</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
			will be achieved.
LIFELONG LEARNING			
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts/ Tony Jones	Support schools to achieve examination results which compare favourably with national averages as detailed in the Appendices.	Monitoring Initiative programme established with all schools supplemented by a Planned Support Action Plan. Every school has access to advisers' time in all National Curriculum subjects/school management issues.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Monitoring programme continues to work well in Primary schools and is having a positive impact on standards. Good use made of monitoring reports by schools in seeking to make improvements to aspects of National Curriculum subjects. Curriculum specialists work closely with staff in secondary schools in their monitoring, supporting and challenging role. Since 2002, the trend in pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) has improved at KS1, KS2 and KS3.
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts/Tony Jones	Reduce to 1.5% the number of 15 year olds leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification.	Variety of alternative options provided for the disaffected young people allowing them to access education. Project 11. EPIC courses in College. Increased work based experiences	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Performance for 2005 was 4.3%. There is a need to review the target so that it is inline with the national average for 2005 of 2.7%. Overall, sound progress made throughout 2005-06. All young people in Project 11 received a certificate from the Welsh Assembly Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and skills at the Record of Achievement ceremony in 2005. Progress in all areas is being monitored by the 14-19 Network. Towards ensuring that all pupils achieve a qualification on leaving school, 40 pupils from Ysgol Brynhyfryd attend training at Coleg Llysfasi and 15 Year 11 and Year 12 pupils from Blessed Edward Jones are also involved with courses at Llysfasi.

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts/Tony Jones	<p>Reduce to 2 the number of 15 year olds within local authority care leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification.</p> <p>This target was amended to three pupils when the new Education PIs were introduced in April 2005.</p>	<p>Education liaison officer working with Social Services and Education targeting all children and young people in care. All issued with Personal Education Plans agreed with the schools. Regular monitoring by Education Liaison Officer. Regular contact with foster carers.</p>	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>This target was amended to three pupils when the new Education PIs were introduced in April 2005.</p> <p>Good progress made in provision for children and young people in care. Fourteen computers have been purchased for Looked After Children and Foster placements in order to promote their studies. Additional tuition has been provided for Young People in the Children's Home in Rhuddlan who receive part-time educational provision. A successful Artist in residence project took place in Middle Lane with a group of Looked After Children. Attendance rates have improved for these pupils in Primary and Secondary sector. No permanent exclusions during the school year for Looked After Children.</p>
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts/Tony Jones	<p>Work to improve services for pupils with Special Educational Needs and make sure that we do not spend more on SEN than we have budgeted for.</p>	<p>Delegation of centrally held resources to schools completed in April and September monthly budget monitoring. Detailed SEN Report produced for corporate directors and lead cabinet members September 29.</p>	<p>TARGET PARTLY ACHIEVED</p> <p>Monthly budget monitoring meetings are well established. Finance Officer identifies budget pressures following scrutiny of expenditure. Funds for SEN behaviour support staff have been delegated to schools via a 'Lead school' in each cluster.</p>
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts/Tony Jones	<p>Increase attendance rates in two Secondary schools in Rhyl and Ysgol Tir Morfa</p>	<p>PAGs funding used to employ extra ESW support in Rhyl. First day contact strategy adopted. Truancy sweeps. Parental prosecution cases 2004 2005 cases in Denbighshire, of which 12 in</p>	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Attendance rates from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005 have improved as follows: Rhyl High increased by 0.8%. Blessed</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
		Rhyl.	Edward Jones increased by 3.2%. Tir Morfa increased by 1.7%. Funding has been secured to install an electronic registration system in the Rhyl schools. Weekly truancy sweeps take place in targeted areas in liaison with the North Wales Community Beat Officers and these are beginning to have a positive impact. ESW Team Leader reports regularly to Headteachers on the success of these "sweeps". Strong links established with Legal Department identifying families causing concern and where legal action is required to improve attendance.
Gay Brooks/ Gareth Evans	Improve school buildings by prioritising improvement works within the funding available. COUNCIL PRIORITY	Establishment of Task Group comprising Senior Members and Corporate Directors to consider future strategy and funding. Meeting of the Group took place on 20th September.	TARGET ACHIEVED Service Asset Management Plan for Education presented to LLSC in November and December and Approved. Consultants commissioned to work on Modernising Education. Additional Capital funding approved by Council Funding for additional Asset Management member of staff approved. Work on-going with WAO to agree baseline assessment.
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY			
Gareth Evans	Produce a comprehensive Regeneration Strategy for Denbighshire		TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Consultants have been commissioned and

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Gareth Evans	No ward in Denbighshire will be included in the top 20 most deprived wards in Wales by 2007.		work has started. First draft expected shortly. TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Opportunities arising from the Convergence (new Objective 1) programme will be explored for 2007. Work on the Rhyl Going Forward project continues. This target is inappropriate following changes to Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation. Detailed report on performance management framework for Rhyl Going Forward has been prepared to monitor future progress
Gareth Evans	Make effective use of EU structural funds made available to Denbighshire.	Last approvals obtained for the current programme for Economic Development. Awaiting final approval for LLL project. Work has commenced on post 2006 funding.	TARGET ACHIEVED Final approvals obtained. Final project contracts to be let imminently. Work has started on the new programme for 2007.
ENVIRONMENT			
David Farquhar	Maintain and improve the condition of Denbighshire's highways by prioritising work within the funding available. COUNCIL PRIORITY	Routine maintenance ongoing. Extra funding for use on rural roads has been spent. As part of the rural road mini-paver surfacing programme 5,573 lin metres of surfacing has been carried out during the period April to September 2005. Capital programme for the north has been spent other than that set aside to carry out works on Trefnant Crossroads.	TARGET ACHIEVED Capital funding and Prudential borrowing funding have already been allocated to priority works for the coming year. Programmes to be submitted to Scrutiny April 2006
Steve Parker	Improve the cleanliness and appearance of Denbighshire's public spaces. COUNCIL PRIORITY	New grounds maintenance and street cleansing regimes introduced into the South of the county. New independently measured clean streets indicator introduced - showing 93% success rate.	TARGET ACHIEVED Next year's target will be to improve upon the 93% clean streets score.
Iwan Prys	Improve the condition of Council Buildings	Programme of planned and reactive	TARGET ACHIEVED

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Jones / Gareth Evans		maintenance is underway with budget on profile. Still have concerns regarding the reinstatement of capital promised in 04/05.	Capital promised in 04/05 has been reinstated. Continuing gap between budget requirement and provision exists. Additional funds provided for 06/07.
Iwan Prys Jones/Steve Parker	Improve the condition of Denbighshire's public conveniences.	Completely reorganise the cleansing regimes in all PC's. Most PC's are now meeting the 'cleansing targets' that have been set. Refurbishment of Denbigh PC's was completed.	TARGET ACHIEVED Major refurbishments at Rhyl Station, Loggerheads Country Park & Rhyl Events arena, plus other minor refurbishments.
Iwan Prys Jones/Steve Parker	Further improve the effectiveness of Denbighshire's waste management systems and meet recycling targets as detailed in the Appendices	Develop proposals for 'step change' in recycling performance. Submit proposals to full Council and Cabinet for approval.	TARGET ACHIEVED Still waiting for final confirmation of recycling figures. Work to further improve the effectiveness of the waste management systems is ongoing. Procured new joint waste disposal contract with Conwy BC. Procured equipment for the new wheeled bin service (to start 2006-07). Preparatory work for the new fortnightly collections completed. The projected start date for phase 1 of the scheme is 22 May 06.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Nicola Francis	Publish Framework Partnership Initial Needs Assessment on CD and hard copy by July 2005	Completed in timescale. Copies circulated via CD and in hard copy.	TARGET ACHIEVED
Sue Williams	Launch the Children and Young People's Participation Framework/Strategy by April 2006	Work has commenced and is on target.	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED The Participation Framework has been developed and is in draft form for consultation with children and young people. A decision on a launch date will be made in May. A Framework Participation Officer has been appointed to take this area forward
Sue Williams	Agree Family Support Strategy by September 2005 to feed into	This work is linked to the work of the Children's Partnership and the work of the	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED

PROGRESS AGAINST 05/06 WORK PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 1

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
	Commissioning Strategy	newly appointed Child Concern Model Coordinator. New date for completion likely to be early 2006	Work commenced, sub group to Framework Partnership are scoping the work, which will be enhanced by appointment of Family Support Coordinator from April 2006.
Sally Ellis	Complete external evaluation of all Cymorth funded projects by September 2005	External evaluation of Cymorth funded projects was completed at the end of September. A full report has been circulated for consideration by partners and will be used to assist in planning the allocation of funding for the period 2006 - 2009.	TARGET ACHIEVED The report on the external evaluation of funds was used to assist in planning the allocation of funding for the period 2006 – 2009.
Nicola Francis /Sue Williams	Agree prioritised Commissioning Strategy and linked procedure to enable allocation of Cymorth funds by March 2006	On-going	TARGET ACHIEVED Agreed and complete
Roger Ellerton	Develop Quality Assurance framework for youth support services by 2005		TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Progress has been made. ESTYN self assessment framework used to complete 2005-06 self assessment report. Framework QA Group established. Performance Monitoring Officer post to be advertised.
Sue Williams/Gloria Burgess	Prepare for implementation from April 2006 of National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services	Preparations commenced in conjunction with Framework Coordinator Gloria Burgess	TARGET ACHIEVED Implementation activities being completed in conjunction with Framework Partnership
Nicola Francis	Maintain 100% social worker allocation of all children on Child Protection Register and 100% timely undertaking of Child Protection reviews – ongoing	Maintained	TARGET ACHIEVED Maintained
Nicola Francis	Roll out “Child Concern Model” following joint pilot with Conwy	CCM Coordinator appointed and in-post September 2005	TARGET NOT ACHIEVED Work continuing, but impacted by WAG introduction of new Common Assessment Framework, so awaiting more detailed guidance. Have submitted DCC for pilot work with Welsh Assembly.
Sue Williams	Implement foster care “Payment for Skills” scheme by May 2005	Policy implemented 1 April 2005.	TARGET ACHIEVED Implemented and audited

PROGRESS AGAINST 05/06 WORK PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 1

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Nicola Francis	Implement foster carer recruitment strategy	Recruitment Officer appointed and in-post September 2005.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Implemented</p>
Roberta Hayes	Review social worker pay by Autumn 2005	Cabinet report presented 13 September and resolution to work towards increasing social worker pay in line with the recommendations of the Garthwaite Report	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Social Worker pay has been reviewed and is currently going through the job evaluation process. It is hoped that the revised payscales will be implemented from May 2006.</p>
Nicola Francis	Comprehensive implementation of Compliance and Accountability Framework	Procedures reviewed and programme implemented.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Compliance and Accountability Framework implemented</p>
Linda Atkin	Complete Organisational Development Programme	<p>A paper has been prepared for Cabinet on 27/09/05. To date the following has taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Away days for CET with Leader, deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance - Meetings with all Heads of Service - Meetings with 2 focus groups from each Directorate - Insight reports completed by all HoS - Review of current management training - Away days for CET and MMC - Away days for CET and cabinet - Review of SDR process. 	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>A performance appraisal system has been developed and implemented from April 2006 .</p> <p>Training for heads of service took place in March. Training for other managers and staff commences in May.</p> <p>Leadership Development Programme – tenders are currently being evaluated.</p>
Roger Parry	Maintain the financial security of the Authority and increase financial reserves whilst keeping Council Tax low		<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>The County Council has agreed a Council Tax increase of only 2%, lowest in Wales, for 2006/7. Council has also agreed target increases of no more than 2% per annum for the following 2 years. The financial position as at the end of 2005/6 will be reviewed to evaluate what contribution can be made to reserves as at 31 March 2006, while the indicative budget build-up for 2007/8 and 2008/9 assumes further contributions of</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
Roger Parry/Arwel Staples	Deliver further efficiency savings to equate to 1% of WAG funds per annum to 2009/10 in line with target reduction in Wag support as contained in the Policy Statement, 'Making the Connections.'	A consultation paper on identifying, recording and realising efficiency gains has been presented to MMC and CET. As a result an Efficiency Task Group will be established in order to move the efficiency agenda forward. Efficiency gains ideas will be sought from all staff, members and service users. The ideas received will then be collated into an electronic idea data bank for further evaluation.	<p>£250k per annum to reserves.</p> <p>TARGET ACHIEVED FOR 05/06</p> <p>The indicative budget for 2007/8 and 2008/9 includes assumptions on the need to deliver cashable efficiency gains in future financial years to compensate for likely reductions in WAG funding. Monthly Management Conference has a standing item to identify and develop efficiency gains, both cashable and non cashable, for future years. The current Business Planning exercise will refer to gains identified in 2005/6 and 2006/7 as well as potential gains to be developed for 2007/8 to 2009/10.</p>
Linda Atkin	By 2006, ensure that the pay grades for all jobs have been determined by formal job evaluation.	All ex-APTC posts and 30% of ex-manual posts have been evaluated. Aim is for all ex-manual posts to be evaluated by end of December 2005.	<p>TARGET NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>70% of ex-manual posts have been evaluated. The final validation panel will be held on 3rd & 4th May. Work will need to be done to ensure equality between the two schemes which is currently being scoped.</p>
Janette Williams	Update Community Strategy and ensure targets are progressed	A Visioning exercise has been launched and the Community Strategy will be updated once this exercise has been completed.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>The Visioning exercise was carried out to meet the Project Plan and was agreed at full Council on the 4 April 2006. A Local Strategic Partnership will be set up by the 1 June 2006 which will review the Community Strategy</p>
Janette Williams/Ian Hearle	Develop Scrutiny arrangements and simplify the Council's decision-making process	A Guide to Scrutiny Reports has been produced by Scrutiny Advisors and a Guide to producing Cabinet Reports and checklist	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>A Rough Guide to the Constitution has been produced and was discussed at Corporate Governance Committee on the 29 March 2006. Member Role Descriptions were agreed at full Council on the 4 April 2006.</p>
Linda Atkin	Improve human resources procedures and reduce staff absence levels to 10	Disciplinary, Grievance, Probationary and Compassionate Leave have been reviewed	<p>TARGET PARTLY ACHIEVED</p>

Lead Officer	Key Target	Progress to September 2005	Progress to March 2006
	days per year.	and the new procedures implemented from 01/09/05. 4 further procedures are out for consultation.	<p>The first part of this target has been achieved with 7 further policies having been developed. CRB; Providing Employment References; Managing Carers' Needs; Flexitime; Bullying and Harassment; Fixed Term Contracts; Managing End of Contracts.</p> <p>A new Policies and Procedures Development Plan has been drawn up for 2006/07.</p> <p>Absence levels stand at 11 days. A Corporate Absence Group has been set up with the first meeting to be held in April.</p>
Janette Williams	Improve Community engagement.	Two seminars have been held with Town and Community Councils and a Visioning Project Plan launched on the 26 September	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>Consultation with Town & Community Councils has resulted in two recommendations to full Council (April 2006).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Strategic Policy Unit to establish a series of "cluster" meetings with Clerks of Town & Community Councils. 2. Area Elected Members' Group engage with Town and Community Councils on a regular basis to discuss service delivery issues biannually. Arrangements in hand for a Town and Community Council Liaison meeting with the Leader, CEO and Chairman of the County Council.
Roger Parry/Arwel Staples	Deliver £500,000 of procurement savings in 2005/06	The initial round of procurement contract negotiations will deliver 90% of the annual target for the current year. A further round of savings opportunities will be scoped during early Autumn that will bring total savings to £500k in 2005/06, with more in a full year.	<p>TARGET ACHIEVED</p> <p>£506,000 of procurement savings have been delivered.</p>

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R HUGHES LEADER

DATE: 25 APRIL 2006

SUBJECT: WORKING TOGETHER AS THE WELSH PUBLIC SERVICE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 That Members consider the progress the Authority is making to meet the collaboration strand of the 'Making the Connections' agenda and request further information and/or action where required.
- 1.2 That Members note the minutes of the first Regional Partnership Board meeting which was held in Wrexham on the 3 February 2006 (Appendix I refers).
- 1.3 That Members agree in principle to support a partnership initiative between North Wales Authorities and North Wales Police in establishing a joint Single Non Emergency Number Call Centre.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 In October 2004 the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) set out its vision for improving public services in '**Making the Connections**'. This was followed in June 2005 by '**Delivering the Connections**', WAG's 5-year action plan for driving forward the changes. The key message in both documents was that the best outcomes in Wales will be obtained when those who provide services work together in collaboration.
- 2.2 The Authority has been positively progressing the collaboration agenda at both a regional and local level. The Leader and Chief Executive are both active participants in the Regional Partnership Board which has made successful bids to the Improvement Fund to assess the feasibility of five regional projects; decriminalised parking, contact centres, telecare, school transport and revenues. The second stage of the bidding round is to provide additional information about the project and the closing date for detailed bid submissions is the 28 April. The maximum grant is for £200,000 or 70% of the project costs (whichever is the lowest).
- 2.3 Draft action plans for the regional projects were discussed at the meeting of North Wales Chief Executives Officers on the 6 April. Denbighshire County Council is leading on decriminalised parking and has commissioned consultants who have produced a report which recommends that "Councils should work together to establish and operate a central penalty charge notice processing unit" and that "the central unit should be based at Denbighshire". The thrust of these proposals was supported and will now be considered by the meeting of TAITH in late April prior to formal decisions on participation being

taken by each council's Cabinet during May/early June. A report seeking the Cabinet's formal endorsement will be submitted in May.

- 2.4 The Authority is also taking part in a Wales Audit Office pilot 'Making the Connections' study and has already carried out interviews with the Corporate Executive Team to establish a baseline position before completing a self assessment questionnaire.
- 2.5 Following agreement of the Vision at full Council on the 4 April, a Local Strategic Partnership will be set up by the 1 June which will identify projects which partners can work on collaboratively and will support the County's key aims. For example, the collaboration project on the administration of parking would create more jobs in Denbighshire and will contribute to the Vision's aim in supporting the local economy.
- 2.6 As reported previously to Cabinet, the Strategic Policy Unit is maintaining a list of collaborative projects which the Authority is involved in. Since the last report the Equalities Unit has been working with public sector partner organisations to meet the requirements of the Disability Equality Duty. The Authority's collaboration with Ynys Mon on strategic health and safety issues did not prove as successful as hoped and we have reverted to selling a support service to them over the coming months, while they go through a recruitment process.
- 2.7 The **Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN) Project** is a Home Office / Office of the Deputy Prime Minister initiative providing a single telephone number (101) for the reporting of non emergency issues such as abandoned vehicles, vandalism, graffiti, fly tipping and street lighting etc. The advantages of such a number for North Wales is the reduction of unnecessary 999 calls and the joining up of non emergency services across the public sector.
- 2.8 SNEN will provide a single nationally recognized number geographically routed to a local SNEN Centre where operators will deal with the enquiry. All Welsh Councils are encouraged to participate in this initiative and Members are asked to support the scheme in principle subject to receiving further details on the practical and financial implications for the County before a joint detailed partnership bid between the six North Wales Local Authorities and North Wales Police is submitted in October 2006.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (power of well-being) and Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 (incidental powers).

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No significant financial implications arise directly from this report. Individual collaborative projects may involve additional financial implications or costs savings: these would be reported when decisions are sought. Denbighshire's contribution to the feasibility studies is estimated as about £20k and will be met from the resources available for such studies.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Collaboration with partners and neighbouring authorities is seen as a major element of the efficiencies agenda to deliver more costs effective services. Clearly collaboration can only be encouraged where there is an identifiable gain through either cost savings for a similar service level/quality or service delivery improvement at a similar cost

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 The report has been distributed to the Corporate Executive Team and Heads of Service for comment.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 Collaboration can potentially affect all aspects of the Council's operations. Collaboration will not be pursued for its own sake but only in order to improve customer service, and/or to improve capacity and resilience to risk and/or to reduce costs.

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
Regular report to Cabinet on collaboration, with Partnership Board minutes	Leader/Ian Miller	Every 4 months : next report in September 2006
Stage II bid for decriminalised parking submitted to Improvement Fund	David Farquhar	28 April 2006
Formal decision on a joint administrative service for decriminalised parking	David Farquhar	Cabinet 23 May 2006
Detailed proposals on the establishment of a Single Non Emergency Number and Call Centre	Peter Wickes	September 2006

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members consider the progress the Authority is making to meet the collaboration strand of the 'Making the Connections' agenda and request further information and/or action where required.
- 9.2 That Members note the minutes of the first Regional Partnership Board meeting which was held on the 3 February 2006 in Wrexham (Appendix I refers).
- 9.3 That Members agree in principle to the Single Non Emergency Number initiative subject to receiving further information relating to the practical and financial implications to the Council

North Wales Regional Partnership Board

**Notes of a Meeting Held on
3 February 2006 at Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wrexham**

Leaders

Chair – Cllr Aled Roberts, Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Goronwy Edwards, Leader of Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Derek Darlington, Leader of Flintshire County Council
Cllr Rhiannon Hughes, Leader of Denbighshire County Council
Cllr W J Williams, Leader of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Richard Parry, Leader of Gwynedd County Council

Chief Executives

Isobel Garner, Chief Executive, Wrexham County Borough Council
Derek Barker, Chief Executive, Conwy County Council
Phil McGreevy, Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council
Ian Miller, Chief Executive, Denbighshire County Council
Geraint Edwards, Managing Director, Anglesey County Council
Harry Thomas, Chief Executive, Gwynedd County Council

WLGA

Colin Everett, Head of Improvement & Governance

Observers

Mary Hughes, PSMW
Janette Williams, Denbighshire County Council
Simon Smith, North Wales Fire & Rescue
Cllr Trevor Roberts, North Wales Fire & Rescue
Dewi Williams, Anglesey County Council
Geraint George, Gwynedd County Council
Rachel Spurr, Wrexham County Borough Council
Julia Douch, Value Wales, WAG
Helen Gerrard, Wrexham County Borough Council
Huw Jones, Anglesey County Council

Welcome

Cllr Aled Roberts welcomed everyone to Wrexham and the Ramada Plaza Hotel. He stated that Wrexham were proud to be able to host the first Regional Partnership Board in Wrexham and to have the opportunity to work together for more effective public services.

The Chair also welcomed observers from other Authorities and Organisations.

Statement of Intent

All Authorities confirmed their willingness and authority to sign this after the Regional Partnership Board.

Terms of Reference

A question was raised as to whether the papers should be bilingual. All agreed that papers would be produced bilingually. Simultaneous translation would also be provided at Board meetings.

It was agreed to review processes and procedures after a couple of meetings of the RPB.

Feedback from Symposium

The Symposium held on the Thursday afternoon had been seen as a great success with around 80 people attending which consisted of both Members and Officers.

Presentations would follow on the 5 areas of:

- Contact Centre
- Telecare
- Revenue Collection
- Decriminalised Parking
- School Transport

Each would make recommendations to the Regional Partnership Board. Thanks were passed on to the facilitators from Value Wales, Wrexham County Borough Council, Conwy County Council and WLGA. It was felt that the day had been extremely useful and had helped to identify how to overcome barriers to joint working.

Feedback from Symposium

Revenue Services Workshop – feedback by Julie Douch

Recommendations from Symposium

Do not Proceed to bid for 'Core' Revenue Services but more work needed to further define project scope of positive collaborating on shared 'soft' non-core support services (Fraud Prevention and Detection Services, Procurement, Training) and 'enablers' (IT).

A discussion ensued about the definition of revenue and whether or not this included Housing rents. There was also considerable discussion about the need to aim for convergence on IT systems to facilitate later collaboration in back office services. The RPB decided: that it would make a bid to Making the Connections. The first

stages would be to encourage sharing of cost and performance information across all 6 Authorities and moving towards common IT Platforms. Whilst we await the outcome from the Making the Connections bid from South East Wales about Back Office Services it is important that we advise our central services that we see that inevitably there will be the need to have shared services in the future. The actions proposed now are seen as a step on the journey to shared services and the Bid will be put together on this basis and the lead Authority will be Conwy County Council.

Decriminalised Parking – feedback by Rachel Spurr

Recommendations from Symposium

Short Term

Formalise and strengthen existing collaborative working using TAITH Group as vehicle. Carryout small scale collaborative projects as describe earlier - no bid needed

Longer Term

Feasibility study into option of establishing a NW decriminalised parking service + other issues.

Need to further define the scope in relation to authorities taking part. Needs to be timed with introduction of Road Traffic Act 2004 in 2007. - Bid next year.

Discussion focused on the fact that some Authorities, particularly Gwynedd need to make urgent decisions as to whether to invest now. This lead the RPB to recommend that a bid is put in during this round which will not only support the short term recommendations but advise on investment over the longer term. This Bid will be led by Denbighshire County Council.

Telecare – feedback by Colin Everett

Recommendations from Symposium

Development of policies and protocols Agreed approach to needs assessment Training and awareness raising Publicity Training (possibly B-Tec)	Proceed to preparation of business case
Procurement of telecare equipment	Further refining of project scope
Servicing and maintenance of equipment	Further refining of project scope
Delivery of monitoring centre – Sub-regional	Definitely needs to be considered – reappraise medium term as 1-3 are implemented

Discussion was held about the potential cost savings by working together and the fact that given earlier discussions on other areas; we have to envisage that at the end of the process that there may well be one contact handling centre. Discussion also focused on Welsh Language provision, staff training and also considered the opportunities to visit a “Shared” monitoring unit.

The RPB considered that a debate with Health needs to commence as effective telecare reduces the burden on the Secondary Health system. The Board decided to make a bid to Making the Connections fund now in order to develop the Business Case. The Bid and Business Case must highlight the need to consider out of hours contact, CCTV, links with a future SNEN. This bid will be led by Ynys Mon.

School Transport – feedback by Helen Gerrard

Recommendations from Symposium

Proceed to business case

Undertake an impact assessment of a regionally agreed School Transport Policy Framework with specific reference to Statutory/Mainstream School Transport 16-19 year old transport SEN / Social Services

Discussion considered that whilst a policy impact assessment was important all Authorities were facing year on year costs in the purchasing of school transport. It was also recognised that collaboration to eliminate operational differences and gain efficiency through CRB checks, health and safety etc should be done urgently. The Board decided to make a Bid to Making the Connections fund with 2 strands:- The first is around exploring the market for procuring school transport in order to minimise and control our spend on purchasing school transport. The second strand is around the impact assessment of aligning policies. This work will be lead by Flintshire County Council.

Contact Centre – feedback by Colin Everett

Recommendation from Symposium

Longer-term: *Proceed to phased business integration (aim for 1 or 2 (sub) regional call centres)*

Shorter-term: *Sharing of resources and expertise (human resources policies and practices, customer care standards and training, supply staff, project management and programme management, procurement skills/processes)*

Medium-term: *alignment of business process re-engineering for services which are a shared priority.*

Discussion focused on the differences between joining up different customer bases if we were to collaborate as opposed to collaboration across agencies within a shared customer base. Again the Board endorsed the need for IT convergence and emphasised any changes in collaboration needs to be invisible to the public. The RPB agreed that there should be no bid to Making the Connections fund but a steady progression towards the recommendations indicated by the Symposium. This will initially take the form of sharing resources and expertise, possibly then moving on to business process re-engineering for shared service priorities with the long term aim of proceeding to one or two sub regional call centres. This work will be lead by Wrexham County Borough Council.

General Comments

There is a common theme of team and personal development, support and mentoring needs for personnel leading or under-going major change programmes. Colin Everett and Mary Hughes to combine WLGA and PSMW resources to where possible offer specialist support in this area. The SNEN project has been incorporated in the Telecare project with the full agreement of Simon Smith.

Specialist Services

Gwynedd raised a project which they have been developing in connection with biodiversity, with the National Parks. They would like the other Local Authorities to endorse the project and include this as a fifth Local Authority project for the Making the Connections Fund. The Board agreed to support this.

Process

Six bids to be put forward Telecare incorporating the SNEN project, Revenue Collection, Decriminalised Parking, School Transport and Biodiversity.

Colin Everett to telephone Assembly and inform of outcomes. Matching Funds need to be realistic, shared 6 ways. As a guideline maximum of £250K from the Making the Connections Fund and maximum matching contributions of £30K per Local Authority. There needs to be a progress report back to next Regional Partnership Board in June.

All lead authorities to develop action plans demonstrating proposals to move forward with each of the collaboration initiatives and to present these to the next CEx forum on 6 April 2006

Agenda for next meeting

- Anglesey to host next meeting of RPB on 9 June 2006.
Next meeting on 6 October 2006.

Decisions were made on key agenda items and these were to be further discussed after the RPB by the 6 Chief Executives

Conclusions

The Symposium was seen as a success and the recommendations from the Symposium were well thought out. The Regional Partnership Board believes that there are obvious first steps to sharing resources, best practices and convergence on process and procedure but the Board holds the view that in all cases these steps should be seen as a step on a journey towards more radical collaboration.

Wrexham County Borough Council will issue a copy of the presentations and the minutes of the Regional Partnership Board to all participants of the seminar and observers as well as the Regional Partnership Board itself.

The Chair thanked everybody for their attendance.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 25th April 2006

SUBJECT: Housing Revenue Account Budget 2005/06

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the latest financial forecast position (revenue and capital) of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for 2005/06.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISIONS

The need to deliver the Council's agreed housing budget strategies for 2005/06. This is the position at the end of March but is not the final outturn – this will be reported in May.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

(a) Housing Act 1985, Part II.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The projections undertaken at the end of March 2006 show a potential net under-spend at year end of £156k (Appendix 1) against the revised budget. This is a reduction of £111k in the projected under spend to that reported at the end of February. The main reason for the change is an increase in repairs and maintenance expenditure which has occurred because of a general increase in repairs reporting and particularly because of a greater than expected number of void properties recently presented requiring significant refurbishment or maintenance.

Vacancy savings within the Rents Section are partially offset by additional agency staff costs and the other additional costs reported above within Supervision and Management [General].

The increase in HRA Subsidy payment to WAG (£10k) is due to higher dwelling numbers (as a result of lower RTB sales). Most components of subsidy are calculated on a 'per dwelling' basis.

The budgeted contribution (£50k) towards the Provision for Bad Debts will not be required this year as rent arrears have continued to fall.

Rental income is forecast to be £161k (1.9%) higher than revised estimate. This is due to voids generally being lower than expected and higher dwelling numbers because RTB sales are lower than forecast.

The impact of this additional repairs and maintenance expenditure potentially reduces the projected balance carried forward for the year compared to the Housing Services Business Plan. However, the Plan is in the process of being updated to account for numerous other factors (with both positive and negative impacts) and the full impact will be reported back to Cabinet in May, once the Plan has been fully updated.

Progress against the HRA capital plan is included as Appendix 2. Work is ongoing on all schemes and expenditure to date is £6.513m. The major elements are as follows:

- Some final account payments (on works pre 2005/06) are higher than originally estimated and the forecast is £278k higher than revised estimate.
- Environmental improvements expenditure is lower than planned because of the concentration of effort on the major improvements programme.
- The £975k slippage on major improvements is due to the work starting later than originally scheduled – this slippage, however, will be spent within the early part of the next financial year.
- The expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants is £283k, however that charge to the HRA is agreed at £100k and this is on target.
- The current year under spend on the windows contract is due to the contract starting later than planned.
- As the central heating contract has progressed, less houses than planned have required a full replacement, hence the contract performance is better than expected.

The current year slippage will be carried forward to 2006/07. The carry-forward is wholly contained within the HRA and does not impact on the council's capital position, nor will it adversely impact upon the Housing Stock Business Plan (HSBP). The impact will be fully considered when the HSBP is updated in the coming weeks.

The financing of the capital plan has been amended from the previous month so that it mirrors the recently ratified HSBP – therefore, usable capital receipts are shown as 25% of total RTB sales (currently standing at £2.3m) for 2005/06 and the element of brought forward receipts applied from previous years (£750k) is also shown. The prudential borrowing required for 2005/06 is therefore likely to be £2.466m.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The impact of the possible decrease in the HRA surplus for 2005/06 should be fully assessed in the context of other changes impacting on the Housing Services Business Plan and reported back to Cabinet.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Lead Cabinet Members have consulted with the Head of Service to monitor the H.R.A. during 2005/06.

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 ACTION PLAN

The Head of Housing Services and Senior Management Accountant should monitor the Housing Revenue Account on a monthly basis and report to Cabinet to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and budget.

The revised HSBP accounting for 2005/06 activity and new developments (such as leased properties) will be reported to Cabinet in May 2006.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the latest financial forecast position (revenue and capital) of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year and the rolling forward of the capital plan to the next financial year.

Appendix 1

Housing Revenue Account ~ 2005/06

<u>2004/05</u>		<u>2005/06</u>		
Actual £		Revised Budget £	Forecast Out-turn £	Variance to Budget £
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
1,091,038	Supervision & Management - General	1,142,595	1,233,592	90,997
205,743	Supervision & Management - Special	213,009	221,264	8,255
131,906	Welfare Services	127,445	128,027	582
0	Homelessness	0	0	0
384,881	Rents	437,328	374,521	-62,807
<u>2,174,227</u>	Repairs and Maintenance	<u>2,662,610</u>	<u>2,657,838</u>	<u>-4,772</u>
3,987,795	Total - Management and Maintenance	4,582,987	4,615,242	32,255
57,489	Rent Rebates	28,745	28,745	0
1,071,190	Debt Charges	902,596	922,300	19,704
0	C.E.R.A.	326,216	326,216	0
2,544,045	Subsidy	2,681,622	2,691,933	10,311
<u>-177,422</u>	Provision for Bad Debts	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-50,000</u>
<u>7,483,097</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>8,572,166</u>	<u>8,584,436</u>	<u>12,270</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
8,319,302	Rents (net of voids)	8,378,032	8,539,619	161,587
88,733	Garages	91,088	93,774	2,686
<u>136,807</u>	Interest	<u>141,547</u>	<u>145,408</u>	<u>3,861</u>
<u>8,544,843</u>	Total Income	<u>8,610,667</u>	<u>8,778,802</u>	<u>168,135</u>
Surplus / Deficit (-) for the Year:				
735,530	General Balances	364,717	520,581	155,864
326,216	Earmarked Balances	-326,216	-326,216	0
662,070	Balance as at start of year ~ General	1,397,600	1,397,600	-0
0	Balance as at start of year ~ Earmarked	326,216	326,216	0
1,397,600	Balance as at end of year ~ General	1,762,317	1,918,181	155,864
326,216	Balance as at end of year ~ Earmarked	0	0	0

Appendix 2

Housing Revenue Account Capital ~ 2005/06 Month 12

Project Description	Revised Estimate £	Actual and Committed £	Latest Forecast £	Variance to Estimate £
Housing Repair Work (Pre 2005/06 works)	522,000	751,529	800,000	278,000
Environmental Improvements	347,000	170,445	200,000	-147,000
Major Improvements ~ All groups	3,600,000	2,605,306	2,625,000	-975,000
DFG ~ Council Properties	100,000	282,806	100,000	0
Window Replacements	2,976,000	1,969,241	2,045,000	-931,000
Central Heating Contract	980,000	733,912	750,000	-230,000
Total	8,525,000	6,513,239	6,520,000	-2,005,000
Financing:				
Major Repairs Allowance	2,400,000	2,400,000	2,400,000	0
Usable Capital Receipts 2005/06	607,750	577,983	577,983	-29,768
Usable Capital Receipts Brought Forward	750,000	750,000	750,000	0
Prudential Borrowing	4,441,250	2,459,256	2,466,018	-1,975,233
Financed from Revenue (CERA)	326,000	326,000	326,000	0
Total	8,525,000	6,513,239	6,520,000	-2,005,000

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Finance & Human Resources

DATE: 25 April 2006

SUBJECT: Revenue Budget 2005/06

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Members note the budget performance figures for the 2005/06 financial year as detailed in the attached appendices.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The need to deliver the Council's agreed budget strategy for the 2005/06 financial year and avoid reducing already inadequate reserves.

3. POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 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

4.1 This report details the latest projections of Service budget year end positions as reported by Directorates, together with information on pressures and savings within the corporate budgets. The service pressure projections are as at the end of March 2006.

The appendix details a potential underspend totalling £806k (£592k underspend last report). This excludes the schools' delegated budgets. The main areas of change from the last report are:

- i) **Lifelong Learning** forecast overspend has reduced by £65k due mainly to £30k additional income from the health board for speech and language therapy.
- ii) The forecast for **capital financing charges** shows a further £190k underspend. This is due in part to improved investment income but is mainly as a result of accounting changes caused by the audit of the 2004/05 accounts. As reported to Council on 24 January 2006, the 2004/05 accounts were changed to create an earmarked reserve to ensure we fully complied with the Prudential Code of Practice. This had an unforeseen impact on 2005/06 as the reserve was released into the 2005/06 financial year. This has had the effect of generating additional 'income' for the capital financing budget.

- iii) An increase in the **bad debt provision** of £100k to ensure it returns to a robust level.
- iv) **Environment's** forecast underspend has increased by £36k due to one-off savings from the creation of the Joint Emergency Planning Unit.

Other reported pressure areas remain at a similar level to the last report.

Other potential but thus far unquantifiable pressures are the impact of the Single Status Pay Review and the appeals against the recent Council Tax revaluations, both of which may exceed the assumptions within the budget.

- 4.4 The **schools' delegated budget** had a brought forward balance available of £1,559k. During 2005/06 the latest projection is that schools will spend £547k of this, a reduction of £60k compared to last month's forecast. Additional savings have been through vacancy control and additional income. This means that schools will carry forward balances of £1,102k.
- 4.5 The overall financial position has improved since last month with directorates continuing to put significant effort into identifying savings where possible.
- 4.6 The underlying issues mean that caution is still required in all budget areas. The current underspend is partly due to increased income from investments because of slippage on the capital programme. Once this slippage is caught up, that additional income will no longer be there for future years.
- 4.7 There will clearly be an overall underspend by the end of the financial year. However, the final amount is still to be determined as part of the closedown of accounts.

Underspend

- 4.8 There are a number of possible uses of the underspend and the final decision on these rests with full Council. However the following points need to be considered:

One of the Council's priorities is to ensure that its general balances are built up to a robust level

Cabinet has already recommended £80k is earmarked for branding and the Urdd Festival (these have been shown as earmarked in the attached financial summary)

Lifelong Learning overspend needs to be funded

Directorates' underspends should be carried forward as earmarked reserves with directors identifying how they will use the funds

The Council's capital plan shows a significant increase in the coming years. The amount budgeted for expenditure on feasibility studies and preparation work in 2006/07 is less than 0.25% of next year's capital expenditure. More resources should be earmarked to ensure that projects are more robust and cost effective.

There are other potential costs that may need to be provided for such as redundancy costs for teachers, Council Tax revaluation appeals etc.

5. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 Without the savings on capital financing costs, the Council would have a minor overspend.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 Lead Cabinet members need to continue to consult with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action to prevent pressures in 2006/07.

7. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 Proper management of the Council's revenue budget underpins activity in all of the Council's policy areas.

8. ACTION PLAN

- 8.1 All departments undertake regular budget monitoring and will continue to identify and take advantage of savings and efficiencies.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9 That Members note the budget performance figures for 2006/07 as detailed in the attached appendices.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006**

Directorate	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Variance Previous report £000s
	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	
Lifelong Learning (excluding schools delegated)	28,973	-10,691	18,282	29,357	-10,855	18,502	384	-164	220	286
Environment	31,650	-11,266	20,384	32,011	-11,765	20,246	361	-499	-138	-102
Personal Services	47,678	-16,039	31,639	49,112	-17,855	31,257	1,434	-1,816	-382	-360
County Clerk	1,969	-543	1,426	2,130	-694	1,436	161	-151	10	-10
Resources	8,263	-2,500	5,763	8,308	-2,663	5,645	45	-163	-118	-98
Corporate, Miscellaneous & Benefits	25,671	-21,952	3,719	25,887	-21,955	3,932	216	-3	213	213
Clawback of Revenue Support Grant				200	0	200	200	0	200	200
Total All Services	144,204	-62,991	81,213	147,005	-65,787	81,218	2,801	-2,796	5	129
Capital Financing Charges/Investment Income			10,891			9,900			-991	-801
Increase in Bad Debt Provision			3,975			100			100	0
Precepts & Levies						3,975			0	0
Earmarked Funds									80	80
			96,079			95,193			-806	-592

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 2005/06
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Variance
	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Previous report £000s
Individual School Budgets	50,792	-4,596	46,196	52,274	-5,531	46,743	1,482	-935	547	617
School Funds Held Centrally	15,432	-4,810	10,622	15,746	-5,020	10,726	314	-210	104	155
Non school Funding #	1,947	-906	1,041	1,949	-884	1,065	2	22	24	24
Corporate Services	445	-5	440	485	-28	457	40	-23	17	17
Leisure Services	7,102	-4,038	3,064	7,144	-4,022	3,122	42	16	58	67
Culture	3,005	-351	2,654	2,991	-333	2,658	-14	18	4	12
Countryside	1,042	-581	461	1,042	-568	474	0	13	13	11
	28,973	-10,691	18,282	29,357	-10,855	18,502	384	-164	220	286
Total Lifelong Learning	79,765	-15,287	64,478	81,631	-16,386	65,245	1,866	-1,099	767	903

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006**

Youth Service included in Non-school funding
from 01/11/05

<u>Comments</u>	<u>Current Month</u> £000s	<u>Previous Month</u> £000s
EDUCATION		
Individual School Budgets:		
The latest projection on schools' balances as at 31/03/2006 is £1,012k an increase of £70k over that reported last month (£942k). This projected increase in schools' balances is due to reduced expenditure on staff and resources and increased income generation.	547	617
School Funds Held Centrally:		
School Transport		
Increased projected outturn due to higher than anticipated contract variations and escort costs. The effect of the retendering post February half term is reflected in the outturn following receipt of information from Transportation. The effect in the current year will be partially offset by school closures due to bad weather and industrial action. The impact is yet to be quantified. Pressure of £50k have been met within year from internal savings.	283	269
SEN		
The delegation of SEN Pupil Support Workers in the Primary sector was finalised in September based on actual cost. The completion of the delegation process has identified a shortfall of £630k (£629k 2004/5) which will be partially offset by increased income from out County placements £395k leaving a net shortfall of £235k.	235	235
Speech & Language Therapy - increased demand on service, offset by recently agreed contribution of £30k from Denbighshire Local Health Board	22	52
Other		
Management actions, vacancy savings and reduced free school meals	-243	-208
Increased income generation	-99	-99
ABA Behaviour Support	-28	-28
Pension contributions	-30	-30
Other schools funds held centrally	-36	-36
Non School Funding		
Student awards		
Savings on administration/software licences	-13	-13
College Transport		
Reduced cost of college network contracts following exercise by Transportation in calculating numbers for network journeys and resultant savings on contracts, plus adjustment for number of operating days in January. Invoices in respect of college requested transport to the end of December are still in the process of being raised by Transportation Dept.	44	44
Non School funding additional identified in year savings	-7	-7
Corporate Services		
A number of corporate service budgets and related service expenditure have recently been transferred to the Directorate (Equalities, Access, Translation, Press & PR, County Voice).		
The net saving on Press, PR and County Voice is the same as that report last month.	-8	-8
There is a projected overspend on the Translation Service budget of £25k due to the demand on the service, and the need to use external provision. A pressure on this service was identified prior to the transfer to Lifelong Learning.	25	25
TOTAL EDUCATION	692	813
CULTURE & LEISURE		

Leisure		
Vandalism / other premises costs to maintain Frith Beach	33	43
Energy Costs increase	55	51
Loss of swimming revenue at Rhyl LC due to temporary closure	29	29
Delayed appointment of Assistant Director	-6	-6
Reduction of Winter Events programme	-5	-5
Possible increase in income from review of fees & charges	-3	-3
Debt recovery	-10	-10
Gas & Electric rebate at Scala Cinema	-7	-7
Non payment of reserved CLL grant	-26	-26
Delayed Appointments	-2	0
Culture		
Increase in Libraries' NNDR	23	23
Delayed appointments	-18	-15
Reduction in opening hours of Gruelling Experience at Ruthin Gaol	-2	-2
Photocopier rebate	-12	-12
Rhyl Museum Feasibility Study - failed grant bid	18	18
Transfer of building maintenance costs	-5	
Countryside		
Reduced CCW grant - net	12	12
Additional project management fees secured	-2	-2
Underachieved income at Loggerheads County Park	3	1
TOTAL CULTURE & LEISURE	75	89
TOTAL LIFELONG LEARNING		
Total	767	902

CULTURE & LEISURE EFFICIENCY SAVINGS PROGRESS REPORT

Proposed Efficiency Saving	Target	Progress
Reduce funding to grant aided bodies	26,873	Achieved
Reduction of Library Service & Records M:	8,928	Achievable
Cut Pavilion Theatre Secretary post by 50%	9,534	Achieved
Reduction of furniture/equipment purchase	6,800	Achievable
Increase fees & charges	37,865	Achievable
Total	90,000	
Education Efficiency savings	£	
SCHOOLS DELEGATED BUDGET	353,000	Achieved
FREE SCHOOL MEALS REDUCTION	50,000	Achieved
REDUCED MEALS SUBSIDY	38,500	Achieved
SCHOOLS INSURANCE EXCESS	31,500	Achieved
MANAGEMENT & SECRETARIAT	5,120	Achieved
CLIENT SERVICES	7,000	Achieved
ADVISORY	11,700	Achieved
PRIM. ED. - NON DELEGATED	28,780	Achieved
SECONDARY - NON DELEGATED	28,240	Achieved
SPECIAL SCHOOLS - NON DELEG.	9,040	Achieved
STATEMENTING	7,500	Achieved
EDUCATION MISCELLANEOUS	22,620	Achieved
	593,000	

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Variance Previous report £000s
	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	
Development Services (Notes 1 to 3)	8,567	-5,019	3,548	8,649	-5,218	3,431	82	-199	-117	-60
Transport & Infrastructure (Note 2)	8,805	-3,726	5,079	8,883	-3,835	5,048	78	-109	-31	-35
Planning & Public Protection	4,122	-1,850	2,272	4,288	-2,016	2,272	166	-166	0	0
Director & Support (Note 4)	1,120	-103	1,017	1,037	-115	922	-83	-12	-95	-37
Environmental Services (Note 5)	9,036	-568	8,468	9,154	-581	8,573	118	-13	105	30
Total Environment	31,650	-11,266	20,384	32,011	-11,765	20,246	361	-499	-138	-102

Notes:

- Additional income generated by the County Building Group due to the capitalised maintenance budget projected to be spent in full. This is partially offset by the extra costs detailed in
- Savings arising from delays in filling vacant posts
- No extra budget has been provided to fund the additional revenue pressure of £87k in respect of extra administrative Health and Safety processes. These costs are being absorbed in the Directorate's overall revenue budget (See Note 1)
- Non recurring savings from the implementation of the Joint Emergency Planning Unit and also delays in filling vacant post:
- Overspend on Open Spaces budget largely relating to the grounds maintenance service following the transfer of the former Sodexo employees in April 200.
- Progress with Efficiency Savings put forward as part of the Budget Setting exercise

Details	£'000s	Progress
(i) Projected Directorate Underspend 2004/05	100	Achieved
(ii) Income generation - Decriminalisation	50	Achieved
(iii) Income generation - Car Parking	100	Achieved
(iv) Development/Building Control - smarter working	30	Achieved
(v) Savings from Recruitment/Agency Process	30	Achieved
(vi) Income generation target - Other Fees & Charges	20	Achieved
(vii) Trading Activity Surplus	50	Achieved
TOTAL	380	

6. Trading Services

There will be deficits on the Refuse Collection and School Catering trading accounts. However, these deficits can be contained within the overall trading account as surpluses exceeding this are expected on the other trading services. The overall trading surplus will meet the Efficiency Savings target as detailed in 6 (vii) above.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006**

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Variance
	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Gross Expenditure £000s	Gross Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s	Previous report £000s
Children Services	8,680	-1,540	7,140	9,297	-1,837	7,460	617	-297	320	334
Adult Services	31,793	-9,258	22,535	32,912	-10,042	22,870	1,119	-784	335	368
Business Support & Development	1,732	0	1,732	2,102	-26	2,076	370	-26	344	329
Supporting People Grant	4,115	-4,129	-14	3,348	-4,140	-792	-767	-11	-778	-775
Underspend Brought Forward 2004/5	0	0	0	0	-540	-540	0	-540	-540	-540
	46,320	-14,927	31,393	47,659	-16,585	31,074	1,339	-1,658	-319	-284
Non HRA Housing	1,358	-1,112	246	1,453	-1,232	221	95	-120	-25	-38
Underspend Brought Forward 2004/5	0	0	0	0	-38	-38	0	-38	-38	-38
Total Personal Services	47,678	-16,039	31,639	49,112	-17,855	31,257	1,434	-1,816	-382	-360

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006

<u>Comments</u>	Current Month	Previous report
	£000s	£000s
PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES		
CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
Specialist Placement commitments remain the major pressure area. These are partly offset by an underspend within in house fostering services of and slippage on staffing budgets.	320	334
	320	334
ADULT SERVICES		
Learning Disabilities		
Community Living and Family Support have been the main budget pressures throughout the year.	373	373
Mental Illness		
The overspend projection of £167k is mainly attributable to Residential / Nursing placements.	167	167
Older People		
The overspend on Community Care (Older People) budgets has increased slightly in the last month. The outturn has been based on an average of fluctuating expenditure patterns and client numbers. A further pressure area is still Provider Unit Elderly Residential Homes. Long term strategies involving extra care housing are in place though this will not affect outturn in the short / medium term	156	179
PDSI		
The main budget pressure has been Community Care which is now forecast to be £96k overspent. Occupational Therapy overspend on minor adaptations and equipment has reduced from £41k to £29k due in part to an improved closing stock figure.	164	167
Performance Management & Commissioning		
This underspend is due to staff vacancies within the administration budgets.	-154	-142
Joint Working and Older People Strategy		
Forecast expenditure is now likely to be on target	0	-10
Other Adult Services		
The majority of the underspend reported is budget that is as yet unallocated. Though extra charging policy income (£30k) had been predicted in February, based on bills raised, this income is now at risk from appeals and has been discounted for the purposes of this outturn projection.	-336	-343
Cefndy Enterprises		
The increased underspend is based on adjustments to the year end stock figure - the final closing stock figure is higher than expected, so the charge to revenue is lower	-35	-23
TOTAL ADULT SERVICES	335	368
Business Support & Development		
Additional grant of £88k has been awarded in February to help finance the PARIS project. The PARIS project financing has been restructured as a result and the net effect reduces the overall BSD overspend. Also, some departmental telephone costs have been reduced	344	329
	344	329
Supporting People		
£256k of the underspend reported is earmarked for potential clawback. This is reported as part of the directorate position, but should not be used to fund overspends within the directorate. This leaves £522k underspend to be utilised by Social Services. In-year SPG savings are due to the remodelling of projects and new projects which will not begin until 2006.	-778	-775
2004/05 Underspend brought forward	-778	-775
	-540	-540
Non-HRA Housing		
The homelessness budget (the major part of the budget) is volatile but currently projecting an underspend.	-25	-38
2004/05 underspend brought forward	-38	-38
	-63	-76
Total Social Services and Housing	Total	-360
	-382	-360

Social Services and Housing Efficiency Savings 2005/06 - Progress Report

Children Services	Target	Details	Status	Comments
Transport	£15,000	Delegation of transport budgets to Team Managers with strict ceiling on spend.	£20k Achieved	Scheme of delegation of budgets to Team Managers has been introduced including restricted budget for Transport
Staff	£15,000	Slippage and savings on posts	Achieved	
Contract savings	£8,000	Work on reducing costs of external placements	Achieved	
Adult Services				
Charging Policy	£100,000	Primarily full year impact of charging policy to People with Learning Disabilities	Achievable	March bills still to be run. However there is still some concern about the number of people appealing and whether all invoices will be paid
Contract Reviews - invest to save	£30,000	Impact of Care Brokers, Contracts Officers reducing high costs of some placements	Achievable	Care Brokers now in post proving a much more efficient way of identifying care providers. In October a fixed rate for Dom Care was introduced.
Fee increases reduced by .5%	£80,000	Not increasing fees by 1% over inflation. Likely to cause problems in an unstable market.	Achieved	Budgets have been cut. All neighbouring authorities now pay rates higher than Denbighshire.
Work Opps Income	£10,000	Promoting businesses/dividing Llewelyn Room at Henllan	Not achieved	Ongoing promotion has not produced the desired increase in income.
Cancer Recharge	£5,000	Contribution from neighbouring Authorities	Achieved	LHB re free nursing care admin. £5k received
Staff	£39,000	Reduction in posts	Achieved	Straight budget cut.
Business Support & Development				
House Keeping	£10,000	Working with Procurement to improve efficiencies of purchases and reduce waste.	£7,800 achieved	This is very hard to prove. Previously the stationery budgets were within operational budgets but with many miscodings. By now having identified budgets within BSD for core stationery purchases, this is much improved. Work is underway to identify telephone costs. Saving is on consultancy costs.
Staff	£5,000		Not achieved	Slippage on appointments to posts/staff not at top of scale.
Housing				
Piper Lifeline charges	£10,000	Increase in charges	Achieved	Increases applied to 2005/06 charges
Accommodation Support Officer	£75,000	Savings generated by Support Officer in temporary costs of homelessness.	Achieved	
Totals	£402,000			

The £18k savings not achieved above will hopefully be achieved by increased transport savings in Childrens' Services, further contract savings in Adult Services and additional slippage on administration posts.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06
RESOURCES, COUNTY CLERK, CORPORATE & MISCELLANEOUS
POSITION AS AT END MAR 2006**

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Variance
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Previous report
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
County Clerks	1,969	-543	1,426	2,130	-694	1,436	161	-151	10	-10
Resources Directorate										
Finance	4,089	-1,840	2,249	4,062	-1,840	2,222	-27	0	-27	-27
Policy Unit	339	0	339	319	0	319	-20	0	-20	0
Audit	415	-60	355	412	-62	350	-3	-2	-5	-5
I.T	2,236	-431	1,805	2,180	-431	1,749	-56	0	-56	-56
Personnel	1,184	-169	1,015	1,174	-169	1,005	-10	0	-10	-10
Project Management	0	0	0	161	-161	0	161	-161	0	0
Total	8,263	-2,500	5,763	8,308	-2,663	5,645	45	-163	-118	-98
Corporate and Miscellaneous	4,381	-682	3,699	4,595	-683	3,912	214	-1	213	213
Benefits	21,290	-21,270	20	21,292	-21,272	20	2	-2	0	0
Capital Fin Charges/Investment Income	10,891	0	10,891	10,891	-991	9,900	0	-991	-991	-801
Revenue Support Grant	0	-90,790	(90,790)	0	-90,590	(90,590)	0	200	200	200

**CABINET
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
MAY 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Extension to Contract Procedure Rule 23.4 Exemption	Councillor P J Marfleet N Gridale
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Revised Homelessness Strategy & Appointment of Homelessness Champion – Deadlines for June	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor P J Marfleet J Williams
Community Capital Projects	Councillor R W Hughes M Dixon
Approval of LDP Preferred Strategy and Strategic Options	Councillor E W Williams M Pender
Llangollen Design Guide SPG	Councillor E W Williams M Pender
Approval of Wind Farm Draft SPG	Councillor E W Williams M Pender
Delegations to Officers	I K Hearle
Corwen Car Park And Denbigh Multi Story Car Park	Councillor E W Williams D Farquhar
Award of Llais y Sir 2 Year Contract	Councillor S A Davies S Appleton
Education Appeal Panel Appointments	Councillor D Owens N Gridale
JUNE 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Final Revenue Accounts 2005-2006	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Amendments to Travelling and Subsistence	Councillor P J Marfleet A Evans
Review of Authority Procedures Regarding Rent Collection for Leased Buildings	A Evans K Jones
Royal International Pavilion Phase I <i>Way forward following feasibility study</i>	Councillor S Roberts T Hughes
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Single Education Plan – to be adopted by Council July 2006	Councillor D Owens H Griffiths
Regional Partnership Board	Councillor R W Hughes J Williams

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
JULY 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Cefndy Healthcare	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling
AUGUST 2006 ~ NO MEETINGS	
SEPTEMBER 2006 ~ 1ST MEETING	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor P J Marfleet J Williams
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Modernising Education: Report on Work in Stage I of Consultation	Councillor D Owens H W Griffiths
SEPTEMBER 2006 ~ 2ND MEETING	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2005-2006</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Annual Treasury Report	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
SSIW Children's Services Inspection Report	Councillor M A German N Francis
OCTOBER 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Review of Capital Prioritisation	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy – may incorporate Review of Older People Commissioning	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
Strategy	
NOVEMBER 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor P J Marfleet J Williams
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Review of Hospital Discharge Scheme	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling
DECEMBER 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
JANUARY 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
FEBRUARY 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Treasury Management Strategy <i>Sets out the strategy for the coming year</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor P J Marfleet J Williams
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
MARCH 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2006-2007 [including Procurement] <i>Provides an update of the Revenue Budget position for 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
Capital Plan <i>Capital 2006-2007</i>	Councillor P J Marfleet R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget <i>Sets out the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account</i>	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Modernising Education Update	Councillor D Owens H W Griffiths

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

DATE: 25TH APRIL 2005

SUBJECT: ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To consider and comment on proposed Orders to be considered by Council designating public places within the areas of Prestatyn, Meliden and Llangollen as detailed in the consultation papers in Appendix 1 for the purposes of prohibiting consumption of and requiring surrender of intoxicating liquor.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 This report is being presented as part of a consultation process and it is proposed that a report will be presented to Council on 16th May 2006 at which a formal resolution will be sought. This scheme is supported by North Wales Police.

2.2 The North Wales Police and the licensed trade in Prestatyn and Llangollen currently operate a scheme called 'Pub Watch' which gives licensees in the scheme the power to ban people from their premises if they are drunk or frequently behave in an anti-social way.

2.3 Any licensee banning a person then communicates this information to other licensees in the Scheme. Those licensees can monitor those people to ensure they do behave in an acceptable way in their licensed premises.

2.4 The Scheme has operated for some time in Prestatyn and Llangollen and during that time there have been a number of people who have been banned from public houses in the town centres.

2.5 Some people have left the town centre and now frequent public houses elsewhere in the County but a few have chosen to remain in the town centre. These people buy alcohol from off-licenses and supermarkets and congregate in various places to consume alcohol. This behaviour is directly linked to increased occurrences of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the towns. Also these people encourage youngsters to drink and will buy alcohol for under-age teenagers and children, further leading to drunkenness and nuisance for residents. At best this intimidating behaviour increases the public's fear of crime and at worst results in criminal offences being committed.

2.6 It is legal for people under the age of 18 to drink alcohol in public places and the Police have limited powers to deal with this behaviour. An Order made in accordance with the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 will allow the police to

stop under-age drinkers and make them dispose of their alcohol. This Order is also a useful tool to combat alcohol related crime or anti social behaviour by adults, and will make it a criminal offence for anybody to continue drinking alcohol in the street after they have been requested not to do so by a police officer or community support officer. The penalty for failing to comply with the request is arrest and prosecution with a fine of up to £500 being imposed by the Courts.

- 2.7 Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 states that a local authority may identify any public place in the area of the local authority where they are satisfied that nuisance, disorder or annoyance to the public has been associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor and make an Order enabling a Constable to prohibit a person who is reasonably believed to be or to have been or who intends to consume intoxicating liquor in a designated public place from consuming intoxicating liquor and to require that person to surrender anything in his possession which is or which the Constable reasonably believes to be intoxicating liquor or an unsealed container for intoxicating liquor. Before making an Order a local authority has to publish in the press notice of its proposals and their effect and invite representations as to whether or not an Order should be made. Any representations have to be considered by the authority and the Order itself cannot be made until at least 28 days after the publication of the press notice. A copy of any Order made has to be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government and before the Order takes effect a further notice has to be published and such signs erected as the authority considers sufficient to draw the attention of members of the public in the designated public place to the effect of the Order.
- 2.8 Attached to this report is a copy of the Police statistics on alcohol related incidents in the designated areas. These statistics are confidential and **restricted** to Members. Please see Appendix 2

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Any decision taken in respect of these proposals will be a Council function by virtue of the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2001 Part 1 (as amended by the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and responsibilities) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are costs associated with placing the advertisements in the local press and the erection of suitable signage in each town.
- 4.2 Whilst a contribution towards the cost of signage (£4000) has been built in to the Prestatyn Crime and Disorder Action Plan the Welsh Assembly are still unsure whether the scheme is eligible for funding. If the application is unsuccessful then alternative funding sources will need to be identified.

4.3 The South Denbighshire Crime and Disorder Group have not made any provision in their action plan to fund this scheme. This scheme is somewhat smaller than Prestatyn's and Officers are confident that funding can be identified within existing allocations.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Funding for this proposal has yet to be clarified. While costs are relatively low in comparison with anticipated benefits it is suggested that CET review funding potential and identify finance from within existing budget provisions.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6.1 Consultation has been carried out with Local Members, Prestatyn Crime and Disorder Group, Prestatyn Town Council, Prestatyn Pub Watch, Prestatyn and District Business Association, South Denbighshire Crime and Disorder Group, Llangollen Town Council, Llangollen Business Association, Denbighshire's Joint Action Group and North Wales Police and also the Environment Scrutiny Committee. The deadline for comments is 21st April. A verbal update of responses received will be given at the Cabinet meeting.

6.2 Notices will be published in the local press advising people that an Order is being sought.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005 – 2008
Health and Well Being

8 ACTION PLAN

Denbighshire County Council Planning and Public Protection Department are leading on the policy work relating to these proposals. Should the designated zones be approved North Wales Police will have responsibility for policing these areas.

Action	Date	Responsible Officer
Report to and seek a decision from full Council	16 th May 2006	Jonathan White
Public Consultation via Local Press	May – June 2006 30 day consultation	Jonathan White
Consideration of representations, making of Order and submission to WAG, press notice publicising Order and erection of signs	June 2006	Jonathan White
Implementation	July 2006	Jonathan White

9 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That subject to consideration of consultation responses:-

- 9.1 Members support in principle the proposal submitted by the Community Safety Partnership and note that their observations will form part of our consultation exercise.
- 9.2 Members recommend in principle that Council designates public places within the areas of Prestatyn, Meliden and Llangollen as detailed in the consultation papers in Appendix 1 for the purposes of prohibiting consumption of and requiring surrender of intoxicating liquor.

APPENDIX 1

Jonathan White
Policy Officer
Denbighshire County Council
Planning and Public Protection Department
Canol Y Dre
Ruthin LL15 1QA

JW
01.03.06
01824 708078
Jonathan.white@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Colleague

RE: DESIGNATED ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

Representation has been made to Denbighshire County Council by North Wales Police for the introduction of designated alcohol free zones in Prestatyn. This letter forms part of our formal consultation with partners both internal and external to the authority. The recipients of this consultation letter will be:

- A) Lead Member and Local Members
- B) Local Crime and Disorder Group
- C) Local Business Association / Pub Watch

Public consultation will take place via the local press. A decision to proceed with these recommendations will be made by Full Council on 16th May 2006.

Please send responses to this consultation document no later than Friday 21st April 2006. The address to which you should send your written response is detailed at the end of this document.

The areas recommended for designation in Prestatyn are:

- A) High Street (from junction with Gronant road to end)
- B) Nant Hall Road (from junction with High St to junction with Mostyn Ave)
- C) The whole bus station area adjacent to Ffordd Pendyffryn
- D) Outdoor Market area
- E) Railway Station and grounds
- F) Public Park bordering Morely Rd and Station Rd
- G) Kings Avenue (from junction with Ffordd Pendyffryn and High St)
- H) Land bordering Bishopswood Rd with Hillside Rd and Gronant Rd.
- I) Ffrith Beach and Festival Gardens up to Victoria Rd
- J) Plas Avenue
- K) Public Park in the vicinity of Prestatyn Holiday Camp
- L) Public Park in the area of Ffordd Penrhwylyfa, Llandaff Drive, Winchester Drive
- M) Public Park in the area of Ffordd Penrhwylyfa and junction of Ffordd Ffynnon
- N) Ffordd Talorgoch, from its junction with Ffordd Ty Newydd to its junction with Manod Road, including Ffordd Talorgoch Crescent

- O) School and surrounding play fields and grounds off Ffordd Ty Newydd, bordered by Ffordd Penant and Ffordd Gwilym.
- P) Land adjacent to the old police station on Ffordd Talorgoch, to its junction with The Grove and Maes Meurig.
- Q) Land known as Graig Fawr, adjacent to Pen Y Maes and The Brae
- R) Land at the edge of Ffordd Tanrallt known as Nant Yr Ogof

AND in Llangollen are:

- A) Riverside Park
- B) Pengwern Park
- C) Plas Newydd

Sections 12 -16 of the Criminal Justice Police Act 2001 which came into effect on 1 September 2001, allow local authorities to adopt powers to designate areas which have known anti -social drinking and nuisance associated with them

Designation Orders: Process and procedures

Evidence

Local authorities should first make assessment about the level of the antisocial drinking and disorder in areas proposed for designation. Crime Reduction and Disorder Partnerships and the police may be able to provide some level of evidence or history about the extent of the disorder or nuisance in these areas.

The level and detail of the assessment and evidence required is not as extensive as previously required for establishing a bye law. However, local authorities will have to be satisfied that the proposed area for designation has a history of antisocial drinking and disorder

Consultation

Once the Local authority is satisfied with the assessment and evidence gathered on the proposed they should consult the police, any parish or community councils, licensees, land owners or occupiers and receive representations about areas that will be affected by the designation order.

It may be impractical to consult individually with all land owners and occupiers in the proposed area , therefore public consultation notices in the local press would be acceptable as part of the process

Publicity

Before making an order, the local authority should

publish in the local press, a notice identifying areas proposed for designation

set out the effect of an order being made in relation to that place; and

invite representations as to whether or not an order should be made.

Local authorities should not make an order until at least 28 days after the publication of the notice (See local authorities Regulation 5).

Designation Order

Once the process is complete, the local authority should make an order under 13(2) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. The Order should include all areas affected by it and the date it came into effect. The format of such an Order is detailed below.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ACT 2001

Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Order 200-

The ----- Council (in this Order called "the council") hereby make the following Order under Section 13(2) of the said Act:

The land described in the Schedule below and/or shown on the map attached to this Order, being land in the area of the Council which is land to which the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 applies, is hereby designated for the purposes of that Act.

This Order may be cited as the Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places for the area of ----- Order (No--) 2002 and shall come into force on -----.

SCHEDULE

List of roads/areas etc

Dated -----

The Common Seal of the -----Council
was hereunto affixed in the presence of

Plans to apply for such Orders raise all sorts of questions and concerns. Examples below may help you with your decision making.

Q. Can we still introduce a bye law to restrict public drinking?

A. Bye laws cease to have effect on the 1st of September 2006, so while local authorities can still introduce bye laws, we strongly recommend that LAs adopt the powers under section 13 to replace any existing bye laws which will, by virtue of section 15 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act cease to have effect and will lapse after a period of 5 years from 1 September 2001.

Q. Will these measures lead to a universal ban on drinking in the open air?

A. No. Clause 13 will allow local authorities to designate public areas for the purposes of clause 12 **where they are satisfied** that nuisance, annoyance or disorder has been associated with public drinking in that area. The offence in Clause 12 will not be consumption of alcohol in a designated public place, but drinking after being required by an officer not to do so. And it will only apply in areas that have an experience of public drinking problems. These are unlikely to include peaceful, family picnic areas.

Q. What guidance has the Home Office provided on the nature of signs?

A. The Home Office has not provided guidance on the prescribed wording or format of signs in areas that have been proposed for designation. However, we are aware that some local authorities (LA) have adopted signs used in the previous bye laws which show glass or beer bottles with an intersecting diagonal red line. We have no objection to this but suggest that the diagonal line be removed since it may suggest some sort of prohibition or ban. Where possible, signs should carry details of a small map to indicate the areas affected by the order. Local authorities who have previously used signs indicating "Alcohol free Zones" should also refrain from using them as this can be misleading and convey the wrong message.

Q. Can local authorities introduce blanket restriction on alcohol consumption or create Alcohol Free Zones?

A. There are no provisions in the 2001 Act, which allow the creation of Alcohol Free Zones or blanket restriction on alcohol drinking in public. Before an area is proposed for designation, the local authority must obtain some evidence that the area has antisocial nuisance or disorder associated with it . Any proposals for a comprehensive ban on public drinking would be considered disproportionate to the intended purpose behind the measures contained in the new Act.

Q. What about antisocial drinking being displaced into non designated areas?

A. The creation of designated areas may well lead to antisocial drinking or nuisance being displaced into areas that have not been designated for this purpose. Prior to making an area designated, local authorities should make an assessment of all the areas to where they reasonably believe that nuisance or disorder will be displaced, ensuring that all those affected by the designation are appropriately consulted.

The implementation of these new powers will not prevent the police from using their existing powers to deal with alcohol related anti social behavior and disorder in areas not contained in this order.

Q. What about relaxing restrictions during public events?

A. Local authorities can, with the agreement of the police, allow public events like festivals to proceed without any restrictions on alcohol. Since the powers are only discretionary, these can be reviewed and exercised if local circumstances demand.

Sections 12 -16 of the Criminal Justice Police Act 2001 provide local authorities to adopt powers to designate areas which have history of known antisocial drinking and nuisance. [Http://www.legislation.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010016.htm](http://www.legislation.hms0.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010016.htm)

Alcohol consumption in designated public places

Clause 12 is intended to reduce the incidence of disorder and public nuisance arising from alcohol consumption in public places. By virtue of Clause 13, local authorities will be able to designate areas in which it will become an offence for any person to drink alcohol after being required by a police officer not to do so. The police will also have the power to confiscate and dispose of any alcohol and containers in the person's possession. It will be an arrestable offence to fail, without a reasonable excuse, to comply with the police officer's request

Clause 13 will allow local authorities to designate public areas for the purposes of clause 12 **where they are satisfied that** nuisance, annoyance or disorder has been associated with public drinking in that area. Where areas have been so designated, a police officer may require a person:

- not to drink in that place; and/or
- to surrender alcohol or open alcohol containers if the officer reasonable believes that the person is, has been, or intends to consume alcohol in that place.

Clause 14: Places which are not designated public places

The restriction on public drinking will not apply to any premises or area covered by a licence allowing the consumption of alcohol, for example, the premises of licensed houses, clubs or restaurants

The Criminal Justice and Police Act (CJPA) 2001 introduced several measures to combat alcohol-related crime and disorder. These powers came into effect in September 2001. They included new powers ([sections 12 -16](#)) for local authorities to designate areas to restrict the public consumption of alcohol and for the police to confiscate alcohol and opened containers (but not alcohol in sealed containers).

Since the introduction of these powers, the Home Secretary has received representations from the police and others to the effect that the provisions in the Act in fact limit the ability of the police to deal effectively with underage and antisocial drinking. Particularly when

individuals go on to drink from sealed containers after the police have seized opened containers of alcohol.

The clause will extend the police powers to confiscate alcohol in sealed containers from adults in designated areas and young people in public places, where the police reasonably believe that they intend to consume the alcohol.

Please forward your observations to Jonathan White, Policy Officer, Planning and Public Protection Services, Trem Clwyd, Canol Y Dre, Ruthin, LL15 1QA.

Sincerely

Jonathan White
Policy Officer.