

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Rhyl at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 26 September 2006.

PRESENT

Councillors S A Davies, Lead Member for Business, Communications and Personnel; 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; D Owens, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; G O Rowlands, Lead Member for Finance; S Roberts, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire; J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management and Councillor E W Williams, Lead Member for Environment.

Observers: Councillors R E Barton, M LI Davies, G C Evans, D Hannam, K N Hawkins and M M Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Financial Controller.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor R W Hughes welcomed Rachel Hartley from Oracle, who was participating in the shadowing process of senior officers within the Authority.

Councillor S A Davies referred to a letter of thanks received regarding the Authority's well run play strategy.

1 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 September 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 September 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3 **LLANGOLLEN DESIGN GUIDE**

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking Cabinet recommendation to Council to adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) Llangollen Design Guide, as a material consideration for use in both development plan policies and determining development control applications.

RESOLVED *the Llangollen Design Guide be recommended by Cabinet for adoption by the County Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance, for use as a material consideration in both development plan policies and determining development control applications.*

4 **MODERNISING EDUCATION: PROGRESS UPDATE**

Councillor D Owens presented the report for Members to note the progress made to date on the Modernising Education Programme, to endorse the approach taken and note the schedule proposed for the next stages of the Programme. He welcomed Philip Wells of Cambridge Education to the meeting.

Mr P Wells outlined the current position and future programme. The emphasis would be on discussions with schools and communities.

Councillor E W Williams referred to the Local Development Plan [LDP] Working Group which had met the previous day and to some areas in villages being made available for development. He suggested Education Officers should be invited to Community Council meetings to link the Modernising Education with the LDP.

In response to a query from Councillor P A Dobb, the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said more consultation with schools had been previously agreed by Cabinet, and the extension of the contract had been provided for in the funding allocated to the study.

The Corporate Director agreed the LDP process could be a vital part of the Modernising Education programme and he assured Members that this would be included in the programme. He also assured Members that each school would be treated on the same level.

Mr Wells informed Members that 46 of the 62 schools had attended or been represented at the first meetings now. The work now being carried out was in addition to that originally envisaged. He agreed that discussions could be held with some of the Community Council if this was requested.

Councillor E C Edwards referred to the County's Draft Economic Development Plan and said this was also of vital importance to communities and asked that Cambridge Education include the Plan in their proposals. Members agreed it was important all the documents be included as part of the Modernising Education Programme.

RESOLVED that Members note the progress made to date on the Modernising Education Programme, endorse the approach taken and note the schedule proposed for the next stages of the Programme.

5 101 CYMRU: PROPOSAL FOR SUBMISSION TO THE HOME OFFICE

Councillor S A Davies presented the report seeking Members' approval for participation in a Welsh Local Authority and Police partnership for the establishment of a single non emergency number throughout Wales.

The Head of ICT informed Members that the Authority had the managerial expertise to carry out the work as the Lead Authority, having set up the Call Centre. It was proposed to have 4 centres - North Wales, Gwent, Dyfed-Powys and Cardiff. Discussions had taken place with the North Wales Police and they had agreed the best location for the Contact Centre would be at their Divisional Headquarters in St Asaph. The accountable body for the scheme would be the Police, whilst the employing body was the Council who would be acting as the Lead Authority for North Wales, managing the new service. The proposal would be submitted to the Home Office by 06.10.2006 but if no funding was forthcoming the Authority would not be committed to providing the service. However, funding could be made available until 2010 but it was unclear about funding for the service thereafter.

Councillor E C Edwards informed Members that the Chief Constable had held discussions with the Home Office and the Police were also unclear regarding possible funding. He urged the Authority to carefully consider any proposed structures and not to agree to anything which could lead to financial difficulties for the Authority. By 2008, the funding for the service should have become clear.

As the employing Authority, Councillor J Thompson Hill asked for clarification regarding the staff employed after 2010 if the service was discontinued as this could have financial repercussions for the Authority. The Head of ICT said the agreement from the Home Office would, if the need arose, allow Denbighshire to give employees 3 months notice, which would be the required time to follow the full employment redundancy process. In the proposal, costs would be covered by the Home Office.

Councillor P A Dobb felt that 2½ years was not long enough for the public to become used to using the 101 number for non-emergency calls.

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources said the 101 service was potentially a significant development and this was the time to discuss the principles of the scheme. The funding issues were yet to be resolved. He referred to Recommendation 9.3 and that the wording 'no financial risk to the Authority' was possibly difficult to achieve. He anticipated the Home Office would pay the costs to 2010. However, it was very important that the other Local Authority partners agreed

how additional costs would be shared. He suggested that Recommendation 9.3 be amended to read "...as long as the financial risk to the Authority is minimised".

The Chief Executive informed Members that this was the first significant collaboration that Denbighshire would lead and the model agreement should be applied to any other similar collaborative agreements. He urged Members to adopt the amendment suggested by the Deputy Chief Executive / Financial Controller.

Members were by the Corporate Director: Environment to be aware of the proposal, as this would have an impact on delivery of front line services and could lead to greater demand on the Authority's own services.

Councillor E C Edwards said that each Authority should share any burdens regarding the provision of the proposed service. He emphasised that North Wales was very different to Cardiff for example, and consideration would have to be given to Welsh Language provision.

Councillor R W Hughes agreed all Authorities should consider and agree the guidelines to collaborative working to ensure all had an equal part to play.

In response to a query from Councillor D Hannam, the Head of ICT informed Members that peak call times, for example, had been monitored in the Cardiff pilot study and this information was being made available to the four proposed centres.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Cabinet approve the submission to the Home Office of a proposal for the establishment of an all Wales Local Authority and Police partnership for the provision of a national Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN) based upon the principles set-out in the report;*
- (b) *Subject to the full agreement with the Home Office of the funding principles and substantial agreement with the Home Office to the other service principles as set-out in this report, Denbighshire County Council commits itself as a partner in establishing the 101 Cymru service, and*
- (c) *Cabinet approve the recommendation that Denbighshire County Council becomes the lead authority for the employment of staff and operational management of the North Wales SNEN Contact Centre as long as the financial risk to the Authority is minimised, including any risk associated with termination of service.*

6 EXTRA CARE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LLYS NANT SITE, PRESTATYN

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report updating Members on the financial implications of the proposed development of a 61 unit extra care housing facility on the site of Llys Nant residential home for the elderly in Prestatyn.

Financial modelling showed that the scheme was viable and could be funded through Prudential Borrowing in its entirety. The exact tenure of all the units still has to be determined as well as details on the financial involvement of the LHB. We are applying for Social Housing Grant in partnership with Wales and West Housing Association, should we success prudential borrowing will not proceed.

Councillor J Thompson Hill asked about the proposed arrangement with Wales and West Housing Association. Councillor Dobb confirmed the housing association would take on the properties if they were successful in accessing the Social Housing Grant.

Councillor E W Williams asked whether the development would be for residents of Prestatyn and district. Councillor Dobb said the units would be covered by a Section 106 agreement which should discourage people from elsewhere applying for a property. Councillor Williams expressed his support for the proposal but again said he felt it was in the wrong location and should have been located in the Ffrith.

RESOLVED that Members note progress on financial modelling for the proposed development of extra care housing in Prestatyn as agreed in Cabinet in July 2006 and the variables, and information required, to finalise the model and take the project to detailed project planning stage.

7 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION LICENSING – LICENCE CONDITIONS

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Members to approve the proposed Additional Licensing Conditions and Standards as outlined in Appendices 2, 3 and the revised Appendix 4 attached to the report / circulated at the meeting and for those Conditions and Standards to be adopted by the Council as their local standards. Agreement was also sought that the Lead Member for Health and Well-being be given delegated power to make any subsequent minor changes to the Conditions and Standards once adopted.

Environment Scrutiny comments had been incorporated but no comments had been received from private landlords.

Councillor M A German said he was pleased to support the report and in particular the disposal of refuse conditions. In response to a question from Councillor E W Williams regarding future recycling collections in West Rhyl, the Corporate Director: Environment said different strategies would be adopted in parts of West Rhyl for example to ensure that large properties incorporating 10 flats would not have streets full of wheelie bins. In the Communities First areas, various community bodies would be consulted. He

thanked the Principal Environmental Health Officer – Housing Enforcement and team, the North Wales Police and various other Council departments for their hard work in producing the licence conditions documents. It was important that private landlord understood that the Authority expected high standards and that this was an integral part of transforming West Rhyl in particular. Both Councillors D Hannam and S Roberts expressed their support for the new licence conditions which would not only help West Rhyl but also parts of the east of Rhyl.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer – Housing Enforcement informed Members that Denbighshire was the first Authority to bring such regulations to Cabinet and detailed the needs of different areas in North Wales which meant that the system had to evolve over time.

RESOLVED that Members:

- (a) *approve the Conditions and Standards as outlined in Appendices 2, 3 and revised 4 to the report/circulated at the meeting, including the amendments outlined under Section 6.1 and 6.2 of the report as recommended by Scrutiny Committee and the Chief Executive Officer;*
- (b) *adopt the Conditions and Standards as the Council's local standards which will be applied to properties subject to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Mandatory Licensing Regime, and*
- (c) *agree the Lead Member for Health and Well-being have delegated power to make any subsequent minor changes to the Conditions and Standards.*

8 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2006-2007

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 the current financial year. The outturn projection at the end of August showed a net surplus at the year end of £688k was shown against a budgeted surplus of £333k.

It was possible that minor adjustments to the leasing subsidy estimates would be required once clarification on the leasing scheme was received from the Welsh Assembly Government as a formal Direction.

Following the review of Right To Buy sales completed in July, the forecast sales for the year have been revised downward from 48 to 44. The Housing Stock Business Plan has been amended to account for the change and the Plan remains viable.

In response to Councillor E C Edwards' query regarding the garage survey, the Head of Housing Services confirmed that the survey had commenced and should be completed with a report being presented to Cabinet in November 2006.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the latest financial forecast position [revenue and capital] of the Housing Revenue Account for the current financial year.

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

9 REVENUE BUDGET 2006-2007

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest revenue budget performance figures for the 2006/07 financial year as detailed in the appendices attached to the report. Members were asked to note that the date of the report should be 26.09.2006 and that the information in the report was to end August 2006. Councillor Rowlands referred to the achievement by the Children's Services who were forecasting a balanced budget and the general Social Services projected underspend. He asked Members to note that equal pay provision would be a pressure on the Authority as HM Treasury had blocked capitalisation of equal pay provision, whilst appeals for Council Tax revaluation were still being received and would have an impact.

Councillor Rowlands said Resources officers would be organising a budget awayday in November 2006 for all Members and this would be another opportunity for Members to express their opinions as well as in Cabinet or Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor E W Williams reminded Members that the car parking would be an issue. He also referred to the pressures on healthy school meal provision. Carmarthenshire, for example, had improved the quality of school meals, costs had increased but the take-up was lower. However, he said the Council should continue to strive to improve school meals. Referring to the seminar to be held, he suggested detail be provided so that all Members would understand the impact and implications of say increases in car park charges.

Councillor Rowlands agreed the need for simplification of the budget. He also congratulated the Principal Management Accountant and team on the recent finance seminar which those attending had found most useful.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning outlined various issues regarding surpluses in schools budgets. In referring to school meals provision, he said joint service working was required. Councillor D Owens said no extra funding had been made available in Wales as had in England for the provision of more healthy school meals.

Councillor P A Dobb said she would be disappointed if cuts were made to provision of healthy school meals and asked about the costs of current school meal and more healthy school meal provision. Ysgol Llanbedr, for example, had an increase in the takeup rate as more healthy school meals were being provided. The Corporate Director: Environment said the whole budget would need thorough discussion, the cost of providing healthy meals, the number on the school roll and the take up element when better, healthier options were provided. It was important to educate pupils on the

benefits of healthy eating. The Department would be unable to sustain a significant loss in school meal provision.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning informed Members that Price Waterhouse Coopers would be making a presentation to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee and the Schools Budget Forum. It would also be advantageous if school governors received more training on schools budgets.

RESOLVED that Members note the budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the appendix to the report and that an awayday would be held in November as part of the budget preparation process to ensure maximum Member awareness.

10 ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources presented the annual report on the performance of the treasury management function in accordance with the Authority's Treasury Policy Statement. The report detailed previous expectations of the economic climate, the resultant strategy agreed, the actual interest rate performance and the actions undertaken by Council in response. Members were asked to approve the treasury activities undertaken in 2005-2006 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Annual Treasury Report for 2005/06.

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Councillor S A Davies presented the report seeking Cabinet's views on the type of pension scheme to be offered to existing scheme members and new entrants from 01.04.2008; two tier health retirement, and contribution levels. He said the consultation document had been received and the implications of the proposals discussed on 14.09.2006. Response to the consultation was required by 26.09.2006.

Councillor Davies said various options had been considered and it was recommended the preferred Option B with increased employee contributions be supported.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the document was for consultation only as pension schemes were not a devolved function. Different proposals were made for Local Authority staff, as opposed to other public sector staff. Central Government appears to again be treating Local Government staff in a different way to their own staff. Members should be reminded that all public sector pensions were paid for by taxes of one form or another. If less favourable conditions were applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme, it could lead to a detrimental effect on recruitment and retention for Local Authorities.

RESOLVED that Cabinet support:-

- (a) Option B with increased Employees' Contribution;
- (b) the two tier ill health scheme, and
- (c) a single contribution rate for all employees regardless of grade but this to be increased on current levels.

12 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor S A Davies presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

13 URGENT ITEMS:

There were no Urgent Items.

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

14 CAPITAL PLAN 2006-2007

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest position on the 2006-2007 element of the Capital Plan. Following the discussion at Council the funding for the Scala had been transferred out of the project to a separate reserve. He also asked for comments on the revised presentation of the plan.

Members were asked to note that Aberwheeler Nurseries had not been included in the Plan and provision of new portakabins for the Nurseries would need to be included. He indicated that he wished to review the current capital block allocations and also draw revenue and capital budgets closer together.

Councillor S Roberts reminded Members that a decision on the Scala project had been deferred to the November 2006 Council meeting.

Councillor E W Williams, referring to Project Alpha costs, said it was also important for funding to be made available for small projects in schools, such as less than £10k

required to provide a better access to a primary school. Councillor P A Dobb also commented on the provision of capital for the smaller schools.

Councillor E C Edwards asked whether the provision of leased portakabins for Aberwheeler Nurseries was covered by the Government directive that portakabin use would cease by 2010. Councillor P A Dobb said it was imperative for health and safety reasons that portakabins were provided for this site.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said use of portakabins was an issue and many schools were allowing pupil numbers to reach over-capacity. Schools should comply wherever possible with the schools admissions policy. He said he would be available to discuss particular school buildings with any Members. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning informed Members that no decision had been made regarding the possible provision of a National Centre for Sensory Impairment at Ysgol Glan Clwyd. The Chief Executive agreed serious questions had to be addressed regarding the project, before its possible inclusion in the Capital Plan.

In regard to Project Alpha, the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said costs were in line with other school build of a similar size in the UK. He stressed the importance of schools being safe for pupils to attend and said continual expansion could not take place - it was important that projected pupil numbers were taken into account. Rationalisation of systems was important.

Councillor E W Williams again said the new Prestatyn school should have been located on the Llys Nant site with the extra care development being located at the Ffrith but Prestatyn Councillors had not favoured this option.

RESOLVED that Members note the latest position on the 2006-2007 element of the Capital Plan.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR P.A DOBB
LEAD MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

DATE: 31st October 2006

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING PEOPLE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007/2008

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To agree the Supporting People Operational Plan for 2007/8.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- The National Assembly for Wales have requested the Supporting People Operational Plan on an annual basis (See Appendix 1 for a summary of priorities and appendix 2 for the plan introduction and Overview).
- The Supporting People Operational Plan 2007/8 outlines new and remodelled service for development and delivery in 2007/8.
- The projects identified will bridge gaps within existing services and meet local needs
- The Supporting People Operational Plan will inform the revenue resource allocation process for the Supporting People Grant and Supporting People Revenue Grant in 2007/8.

A Summary of New Services/ Projects for development not listed in any priority order are as follows (see appendix 2) :-

- 2 units of high level supported housing for families/ single people with substance misuse needs who can not access refuge facilities
- Mental Health/ Homeless 24 hour staffed temporary accommodation (between 3-6 units)
- High Risk Young People Provision – 2 units of high level provision (the specification needs to be developed)
- Ex-offenders Project linked to MAPPA and MARAC (Multi agency public protection and Multi agency risk assessment committee), – 2 units high level provision (the specification needs to be developed)

A Summary of Existing Projects which will be “Re-modelled” is as follows:

- An administrative change - split Denbighshire Women’s Aid into Glyndwr Women’s Aid “floating support”, GWA “supported housing” and Rhyl Women’s Aid “supported housing”.

- An administrative change – split GIFT into 4 units to Cais, 4 units to Nacro, 4 units with DCC Housing (who subcontract 2 units to Tai Hafan and 2 units to Women’s Aid).
- Released funding from Learning Disability Community Living Projects to fund a low level support service in Prestatyn.
- To increase the capacity of the “Social Support Project” (based with CDAS, the Community Drug & Alcohol service) by 2 units within the current funding. This project will continue to support people with dual diagnosis (mental health & substance misuse needs), but not exclusively that group. This change will enable more service users to be supported with no additional cost.
- To reconfigure Cais services (at no additional cost) to target substance misuse services more effectively.
 - Increase Cais “Move-on accommodation project” from 3 to 5 units to target people who are homeless and not engaged with services
 - Remodel Cais “Floating Support project” to 7 units from 11 to target people living in temporary accommodation with no engagement with services.
 - To increase the Cais contribution to the “GIFT project” from 4 to 6 units, to target people who are potentially homeless but have accommodation and are not involved with services.
- To increase the capacity of the “Probation Support Project” from 6 units to 10 units within current funding. This change will enable more service users to be supported with no additional cost.
- Welfare Rights – “Exit Strategy project” – this project has had high void levels and will need analysing as part of the longer term strategy. The project will accept private sector referrals in the short term to address voids.
- Tai Hafan Young Women’s Project – split the “Floating Support” service from the “Supported Housing” service and tighten the eligibility criteria to support young single women who have suffered abuse, young women who are pregnant and young single parent families.
- Children’s Services – remove the on call option from all four services.
- Ty Coch – re-allocate the funding from this project (which has ceased operation) to the new priority developments

A copy of the full Supporting People Operational Plan 2007/8 can be obtained from the Supporting People Team, Warren Drive, Prestatyn, LL19 7HX (Telephone 01824 712305). A copy will also be available on the Denbighshire Information Centre once agreed by Elected Members.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

To determine the content of any plan, strategy or other policy document requires approval by the Lead Cabinet Members in accordance with Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2291 (W,179) Regulation 4 (3)(c) + (d)

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The projects identified for remodelling within the 2007/8 Supporting People Operational Plan will be remodelled within the existing Supporting People budget allocated to Denbighshire by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Three of the “new” projects identified (the substance misuse project for domestic abuse, the high risk young peoples support and the Ex-offender project) will also be funded from within existing Supporting People funding allocation for Denbighshire, but the “Mental Health/ Homeless Project” does not yet have identified funding, this project can therefore only progress if / when savings can be made to existing Supporting People Contracts as a result of the Service Review and Supporting People Commissioning processes.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

While not having a direct impact upon the Supporting People funding for 2007/8, the WAG proposal to bring the funding into the Revenue Settlement, hopefully on a phased basis, from 2008/9 will have a major impact upon the Council's resources in future years.

It is important to maintain the current reviews of care packages and new placements to minimise any future impact upon vulnerable clients in future years.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Links have been established with the Mental Health Strategic Planning Group, The Strategic Planning Group for People with a Learning Disability, The Physical Disability and Visual Impairment Planning Group, Denbighshire's Drug and Alcohol Forum, Domestic Abuse Forum and Age Concern Forum of Forums for Older People, Denbighshire's Housing Forum, Tenants representatives, the Young People's Partnership and Community Area Partnership Groups.

Comprehensive information has been provided on service-user needs through the *Needs Mapping Exercise*, which forms the basis of the plan. This information is based on the service-user view of their needs at that time.

Consultation meetings have been held through May and June, each meeting focusing on issues specific to each service-user group to ensure that all areas were fully discussed and to make best use of stakeholder expertise. Representatives from a range of groups attended, that facilitated informative discussion.

Specific meetings have been held with Team Managers, Service Managers and Planning Officers to discuss the needs of those groups where there is a lack of needs information available to the Supporting People Team.

The Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing was invited to one to one meetings to consult on the Plan and a Scrutiny Seminar was held on the 22nd September 2006. Denbighshire Supporting People Team has shared information with other Local Authorities through Supporting People Information Network meetings.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Services commissioned and developed through the Supporting People Programme (helping to meet the needs of vulnerable people in the community with a preventative and early intervention agenda) contribute to the objectives of many policy areas

- Health- contributes to reducing the level of admissions/ readmissions to hospital and reduces demand for expensive care packages.
- Education/ Economic regeneration – builds skills & confidence needed to enter and be successful in education or the job market.
- Community Safety – Supported housing services are part of a holistic approach to break the cycle between homelessness, substance misuse and offending behaviour. It plays a valuable role in creating and sustaining safer communities.
- Social Inclusion – helps people develop independent living skills and facilitates social engagement
- Homelessness – contributes to reducing homelessness by supporting individuals to move from insecure to stable accommodation. Also enables vulnerable individuals to develop skills to maintain independent living.

8. ACTION PLAN

If the Supporting People Operational Plan is agreed, work will commence in November 2006 to develop the detailed specifications required for commissioning the new services identified, and changes will be implemented to deliver the remodeled services within the planned financial year 2007/8.

9 RECOMMENDATION

To agree the Supporting People Operational Plan for 2007/8 and support the projects identified to proceed to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

Appendix 1 -Extract from SPOP 2007/8

1.10 Summary list of Priorities for SPOP 2007/8

The following tables show the areas highlighted as a priority by the Supporting People Planning Group in Denbighshire and rolled out for Consultation.

The Supporting People Planning Group have identified priorities based on needs information, information collated on current supply provision including refused referrals and links with strategic objectives within Community Safety, Children and Young People's Partnership and the Housing Strategy which the Supporting Programme can contribute toward.

The priorities have been divided into two tables:

- **Summary List of priorities – New Projects**
 - This lists the priority areas where there are gaps and new provision is needed
- **Summary List of priorities – Remodelled projects**
 - This lists the reconfiguration needed to ensure services are more targeted to meet the relevant strategic objectives.

A further supplementary SPOP report will be produced to update on the priorities within the above lists by 1st April 2007.

1.10.1: Summary List of Priorities – New Projects

Project	No of Units	Tariff/SVO's (and equivalent)	Total Weekly Cost	Annual Cost (Based on tariffs)	Strategic Links	Linked to SHG Accom
Supported Housing for families/ single people with substance misuse needs who can not access refuge facilities (include men fleeing domestic violence who can not access hostel provision)	2	SH £111.65 1:1/1:2 £73.69 On call £22.33	£415.34	£21,597.68	Homeless Prevention Children & Young People's Partnership Community Safety Preventing Children being accommodated	✓
Mental Health/ Homeless 24 hour staffed temporary accommodation	3-6	24hr £226.35 1:1/1:2 £149.39 On call £22.33	£1194.21 - £2388.42	£62,098.92 - £124,197.84	Homeless Prevention Community Safety Best Value – prevent crisis/hospital admissions	
High Risk Young People Provision	2	N/A as yet		Approx £21,597	Children & Young People's Partnership Homeless Prevention Community Safety	
Ex-offenders Project linked to MAPPA and MARAC	2	N/A as yet		Approx £21,597	Homeless Prevention Community Safety Best Value – reduce use of custody	

1.10.2: Summary list of priorities –Remodelling existing projects

Project	No of Units	Tariff/SVO's (and equivalent)	Total Weekly Cost	Annual Cost	Link to SHG
Split Denbighshire Women's aid project into: GWA Floating support GWA Low level supported housing RWA Low level supported Housing	11 9 1 1	(cost neutral) Administrative change			
Split GIFT into: 4 units to Cais 4 units to Nacro 2 units to Tai Hafan 2 units to Women's Aid		Administrative change			
SPG – Released funding from Community Living projects to fund a low level support service in Prestatyn	9	Low level £40.60 On call £22.33	£566.37	£29,451.24	
SPG - Social Support Current 5 units FS <i>to increase capacity to 7 including but not exclusively for people with dual diagnosis</i>	7 total				
Cais Move-on Current 3 units <i>Increase to 5 allocated from FS below</i>	Revised 5	Neutral – to be targeted at people who are homeless and not engaged with services			
Cais Floating Support Current 11 units Allocate 2 to Cais Move-on (as above) Allocate 2 to Cais GIFT (see below)	Revised 7	Neutral Floating support to people living in temporary accommodation no engagement with services			

<p>Cais GIFT</p> <p>Current 4 units Increase by 2 (allocated from Cais FS)</p>	<p>Revised 6</p>	<p>Neutral – specification change - to provide support to people who present as potentially homeless but have accommodation & are not engaged with Social services</p>			
<p>Probation support worker</p> <p><i>Increase staff to tenant ratio to 1:10 within the SPRG allocation for 6 units</i></p>		<p>Neutral – can increase support capacity to a maximum of 10 without breaching SPRG conditions of current grant allocation.</p>			
<p>Welfare Rights Beginnings Project – Exit Strategy</p> <p>To focus on private sector referrals to address voids on short term</p>		<p>Same specification.</p>			
<p>Tai Hafan Young Women’s Project - Supported Accommodation</p> <p><i>Split supported housing from floating support and tighten eligibility to support young single women who have domestic abuse issues, young women who are pregnant and young single families.</i></p>	<p>6 SH 11 FS</p>				
<p>Children’s Services Projects x 4 remove the on call option</p> <p>SP 5966 SP 5967 SP 5968 SP 5969</p>	<p>4 x 8 units</p>	<p>Revised tariff</p> <p>SH £111.65 1:4 £37.74 Rural £10.15</p>	<p>4 x £1276.32</p>	<p>4 x 66,368.64</p>	
<p>Ty Coch – funding re allocation toward new priority projects</p>	<p>1 unit</p>				

Appendix 2 -Extract from SPOP 2007/8

Part One: Introduction & Summary Overview

1.1: General Overview

This represents the fifth Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) produced by Denbighshire County Council that considers the housing-related support services required to meet the needs of vulnerable groups residing within the County of Denbighshire for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

The plan looks at managing existing resources and utilising the review, planning and commissioning mechanisms to ensure that Supporting People funding is targeted effectively to meet the housing-related support needs for residents of Denbighshire. The Supporting People Planning Group in Denbighshire have therefore given a firm commitment to develop a medium term strategy to manage resources and this plan will form the foundations of that strategy.

Supporting People have faced and managed cuts to the budget in the last two years and have produced a Supporting People Operational Plan which identifies priorities and gaps in service provision. Without certainty of funding no final agreement on commissioning such services can be given until the Supporting People budget for Denbighshire in 2007/8 has been announced by the WAG in November 2006.

The Supporting People Planning Group have identified priorities based on needs information, information collated on current supply provision including refused referrals and links with strategic objectives the Supporting Programme can contribute toward. The priorities identified within the plan are not in any priority order and are those that the SPPG feel are achievable but recognise that there is clear evidence of unmet need across all service user groups, and as such additional Supporting People and/or other funding is required to address identified needs.

Supporting People funding has not been allocated to new projects as the Supporting People Grant for 2006/7 has not been finalised. The SPPG face difficulty in planning services when current budgets are not confirmed by the Welsh Assembly Government. The SPPG in Denbighshire face similar difficulties in planning for the longer term strategy as there is uncertainty around future budgets and the possibility of a formula settlement.

The Supporting People Planning Group in Denbighshire has agreed that a supplementary SPOP report will be submitted to the WAG by 1st April 2007. This will outline the progress with reshaping and reconfiguration of generic and homeless services. The Supplementary SPOP will outline any changes which may occur to the priorities identified within this operational plan, as a result of funding changes and review information which are not apparent at the time of producing the 2007/8 SPOP.

The format of this plan follows the prescribed layout detailed within the guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.

1.2: An Overview of Establishing the Fifth SPOP.

A vision statement was agreed within the first Supporting People Operational Plan for 2003/4. The Supporting People Planning Group have reviewed the vision statement and it has been altered to more accurately reflect the vision for Supporting People in 2007/8:

Working together to ensure the delivery of quality housing support services that enable vulnerable people to live independently or avoid homelessness.

As a result of the Supporting People funding cuts in 2005/6, the reduced Supporting People allocation for preceding years and the introduction of the revised tariff structure in 2006/7, the Supporting People Planning Group established a consolidation strategy for the 2006/7 SPOP in that legacy services received an initial service review by 1st April 2006. However, the initial service reviews had a focus on contract values, project specifications, compliance and quality. No long term "Strategic Relevance" decisions were assigned to legacy projects until a longer term Supporting People Strategy had been established.

Priorities identified within the 2006/7 and 2007/8 SPOP have been established as supporting corporate priorities, although the project specifications may need further defining / remodelling to fit with the strategy once fully developed.

This SPOP goes some way towards the development of the Strategy, but more detailed analysis of need and agreement of Supporting People priorities at a corporate level for the medium term still have to be established within the context of known resources.

Additionally, the Supporting People Strategy will need to establish a position in relation to accommodation issues for vulnerable people. Should the strategy focus on floating support and establish a scheme to work with private sector landlords / leasing from the outset, or should more temporary accommodation be commissioned and the issue of longer term accommodation be addressed separately?

The strategic vision and related accommodation and service delivery issues for Supporting People in Denbighshire will therefore be considered holistically as part of the strategy development process.

1.3: The Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG)

The Supporting People Planning Group in Denbighshire is in transition. The Corporate Director for Personal Services (Housing & Social Services) now chairs this group.

A consultant has been commissioned and a workshop day went ahead on 18th June 2005 to establish new 'Terms of Reference' for the Supporting People Planning Group, and to consider ways of establishing a more transparent SPPG in response to feedback received from Housing Associations and Voluntary Organisations.

It was agreed that membership should be increased from just the four main representatives of Social Services, the Local Health Board, Housing Services and the Assistant Area Chief Probation and/or Senior Probation Officer to include membership

from Community Safety, Housing Strategy, Adults and Children's Social Services Commissioning Managers and a representative for SPRG providers to be elected through the Homelessness Forum. Draft 'Terms of Reference' are attached. Some minor changes still have to be agreed.

The Supporting People Planning Group held two further workshops on February 10th 2006 and June 30th 2006. The SPPG engaged an external facilitator for the two days and undertook a review of its Supporting People vision statement and began the development of its approach to making commissioning and de-commissioning decisions for inclusion in their wider commissioning and strategy process.

The SPPG has held three half day meetings within the current planning cycle of establishing the 2007/8 SPOP through July, August and September 2006. The purpose of these meetings has been to analyse data available from the *Needs Mapping Exercise* and feedback from stakeholder forums (for details of Stakeholder Forums see below). The SPPG also considered strategic priorities laid down in the wider Strategies and Plans that influence the Supporting People Framework and have identified Supporting People services for development in accordance with this analysis, which are contained within this plan.

1.4: Development of the Local Planning and Consultation Process

1.4.1: Consultation

Supporting People in Denbighshire recognise the importance of having access to a wide range of opinions and views to enable the Supporting People Planning Group to carry out its planning process. A number of strategic links remain in place with existing planning groups and forums within the Authority with the aim of integrating Supporting People into other plans and strategies, as well as utilising existing channels for effective consultation in developing the fifth SPOP.

Supporting People has established links with the Mental Health Strategic Planning Group, The Strategic Planning Group for People with a Learning Disability, The Physical Disability and Visual Impairment Planning Group, Denbighshire's Drug and Alcohol Forum, Domestic Abuse Forum and Age Concern Forum of Forums for Older People, Denbighshire's Housing Forum, Tenants representatives, the Young People's Partnership and Community Area Partnership Groups. Links which have been newly established in 2006/7 include the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Needs Assessment Working group and The North Wales Substance Misuse Forum.

The improved *Needs Mapping Exercise* has enabled Supporting People to share more comprehensive information on the needs of service-users for SPRG projects. Consultation meetings have been held through May and June, each meeting focusing on issues specific to each service-user group to ensure that all areas were fully discussed and to make best use of stakeholder expertise. Representatives from a range of groups attended, that facilitated informative discussion.

The consultation meetings were organised to achieve the following aims:

- To consult with all stakeholders on the development of the fifth Supporting People Operational Plan

- To establish any further areas of unmet need to feedback to the Supporting People Planning Group.
- To establish further involvement and closer working partnerships between the Local Authority, RSL's, Voluntary Sector Providers, Probation Service & Health within the planning process.
- To receive information and feedback on the *Needs Mapping Exercise* and increase the number of agencies currently involved.

The information on current provision and *Needs Mapping Exercise* data, which will form the basis of the plan were presented to each group and the views and opinions of providers and stakeholders were recorded. Additional needs data and stakeholder views were pulled together to assist the SPPG in deciding priorities. This information was then circulated to planning groups and forums and presented to stakeholders on 5th October for final feedback and contributions. The information assisted the Supporting People Planning Group to set strategic direction for each service-user group and they would like to thank all those that have given their time to contribute to the planning process.

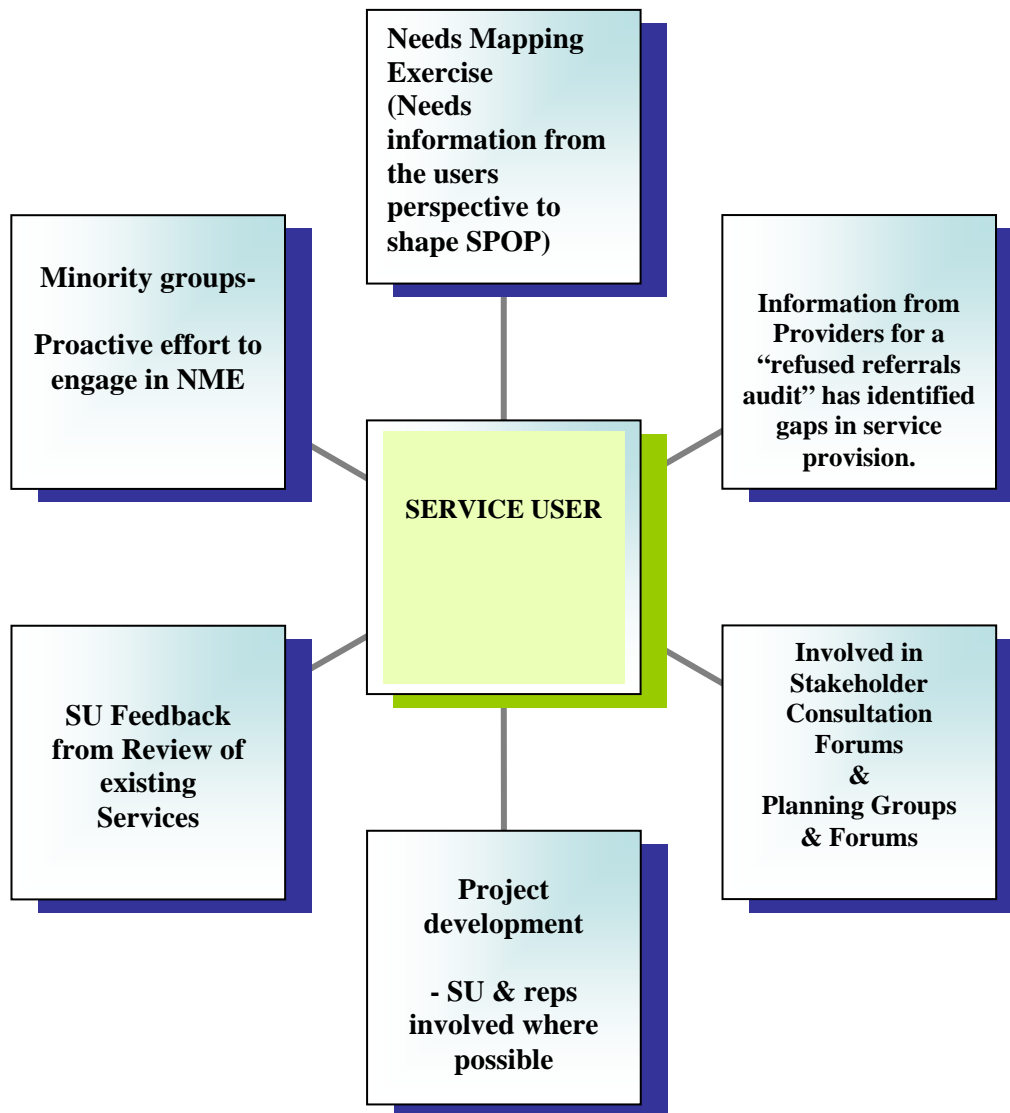
Elected Members were invited to meetings to consult on parts of the Plan that fall within the remit of their portfolio. Denbighshire Supporting People Team has shared information with other Local Authorities through Supporting People Information Network meetings.

A Social Services and Housing Scrutiny Seminar was held on 22nd September to consult with elected members on priorities and actions identified within the 2007/8 SPOP and also to raise further awareness of the Supporting People programme in Denbighshire.

1.4.2: Service Users

The need to establish improved consultation and involvement mechanisms with service-users is a priority for Supporting People in Denbighshire and work had been carried out in this area over the last year.

The diagram below demonstrates how service users engage with Supporting People in Denbighshire.



The Supporting People Team and Planning Group have identified the importance of effective service user engagement and have recognised that it is not sufficient to identify one specific service user from each vulnerable group to engage and contribute to steering the programme, (which could be deemed to be tokenistic), it has been recognised that people within the same user groups have differing needs (to which services should be configured and targeted) and as such service users involvement should be segmented, targeted and effective within the same way.

Service User Consultation

Service-users and their representatives have been consulted through the existing planning groups and forums.

In addition, service users were invited to attend the relevant consultation meetings and those that attended were invited to feedback on their preferred method of consultation. The Supporting People Team has met with a local Service User Group to consult on the plan and to consider the most appropriate methods of service user consultation that will give most people the opportunity to contribute. Service users have suggested Supporting People co-ordinate a service user forum and consideration will be given to developing this for the next Supporting People Operational Planning cycle and indeed will consider the usefulness of this on a cross boundary basis.

Service user Involvement

Comprehensive information has been provided on service-user needs through the *Needs Mapping Exercise*, which forms the basis of the Supporting People Operational Plan. This information is based on the service-user view of their needs at that time. Benchmarking of Supporting People performance indicators showed Denbighshire had the highest number of needs mapping forms per 1,000 head of population. Work has been carried out to attempt to engage minority and hard to reach groups in the needs mapping exercise.

Service users and their representatives are involved in project development as much as is possible. Service-user feedback has been received through the initial and ongoing service review process. On-going research into service-user needs will inform future service development and remodelling to ensure the delivery of 'Best Value' and continuous improvement.

1.4.3: Minority Groups within the Community

The needs of minority groups are looked at alongside refugees (who are a minority group in Denbighshire) in Part Two: Needs Assessment P78.

It has been recognised that the original Needs Mapping form issued within Welsh Assembly implementation guidance did not capture information on the needs of lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people. The Needs Mapping documentation has been developed to include an optional section, which asks the person to identify their 'sexual orientation'. The Needs Mapping Officer has been working alongside LGBT groups and current providers to improve the representation of these groups in the data produced

The Supporting People Team have developed links with the North Wales Police Diversity Officers and the North Wales Race Equality Network. Specific consultation work is being carried out around the needs of the relatively large Filipino community in Denbighshire.

The Supporting People Team will endeavour to work more closely with Network and Partnership Groups throughout Denbighshire to ensure that the needs of minority groups are identified and addressed.

Supporting People is developing Diversity Training for current providers and stakeholders. Supporting People are working in partnership with SITRA to develop a programme tailored to the needs of staff in supported housing. The training will provide guidance for staff on assisting service users to complete the 'sexual orientation' question on the needs mapping form. The training goes some way toward delivering on Supporting People's commitment in last year's SPOP to highlight the importance of race awareness and diversity training for staff in supported housing.

The effectiveness of planning and consultation processes will be reviewed within consecutive Operational Plans in relation to delivering continuous improvement and Best Value.

1.5: Future Implementation Issues to be addressed

One of the major aims of the Supporting People Programme is to ensure that services are 'joined-up and seamless', and another is to ensure the delivery of quality support

services which are value for money, therefore over the next twelve months a great deal of work will be required to ensure that this happens within Denbighshire. Some of the key tasks facing the Supporting People Team and Planning Group will be: -

- Raising awareness with the WAG of the need for a National Workforce development strategy and Competence Framework for Supported Housing staff in Wales, given the differences and varying standards in needs assessment, support planning and support delivery in supported housing settings and the need to safeguard vulnerable service users.
- To raise awareness with the WAG of the need to incorporate housing support within the Unified Assessment process at the Assembly level to ensure that the requirement for this is cascaded to local level.
- To Finalise the new 'Terms of Reference' for the SPPG for the 2007/8 Strategy development
- The development of phase 2 of the Supporting People project database, to comprehensively hold all project and performance data, to enable consistent and accurate performance information to be reported.
- To refine review documentation and processes to ensure they are "fit for purpose" to carry out ongoing service reviews, in the light of feedback and lessons learned from initial service reviews.
- To establish a Supporting People Strategy for Denbighshire for 2008 to 2011.
- To further develop tendering and contracting arrangements and manage the transition from legacy to Strategic commissioning to 2011.
- To review 'Eligibility Criteria' to support the strategy
- To review current payment systems to providers to identify potential areas for continuous improvement from an existing efficient payment process.
- To continuously improve the capture and dissemination of 'needs mapping' information in terms of quality and quantity from provider and advice organisations as well as the Probation and Housing Services.
- ICT to deliver the changes to the Needs Mapping Database to capture new information and enhance reporting mechanisms.
- To ensure the new in4tek Social Services database can record unmet need for Supporting People and Community Care services and report this to inform the SPOP planning process with implementation of the Unified Assessment process.
- To work with Sheltered Housing providers to develop mechanisms for needs mapping information
- To decide whether to implement Supporting People charging policy as part of the strategy development process

- Managing the revenue funding in 2007/8 once this has been announced by the WAG.
- To receive a “Preparedness Review” visit from the Supported Housing Department of the Welsh Assembly Government in 2006/7
- Prepare for the administrative transfer of SPRG services from the WAG to Denbighshire County Council which could happen in 2008.
- To develop the existing performance monitoring systems to link to project specific outcomes identified through the Strategy.
- To continuously improve consultation and engagement mechanisms with service-users.
- To consider the demand to deliver another awareness day/provider forum for all key stakeholders.
- To specify referral routes and pathways into contracts/SLAs to deliver the strategy and join up services.
- To recruit an Accreditation Officer and improve accreditation processes for Denbighshire County Council.

1.6: Supporting People Achievements & Developments in Denbighshire

Over the last 12 months, the Supporting People team has:-

- Developed and delivered training for support workers on Needs Assessment and Support Planning and POVA to improve standards and safeguards (in partnership with SITRA and Social Service’s Professional Development Team)
- Updated the ‘Directory of Services’ to raise awareness of Supporting People services and provide information on how to access these services.
- Completed all Initial Service Reviews of legacy projects by 31st March 2006.
- Improved the capture and dissemination of ‘needs mapping’ information in terms of quality and quantity from provider and advice organisations as well as the Probation and Housing Services. The 2005/6 performance indicators with the All Wales Data unit, confirm that Denbighshire have received the highest number of mapping forms, which is the culmination of 3 years work in implementing and nurturing the Needs Mapping Exercise.
- Trained and provided on-going monitoring and support for organisations engaged with the Needs Mapping exercise through our dedicated Mapping and Information officer.
- Developed links with minority and hard to reach groups to identify needs and developed diversity training programme.
- Implemented proposed changes to the SPPG
- Secured SPRG funding for the longer term viability of the Doorstop Project.

- Reported on the Performance Indicators.
- Further developed monitoring and management systems for Needs Mapping information.
- Extended all 'Interim contracts' for Supporting People Services as a lead into Strategic Commissioning.
- Developed performance monitoring systems to improve data capture.
- Changed to quarterly payments in advance for established projects to improve our service to providers.
- Further involvement of service users in consultation and decision making on the best methods and tools for consultation
- Held an awareness day for all stakeholders in which providers and service users delivered presentations about their projects.
- Delivered on the commitments within the last Supporting People Operational Plan:
 - Developed a second Keyring Project in Denbigh for people with learning difficulties
 - Developing a Supported Lodgings scheme for young people
 - Setting up an interim floating support project for people with alcohol support needs to utilise SMAT funding.
 - Setting up a 12 month interim mental health support project to facilitate discharge from acute hospital and rehab.

1.7: Monitoring the outputs of the Supporting People Operational Plan

Three performance indicators (one Strategic and two core) were introduced in April 2005/6, and performance in these areas has been including to inform the this Supporting People Operational Plan. Additional SP PI's have been introduced in 2006/7 and the results of these will inform (in part) future planning and Strategy.

Denbighshire has an active Supporting People Planning Group who will continue to oversee the work of the Supporting People Team to ensure that the Supporting People Operational Plan is being delivered on the ground

1.8: Cross-Boundary Issues

North Wales Supporting People Information Network Group

Denbighshire's Supporting People team have been active participants within this North Wales Supporting People Information Network to discuss Supporting People issues. The group meets every 6-8 weeks and is open to any Local Authority employee who has an interest in Supporting People from the counties of Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd and Anglesey. A wide variety of issues have been discussed including those concerning cross-boundary Supporting People projects.

A specific cross boundary group from the North Wales SPIN has been established to focus on planning Substance misuse services on a regional basis. Discussions have also taken place in relation to Domestic Abuse services, LGBT services with Wrexham (with Triangle Housing), and developing Supported Lodgings.

Denbighshire and Conwy are also involved in Cross Boundary planning through the Integrated Mental Health Services which covers both counties.

The Supporting People Needs Mapping Officer has made links with Flintshire and Wrexham with a view to developing some cross boundary work on the needs of people with HIV and travellers.

1.9: Limiting Factors Influencing the Development of Supporting People Services in 2007/8

To understand the context of the Supporting People Planning Group's decisions in relation to outlined service development priorities in 2007/8, it is important to understand some of the limiting factors influencing that impact on and shape Supporting People Services in 2007/8:-

- **Suitable, Sustainable Housing Provision** – There is a shortage of social sector accommodation, in particular one-bed flats, available at reasonable rents for vulnerable people who are not able to purchase their own homes. A survey undertaken by Michael Howard Associates has identified that the incidence of unfitness in the private sector housing sector is 22.9%. Many private sector properties are located in Rhyl and are houses in multiple occupation and these are issues which will be addressed through Denbighshire's Local Housing Strategy, but these do impact on the SP team's ability to develop supported accommodation services. Supporting people are investigating innovative ways of engaging with private sector landlords within move on and sustainable tenancies for people with housing support needs.
- **The Social Housing Grant Programme** - This provides limited funding to expand rented accommodation within the Registered Social Landlord sector through purchasing existing stock or new building. The level of funding is therefore a limiting factor in the development of supported accommodation. Supporting People work closely with Housing Strategy and have developed close links with the SHG programme. There have been difficulties with these links as the SHG programme is delivered on a 3-year cycle and Supporting People have been submitting annual plans. Investigations will be made into the development of a private sector leasing scheme to provide supported accommodation and sustainable move on accommodation to facilitate move on in Denbighshire. The SHG also creates opportunity with additional Capital funding targeted specifically at people with Substance misuse needs.
- **Public Opposition to some Supported Housing Schemes** - Some supported housing projects in Denbighshire have been rejected at the planning stage owing to public opposition, and these factors have had to be taken into consideration when developing the 2007/8 SPOP.

The Housing Needs Assessment survey has identified that future investment should be within special needs housing and within the rented sector. The level of need within Denbighshire has also been assessed as double that in other areas of Wales such as Anglesey. Not only will more special needs housing be required to meet need, but the demand for support to enable people to achieve and sustain independent living, particularly for the young and elderly groups, will also increase.

REPORT TO: Cabinet

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

DATE: 31st October 2006

SUBJECT: Extending Contract expiry date by 12 months, to 31/09/07 for the following contract:

GIFT Partnership Project

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To extend the above contract, which expired on 30/09/06, to 30/09/07 or until a decision is made in relation to the future configuration of the GIFT housing support service, whichever is the sooner.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Supporting People funding is forwarded from the Welsh Assembly as specific grant funding, to fund services which increase or maintain the independence of vulnerable people, allowing them to better integrate into the local community.

The Supporting People Planning Group, which oversees the planning and funding allocation of all supported housing services in Denbighshire, has to derive the county's long term priorities and configuration for all supported housing to inform the long term structured application of funding.

It is anticipated that this work will be concluded between March and September 2007, however the Supporting People contract for the GIFT Partnership expired on 30th September 2006. The contract therefore needs to be extended to allow time for the strategy work to be completed.

The GIFT Partnership Project is a collaboration between Denbighshire County Council's Housing Department, CAIS and NACRO. It provides floating support for 22 people with low level needs and 12 people with high level needs focussed on maintaining tenancies and the prevention of homelessness.

Although the project has not been reviewed in depth, the annual review shows in the last twelve months over 180 people with low level needs have been supported, 60% of whom have successfully moved on to live independently and 65 people with high level needs have also been supported within this service.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

DCC Contract Procedure Regulations CPR 31.1 require contract variations to be approved by the Cabinet for contract total values above £250,000. The proposed variation is in this range, with the 12 months extension cost £142,831.12.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Services are funded through the Supporting People Grant and Supporting People Revenue Grants and the additional costs incurred by the contract extensions would be covered by these specific grants.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The awarding of the contract extension should not result in an additional revenue burden, as the costs of the contract are wholly contained with the Supporting People Revenue Grant funding.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Supporting People Planning Group has been consulted. This group is chaired by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing and has representation from Health, Probation, Housing, and voluntary organisations.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Not extending the contract could have an adverse effect on homeless, social services presentations and may also impact on community safety.

8. ACTION PLAN

No immediate action is required as the service has been monitored and self assessed for the year 2005/6 and declared to be satisfactory. A thorough Supporting People review is currently in progress.

9 RECOMMENDATION

To agree the extension of the above contract.

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: OCTOBER 31st 2006

REPORT OF: COUNCILLOR P A DOBB LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP PLANNING STRUCTURES RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To agree partnership planning structures for children and young people arising from legislation and recent guidance

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2 Background

2.1 WAG requirements relating to partnership planning for children and young people have developed over a number of years and are complex. The main components have been:

2.2 *Framework Partnership.* This was established in its present form in January 2003 following recommendations in WAG Guidance "Improving Services for Children and Young People: A Framework for Partnership". The Framework Partnership's brief has broadly been to establish a strategic multi-agency, multi-sector, over-arching framework for the development of services for children and young people, particularly to deliver on the Assembly's seven core aims for children and young people ie to ensure that all children and young people

- have a Flying Start in Life
- have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities
- enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimization and exploitation
- have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities
- are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognized
- have a safe home and community which support physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- are not disadvantaged by poverty

2.3 *Young People's Partnership.* This was given statutory status under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and has been charged with delivering the ten universal entitlements for young people aged 11 – 25. In Denbighshire, the YPP was established in 2002, having evolved from the former Social Inclusion Management Group

- 2.4 *The Children's Partnership.* This was established in 2003, also arising from WAG Guidance, and briefed to plan and deliver services for children aged 0 – 10 and their families. It also evolved from earlier structures eg the Surestart Partnership Group
- 2.5 *The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.* These are required in each area under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Act 2002. Specifically geared to planning for early years education and childcare planning, the EYDCP in Denbighshire in recent years has operated as a sub-group of the Children's Partnership.
- 2.6 *The Area Child Protection Committee.* ACPCs have been in existence since 1974. They are charged with ensuring effective inter-agency arrangements to safeguard and protect children.
- 2.7 These arrangements are augmented by a range of other multi-agency forums and partnerships with a strong relevance to the lives of children and young people. These include the Community Safety Partnership, the Substance Misuse Action Team, and the Youth Offending Team Management Committee, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and a range of partnership groupings linked to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy, itself a statutory requirement under NHS Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 and the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing (Wales) (Regulations) 2003 (Lead Officer Group, Tobacco Control Group, Nutrition Group, Physical Activity Group).
- 2.8 The complexity of these requirements, the range of legislative and statutory foundations involved and the expectations that partner agencies be represented in most forums at a very senior level, has made it extremely challenging to operate these arrangements effectively.
- 2.9 The 2004 Children Act has provided an opportunity to review current arrangements and to put forward proposals to streamline them. The main relevant provisions of the Act are:
- s 25. A requirement for "local co-operation" between children's services authorities (local authorities) in Wales, key partner organizations and other relevant bodies, including the voluntary and community sectors, in order to improve the wellbeing of children in the area. This came into force on 1 September 2006. Pooling of budgets and other non-financial resources is enabled under this section.
 - s 26. Single Children's Plans will be a requirement from 2008, with consultation on guidance to take place later this year
 - s 27. From September 2006, each local authority is required to appoint a Lead Member and a Lead Director for children and young people's services with responsibility for co-ordinating and overseeing the planning arrangements. These appointments have already been made in Denbighshire viz the Lead Member for Children and Young People and the Director of

Social Services and Housing. NHS Trusts and Local Health Boards are also required to appoint a lead executive and a lead non executive/member to co-ordinate and oversee planning arrangements. In all cases, the role is seen as concentrating on promoting change and enabling joint working.

- s 28. This places a duty on key people and bodies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Under s 31 (1) of the Act, every local authority in Wales must establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area.
- 2.10 In May 2006, the Children and Young People's Framework Partnership in Denbighshire initiated a consultation process on future partnership structures with 3 broad options put forward. The proposals built on key messages from a senior level Awayday, held in January 2006 to prepare for implementation of the Children Act 2004. There were 13 formal consultation responses.
- 2.11 This consultation linked with discussion in the Denbighshire ACPC about how the new LSCB structure should be developed and also with the emerging discussion about the Community Strategy and new Local Strategic Partnership.
- 2.12 How arrangements should best be configured has generated significant discussion nationally as well as locally. In fact, the statutory guidance was only received from WAG in late July, as extended and intensive discussions continued within WAG, and with Ministers, over some months.

Proposals

- 2.13 In the light of consultation responses and the statutory guidance now received (*"Stronger Partnerships for Better Outcomes"*- see key section in Appendix I), the following set of proposals is now made
- P1 The adopted partnership planning structure for children and young people in Denbighshire should be as set out in Appendix II.** It should be reviewed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership on at least an annual basis, as part of regular partnership self assessment arrangements, to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- P2 A strong link is needed between partnership planning for children and young people and the Community Strategy.** This will be via the new Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will report to the LSP on an exceptions basis, perhaps once or twice per year. The LSP, with additional membership as required by statutory guidance, may also perform the function of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Executive Group (subject to arrangements being finalized).
- P3 The main vehicle for strategic partnership planning for children and young people will be via a new "Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership".** This Partnership will also be the Young People's Partnership. A specific section of the CYPSP agenda will cover YPP business, and these

sections of the meeting will be chaired by the Director of Lifelong Learning, who leads on the YPP agenda. The membership of the CYPSP will be as set out in Appendix II. Two Vice-Chairs are envisaged, to have defined responsibilities. Additional representatives will be invited to attend the YPP sections of the meeting to ensure compliance with statutory guidance. It is anticipated that the CYPSP will meet quarterly, for long half-day meetings.

- P4 The LSCB will have a distinct safeguarding, promotion and quality assurance role in relation to child protection across all services commissioned by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.** The CYPSP and the LSCB will be formally linked through common membership and co-ordination mechanisms. Protocols will be agreed to enable this. In addition to the LSCB Executive Group, which may operate as part of the LSP, an LSCB Operational Group will ensure development of the new responsibilities to promote welfare and inter-agency strategic planning, implementation and monitoring of child protection policies and procedures.
- P5 The sub-group/task and finish group structure linked to partnerships should be as economical and simple as possible. It should be driven by agreed local priorities. In practice, a working infrastructure is needed to progress both national and local priorities.** The proposed sub-group/task and finish group structure, for both the CYPSP and the Local Safeguarding Children Board, is set out in Appendix II. Sub-groups/task and finish groups will be chaired by individuals across sectors, with appropriate seniority and a clear incentive to progress work (probably linked to their core agency responsibility). All will have clear terms of reference and be expected to produce Business Plans on an annual basis and report progress against them. In most cases, sub-groups of the CYPSP will have specific time allocated to support them from the Children and Young People's Partnership Team which is funded by Cymorth grant.

Proposals link to the Assembly's 7 core aims and are very similar to those included in the diagram contained within the statutory guidance.

Other sub-groups may be needed in due course, and the CYPSP will establish these as required. The CYPSP will expect to link into other sub-groups operating under the auspices of other strategic partnerships and structures, for example as outlined in 2.7 above.

Local Safeguarding Children Board sub-groups will comprise

- Training (joint with Conwy)
- Audit and Practice Development
- Inter-agency planning group (children in need and child protection)
- Serious Case Reviews (ad hoc)
- Community Safeguarding Toolkit

- P6 A range of "corporate governance" activities will need to be undertaken on behalf of the CYPSP.** These will include

- practical co-ordination including calendaring and organization/administration of meetings
- accountability for finance (eg grants allocated to the Partnership,)
- development of key policies and procedures governing Partnership working (eg information sharing)
- co-ordination of the work of sub-groups,
- co-ordination with the work of other Strategic Partnerships, including the LSCB.
- preparation of plans and reports for submission to the CYPSP and WAG/funders
- effective cross partnership and sub-group communication systems

Following the consultation process, it is proposed these activities will be led by the Children and Young People's Partnership Manager and undertaken by the Partnership Team. The two Vice-Chairs proposed will have a specific remit to support the work and ensure delivery of the work of specific sub-groups.

P7 A Partnership Agreement will be drawn up, based on these proposals and earlier draft work. It will include the agreed structure, terms of reference and relevant roles and responsibilities. It will require formal adoption by statutory partners.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Children Act 2004 and related statutory guidance "Stronger Partnerships for Better Outcomes" issued July 2006.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Staff support for the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, the YPP and sub-groups, the Lead Member and the Lead Director is expected to come from the Partnership Team, which is funded by Cymorth grant.

There are national and local concerns that the extended role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board has not been recognized in funding settlements to date and representations continue to be made about this. The need for resources to enable the establishment of a Safeguarding Children Unit in Denbighshire, linked to the LSCB, has been raised by the Social Services and Housing Directorate as part of the budget round for 2007/08.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The costs of developing and running the partnership planning structures needs to be contained within the funding available. The establishment of the Safeguarding Children Unit has been noted as a budget pressure as part of the latest budget round. How this is funded will depend upon the level and detail of the Assembly settlement for 2007/8.

Any future agreements with partners should clearly define individual financial responsibilities, specifically in relation to accounting for external grant funding. The establishment of any joint financial arrangements must be assessed and approved by the Financial Controller.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

There were 13 formal responses to the Framework Partnership consultation paper on structures issued in May 2006. Responses were received from the Police, the YOT, Head of Children and Family Services, the Child Protection Co-ordinator, ELWa/DELLS, Education Services, the Director of Lifelong Learning, from several specific consultation days, the LHB and the Conwy/Denbighshire NHS Trust.

The consultation paper put forward three options. There was considerable support for streamlining the existing arrangements, but some respondents also wanted to maintain a clear focus for the specific work of the YPP. In many respects, the proposals in this paper have attempted to respond to both positions. Many supplementary suggestions were made, many of which have been incorporated into the proposals contained within this report.

This report has been discussed by the Framework Partnership, the YPP, the Children's Partnership, the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Lead Officer Group and a Joint Lifelong Learning/Social Services and Housing Scrutiny Committee. There is widespread support for the proposals, though some finetuning is required (eg to the names of sub-groups, clarifying feedback arrangements and the precise links between the LSCB and the LSP). Minor changes have been made as the result of the consultation (eg the addition of a QA/Performance Management Sub-Group). While supportive, many consultees remain concerned at the scale and complexity of the partnership agenda.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Almost all issues dealt with by the Council have an implication for children and young people- whether immediately or as future residents. It is therefore critically important that we have partnership planning arrangements in place which can genuinely make a difference to outcomes for children, young people and families and which minimize unnecessary process and bureaucracy.

8 ACTION PLAN

Item	Timescale
Paper submitted to Cabinet	October 2006
Arrangements reported to WAG	October 2006
Chairs and membership of sub-groups agreed	September /October 2006
Terms of reference of sub-groups drafted and agreed	September/October 2006
First meetings of groups in new structure	November 2006

Protocols agreed defining roles across strategic partnerships	December 2006
Partnership Agreement finalized for adoption	December 2006

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the proposals (P1 – P7) set out in paragraph 2.13 above

Extracts from “Stronger Partnerships for Better Outcomes”- Guidance on Local co-operation under the Children Act 2004”

Partnerships – New Arrangements

- 3.9 From 2008 each local authority area will be required to have a children and young people's plan covering all services for those aged 0-25 and maternity services. Strengthened partnership arrangements are necessary for development and delivery of these plans through effective joint working. There is also a commitment in the Assembly Government policy statement *Freedom and Responsibility in Local Government (2002)*, to developing a coherent policy and planning framework for local authorities and to look at the scope for rationalisation of partnerships. More recently the Beecham review has concluded that over complex partnership requirements can get in the way of effective service planning.

Children and Young People's Partnerships

- 3.10 Children and Young People's Partnerships are a statutory requirement under the Children Act 2004. It is envisaged that these will build on the existing Children and Young People's Framework Partnerships in most cases. The partnerships will be responsible for services for all children and young people from the ante-natal stage to the age of 18 years, together with those participating in or receiving youth support services (within the meaning of Section 123 of the Learning and Skills Act) up to the age of 25, and care leavers (up to 21 or 25 if in education or training).
- 3.11 The new statutory partnerships have responsibility for developing and agreeing the Children and Young People's Plan, the key strategic statement setting out how the well-being of all children and young people in the area will be improved. This is intended to:
- provide strategic vision and state the agreed priorities that will direct the work of all partners;
 - describe how requirements of national and local strategies, policies and priorities will be tackled locally;
 - set out agreed joint objectives for services that can act as milestones to enable progress in improving outcomes to be measured over the planning timescale;
 - identify the contribution made by individual partners towards meeting joint objectives, ensuring that they are consistent and mutually supportive
 - provide a basis for the joint commissioning of services and sharing of available funding, including core budgets of statutory partners and resource or financial contributions from the voluntary sector.
- 3.12 . The Children Act (as amended) describes relevant partners of the local authority as being:
- the police authority and the chief officer of police for the area;
 - the local probation board;
 - the youth offending team;
 - the Local Health Board;
 - NHS trusts providing services in the area of the authority;
 - the Assembly Government to the extent that it is discharging functions under Part 2 of the [Learning and Skills Act 2000](#).
- 3.13 The local authority representation should include the Lead Director and Member and representatives from education, social services and the youth service. The NHS representation should normally be the Executive Director and designated non-officer Board Member of the LHB; and Lead Executive and Non-executive Directors of relevant NHS trusts.

- 3.14 Local authorities need to ensure that all of the relevant services within the authority's area play their part in partnership working and cooperate to improve the well being of children and young people. Accordingly, Children and Young People's Partnerships should in addition include:
- a representative of local schools;
 - a representative of the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
 - representatives from Welsh medium organisations/ groups e.g. mentrau iaith, Urdd, local community groups;
 - a representative of the Fire and Rescue Service; and,
 - a representative of relevant voluntary organisations, usually the Director of the County Voluntary Committee (CVC).
- 3.15 Voluntary and community organisations are significant providers of services, support involvement of key interests in participation arrangements and develop innovative practice. Local CVCs play a key part in facilitating their involvement in strategic development, service planning and commissioning.
- 3.16 In some areas, there are private and not for profit providers of services for children and young people. Local authorities may need to ensure their involvement in decision-making in addition to the partners described above.
- 3.17 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for coordinating the actions of its member organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, with particular focus on ensuring a safe home and community. The LSCB is an important partner in the local arrangements for co-operation.
- 3.18 Local authorities should also ensure that children, young people and families have an opportunity to make their voices heard by the partnership. Indeed the Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 extends local authorities' duties to ascertain and give due consideration to the 'wishes and feelings' of children in need, when providing services under section 17 and 20 the Children Act 1989. Direct attendance at partnership meetings may not, however, be appropriate and other avenues need to be developed or existing mechanisms used to secure the input of children and young people. Parent participation should be secured by inclusion on the partnership of a representative from the local Parent Network. Advisory guidance on networks has been issued by the Assembly Government (July 2006).

Young People's Partnerships

- 3.19 The Assembly Government remains committed to the statutory requirement for Young People's Partnerships to plan local youth support services. However, it wishes to allow flexibility at local level as to how the statutory requirement is achieved within the overall Children and Young People's Partnership arrangements. Local authorities and their partners can therefore decide whether they wish to retain separate meetings of age-based partnerships (such as the YPP). Whatever their decision, to meet the requirement to have a Young People's Partnership local authorities need to ensure that relevant meetings include a balanced representation from the local authority, other statutory bodies and the voluntary sector, plus :
- A senior representative of Careers Wales
 - A representative of CWVYS
 - Three representatives of voluntary or independent organisations involved with young people
 - Representatives from Welsh medium organisations/ groups e.g. mentrau iaith, Urdd, local community groups
 - One or more of each of the following groups:
 - local employers
 - local secondary headteachers
 - local FE and training providers

Others who may need to be included are

- HE providers
- Corporate managers for community education, leisure services, community safety, economic development, community development, transport
- Health promotion manager
- Probation service
- JobCentre Plus
- Federation of Housing Associations

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships

3.20 Local authorities also have flexibility as to how they meet the statutory requirement to have an Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) within the Children and Young People's Partnership Framework. However to meet the statutory requirements local authorities should ensure that relevant meetings include representatives of:

- Maintained nursery schools (where the authority has these)
- National Childminding Association (NCMA)
- Wales Pre school Playgroups Association (WPPA)
- Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs (CPCKC)
- Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM)
- Private sector nurseries
- Independent and church schools
- Community Councils for Education and Training
- Local employers
- Jobcentre Plus
- Regional Office of Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales (observer)

Children's Partnerships

3.21 Children's partnerships focusing on services for children to age 0-10 are no longer required, though authorities may choose to retain an age related group if they wish.

Working Groups

3.22 Detailed work cannot be done in full Partnership meetings. In most areas there are a range of joint working groups, organised around themes or local and national priorities and broadly reflecting the Assembly Government's seven core aims for children and young people. These work to deliver the priority objectives set out in local joint plans.

3.23 Such groups provide an ideal basis for a shared focus on the detail of service planning and delivery across the relevant partners responsible for services within each theme. Development of these groups, comprising partners responsible for delivery of universal, targeted and preventative services helps to plan, deliver and measure improvement to shared outcomes for children and young people.

ANNEX 1: STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION OF KEY PARTNERSHIPS

1. Across Local Safeguarding Children Boards, Children and Young People's Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships there is a common core membership of statutory partners:

- local authorities,
- the police, and
- Local Health Boards.

All of these have a major contribution to make in the delivery of effective measures to safeguard and promote welfare. Consideration also needs to be given to where, within any planning co-ordination structure, other statutory and non-statutory "partnership" bodies will sit.

2. Given the cross-cutting nature of these bodies there is clearly some scope for developing common management structures and lines of accountability.

3. The Welsh Assembly Government is not prescribing how agencies should manage this cross-cutting agenda but the key agencies are encouraged to develop structures to optimise joint working arrangements, reduce duplication and provide clear lines of accountability.

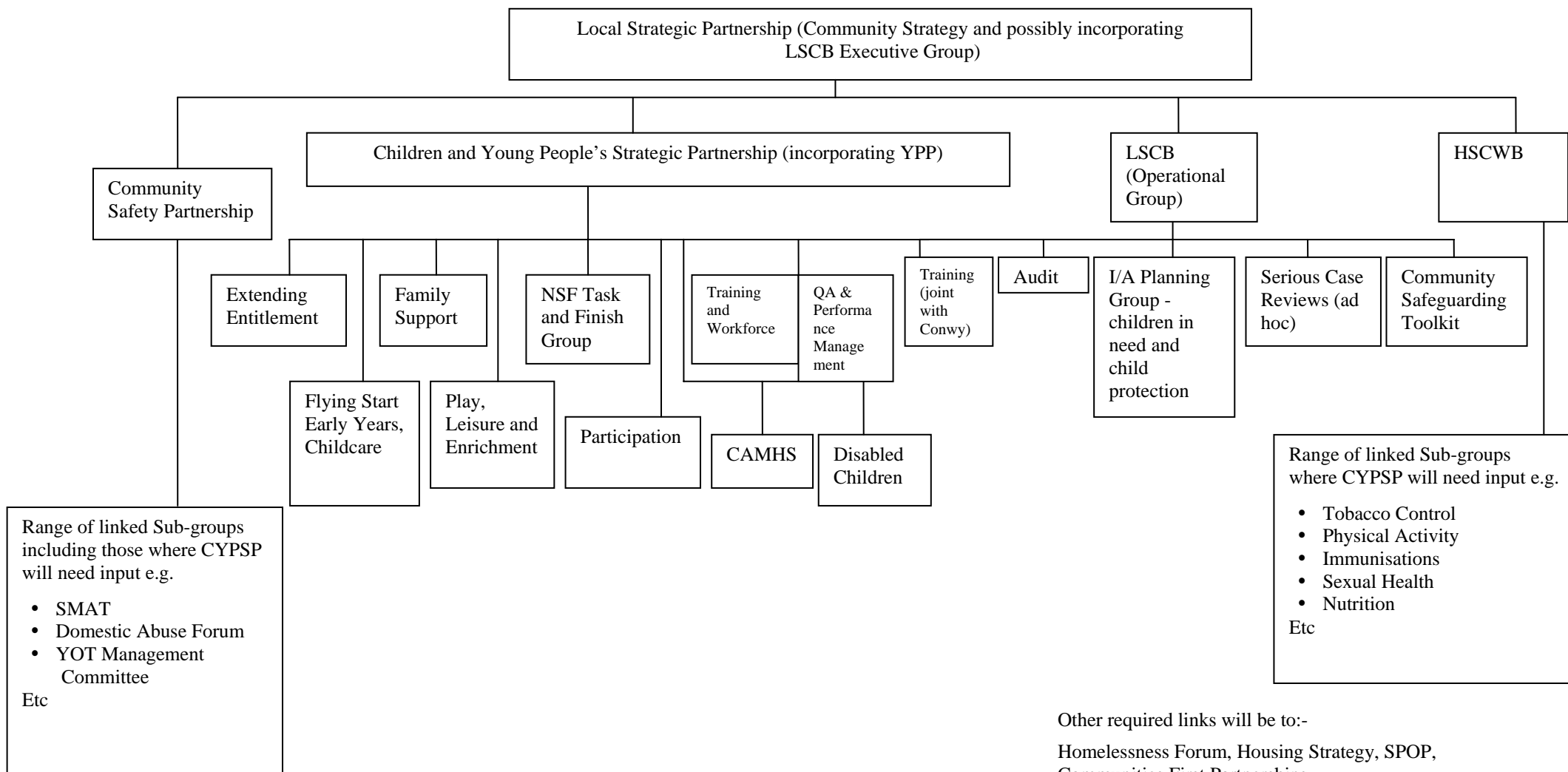
4. The model below illustrates an approach agencies may wish to consider in developing joint working relationships. This brings together executive officers from the key agencies - the local authority, the police and the local health board - who have the ultimate responsibility for the allocation of finance and resources in their respective agencies. Membership also includes the lead directors for children and young people's services, the executive director of the LHB and the chairs of the four key partnerships where they are not already represented by those listed.

5. The Group would take responsibility for co-ordinating and guiding the strategic direction of the key partnership bodies shown, including the exercise of partnership functions in respect of children and young people. It would review progress of each partnership in meeting its responsibilities as set out in strategic 0-3 year plans and would be likely to meet 2-3 times annually.

6. This would be an executive body with responsibility for directing the work of these key partnerships. The day to day business of each agency would remain with each, as would specific policy and functional operations.



PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP PLANNING STRUCTURES – Children and Young People



Proposed membership of Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

- 2 Lead Members, local authority (1 Lead Member for Children and Young People, 1 Lead Member for Lifelong Learning or other relevant portfolio holder),
- Lead Director, local authority
- 3 reps from Lifelong Learning, including Youth Service and schools rep
- 3 reps from Social Services and Housing including Children's Services, Adult Services and Housing
- 5 voluntary sector reps, including at least 1 from a Welsh medium organisation
- 2 reps from Local Health Board- lead executive and lead non exec
- 2 reps from Conwy-Denbighshire NHS Trust- lead executive and lead non exec
- 1 rep of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- 1 rep of the National Public Health Service
- 1 rep from Careers
- 1 rep from DELLS
- 1 rep from HE/FE providers
- 1 rep from the Police
- 1 rep from the Youth Offending Team
- 1 rep from the Probation Service
- 1 rep from the Fire and Rescue Service
- 1 rep of play/leisure providers
- 1 rep of childcare providers
- 1 rep of organisations undertaking anti-poverty work

This would give a Framework Partnership of potentially 30 members- which, assuming gaps in attendance, seems a just about manageable figure. It is assumed parallel arrangements would exist to enable the participation of children, young people and families in planning.

It is suggested that, on perhaps an annual or bi-annual basis, specific invitations be issued (eg to the Chairs of the CCET and the 14 – 19 Learning Pathways), to ensure coherent planning in these areas.

For the YPP part of Partnership meetings, the following representatives will be invited in addition, to ensure compliance with statutory guidance

- a representative of CWVYS
- additional representatives of voluntary or independent organizations involved with young people (depending on those nominated to the places included above)
- additional representation of Welsh medium organizations (depending on those nominated to the places included above)
- one or more of each of the following groups
 - o local employers
 - o local secondary headteachers
 - o local FE and training providers(again, with the last two, the nature of this would vary depending on nominations to places above)
- guidance also enables a range of others to be invited. Some of those suggested are already reflected in the proposals above and it is not currently proposed to extend standing membership further.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R.W. HUGHES

DATE: 31ST OCTOBER 2006

SUBJECT: WEST CHESHIRE / NORTH EAST WALES SUB-REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve the West Cheshire/North East Wales sub-regional spatial strategy 2006 - 2021

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

One of the actions proposed for North East Wales in the Wales Spatial Plan is “cross-border collaboration to identify requirements in terms of skill, employment sites, housing etc. for the continued success of the area”. To take this forward, the former Welsh Development Agency commissioned a study of the economic drivers, housing market dynamics and role of the sub-region on behalf of a partnership which also comprised Cheshire County Council, Chester City Council, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council, Flintshire County Council, Government Office for the North West, North West Development Agency, North West Regional Assembly, Welsh Assembly Government and Wrexham County Borough Council. As the study progressed, the partnership recognized the significant impact of the sub-region upon a wider area including Denbighshire and the County Council was invited to participate in the work of the partnership.

Following the completion of the study, the partnership agreed to commission a spatial strategy for the sub-region to inform the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy for North West England and local development frameworks in England and local development plans in Wales, and to input into future reviews of the Wales Spatial Plan. A working draft of the sub-regional spatial strategy was approved in principle at the member level steering group for the strategy held on 3rd October 2005. Each of the partners subsequently gave formal approval to the working draft and this was approved on behalf of the County Council through a delegated decision taken by the Leader on 13th January 2006. A period of public consultation closed on 17th February 2006 by which time 36 responses had been received. The strategy was revised to take account of the responses received and the final version was approved in principle at the meeting of the member level steering group for the strategy held on 3rd October 2006.

It is now necessary for each partner organization to give formal approval to the final version of the strategy, the full version of which can be seen on the Development Services page in the A-Z section of the County Council’s website.

Following approval of the strategy by all partners, discussions will take place regarding joint arrangements for its implementation.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 confers upon a local authority the power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of the area.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

None

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no obvious significant financial implications for the Council, resulting from this matter, at the present time.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

At the Local Development Plan meeting held on 30th January 2006, members considered how the County Council might respond to the draft strategy and it was requested that,

(a) further consideration be given to the identification of the improvements to transportation infrastructure required to deliver the strategy including links from north and south within the county to join the main east-west corridors and also to how these might be funded,

(b) communities in Denbighshire experiencing deprivation which nevertheless have the potential to compete effectively in the market place should also be targeted as regeneration areas,

(c) a new premier business park be developed in the Chester area to build on the powerful Chester brand for the wider benefit of the sub-region as a whole,

(d) local and strategic employment sites in Denbighshire should be developed to provide new employment opportunities within the county itself and to support the growth of small to medium sized enterprises, and that where this is not being progressed through private sector investment alone, public finance should continue to be available through the Welsh Assembly Government for this purpose, and

(e) the key role of Denbighshire in the sub-region in relation to the opto-electronics, leisure and tourism, agri-food and healthcare sectors and the importance of the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be recognized.

These requests were included in the response sent on behalf of the County Council and the strategy was subsequently amended to take account of the concerns raised.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Contributes towards the achievement of “A Vision for Denbighshire 2025” by securing a more balanced population, providing additional housing mainly through mixed developments, developing better transport links, encouraging the growth of more high quality businesses, enabling more people to work and improving vocational and life skills, attracting more visitors, working to eliminate deprivation, and protecting the environment.

Contributes towards the achievement of the Council’s following corporate objectives:

CO2 - We will progress the objectives and targets within the themes of the Community Strategy - Health, Social Care and Well Being, Community Safety, Lifelong Learning, Economic Prosperity, Environment and Children and Young People

CO7 - We will strive to ensure that no ward in Denbighshire is among the twenty most deprived areas in Wales by 2007 with none in the top fifty by 2012 by progressing the economic prosperity targets in the Community Strategy

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead Member/Officer	Deadline
Notify Welsh Assembly Government and North West Regional Assembly of the Cabinet’s decision	M. Dixon	17 th November 2006
Enter into discussions with partners regarding arrangements for the implementation of the strategy	Councillor R.W. Hughes / I.Miller	31 st December 2006

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the West Cheshire/North East Wales sub-regional spatial strategy 2006 - 2021

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R.W. HUGHES

DATE: 31ST OCTOBER 2006

SUBJECT: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES 2007 - 2013

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve arrangements for the delivery in Denbighshire of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has prepared a draft Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13. This document relates solely to activities in Wales to be financed through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development over this period and is not intended to be a comprehensive rural development strategy.

The activities to be supported though the Plan are divided into four "axes". Axis 1 relates to improvements in agricultural competitiveness such as Farming Connect advisory services, Axis 2 relates to agri-environment schemes such as Tir Cynnal and Tir Gofal, Axis 3 relates to rural diversification and Axis 4 relates to rural community regeneration activities supported previously through the LEADER programmes.

With the exception of the Dyserth, Meliden, Prestatyn and Rhyl wards all other parts of the county would potentially be eligible for support through the Plan.

There would be four main consequences for the County Council arising from the Plan as currently drafted and these are,

1. The requirement to establish a Partnership Board for rural Denbighshire representing four sectors (community, private, public and voluntary) to include the members of the Local Action Group which would deliver Axis 4 (rural community regeneration) activity,

2. The requirement to prepare a Local Development Strategy for the delivery of Axis 3 (rural diversification) and Axis 4 (rural community regeneration) activities to be submitted by 16th February 2007,

3. The expectation that Axis 4 activities would be delivered on behalf of the Local Partnership by the existing LEADER Plus Local Action Group serving the county (Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig) which could also deliver Axis 3 activities on behalf of the Partnership Board as appropriate, and

4. The possibility that the funds for both Axes to be administered by a lead body such as the County Council.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 confers upon a local authority the power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of the area.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

The expenditure which would be supported through Axes 3 and 4 in Denbighshire is likely to be in the region of £750,000 per annum and this would include match funding to be drawn from other sources as appropriate.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There is very little existing match funding available within the Council's own resources. Individual proposals that involve the Council in incurring costs will need to be reported in advance of committing funds with the source of the Council's element clearly identified.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

It was resolved at the meeting of the County Council's Rural Action Plan Task Group, which is a joint meeting of the Central and Southern Area members' groups, held on 7th September 2006 to support the recommendations set out in this report. The Corporate Director Resources has asked that the Strategic Policy Unit continue to be involved in the work.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Contributes towards the achievement of "A Vision for Denbighshire 2025" by enabling rural communities to be economically, socially and culturally active whilst maintaining the beautiful natural and historic environment.

Contributes towards the achievement of the Council's following corporate objectives:

CO2 - We will progress the objectives and targets within the themes of the Community Strategy - Health, Social Care and Well Being, Community Safety, Lifelong Learning, Economic Prosperity, Environment and Children and Young People

CO7 - We will strive to ensure that no ward in Denbighshire is among the twenty most deprived areas in Wales by 2007 with none in the top fifty by 2012 by progressing the economic prosperity targets in the Community Strategy

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	Lead member/officer	Deadline
Nominate County Council representatives on Partnership Board	Councillor R.W. Hughes	31 st January 2007
Prepare local development strategy	M. Dixon	16 th February 2007

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve:

- a. the establishment of a Partnership Board for rural Denbighshire with the public sector to be represented by members of the County Council to be nominated by the Leader,
- b. the delivery of all Axis 4 activities and Axis 3 activities as appropriate by the existing LEADER Plus Local Action Group serving the County (Cadwyn Clwyd Cyfyngedig),
- c. the administration of the funding for Axes 3 and 4 by the County Council if necessary, and
- d. the delegation of the approval of any urgent variation required to these arrangements to the Leader following consultation with the chair of the Rural Action Plan Task Group.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 31st October 2006

SUBJECT: Housing Revenue Account Budget & Capital Plan Report 2006/07

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To note the financial forecast position (revenue and capital) of the Housing Revenue Account (H.R.A.) for the current financial year, as at the end of September 2006.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

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

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

Housing Act 1985, Part II.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

Housing Revenue Budget

The outturn projection on the HRA at the end of September 2006 shows a projected net surplus at the year end of £670k (Appendix 1) against a budgeted surplus of £333k. This is a small reduction in the surplus of £688k that was reported to the end of August.

Within Management & Maintenance there are projected under spends in Rents and Supervision & Management due mostly to staff vacancies. The under spend in Supervision & Management (General) has reduced by £11k from last month because of a redundancy payment. In previous months, a small under spend has been forecast against Supervision & Management (Special) but this has now changed to an over spend of £40k due to an unplanned increase in internal fees for grounds maintenance.

The over spend on Repairs & Maintenance (R&M) has increased by £5k from last month which is due to an increase in disabled adaptations works coming through. While there is an over spend on R&M, the level of expenditure is likely to be similar to that achieved last year. The Housing Services Business Plan (HSBP) assumes that in the longer term R&M costs will reduce and therefore this assumption will be tested toward the end of the year to ensure it can be achieved.

The subsidy payable to the Welsh Assembly Government has been revised downward to account for the impact of the leasing subsidy. Debt charges have also been reduced to account for the estimated reduction in HRA capital expenditure this financial year (details below), which means there will be less borrowing to finance.

A draft Direction has now been received to allow for payments in respect of Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation (RRSL) to be made from the HRA to the county fund account. Original estimates of RRSL were calculated based on the impact of setting rents above the guideline rent for 2006/07. The impact of the leasing subsidy has now been added to this which has increased the estimated RRSL by £57k, although it should be remembered that there is a net benefit to the council from the leasing subsidy of approximately £160k this year.

Right to Buy (RTB) sales are still much slower than in previous years, which means there is more stock attracting negative subsidy. However, this means that more rent income than planned will be received, hence the £91k positive variance on rent income.

A review of RTB sales was completed in July and as a result the forecast sales for the year were revised downward from 48 to 44. However, there were still only 10 completed sales at the end of September, although the average valuation was £60k (compared to £53k allowed in the Business Plan). RTB sales are slower nationally for a number of reasons: house price inflation, reductions in discounts, changes to eligibility criteria and fewer desirable properties being available.

Applications have started to increase recently and there are currently 65 being processed. On average between 25-30% of the applications will complete. On this basis, between 25 and 30 RTB sales may be achieved this financial year. At this level and with the average receipts being higher than planned, the Plan remains viable. However, RTB sales are critical to the ongoing affordability of the Plan and will be monitored closely. If sale numbers continue to fall, or if values reduce, then the Plan will have to be fully reviewed and its long term viability tested. Such a review would of course also have to take account of favourable variations, such as building price inflation being lower than expected (which should reduce the cost of capital works) and the beneficial impact of the Leasing Subsidy being implemented. The Plan could also be significantly affected by the annual "Determinations" affecting HRA Subsidy which are issued by WAG in December.

The Plan will therefore be reviewed once the Determinations are received to account for further reductions in RTB sales (from 44 to 25) and the long term implications this has to the affordability of the Plan.

The interest likely to be achieved on HRA balances will be higher than expected (by £54k) however the amount of interest applied to HRA balances is volatile to fluctuations on the number of RTB sales throughout the year and therefore is being kept under review.

Housing Capital Plan

Progress on the HRA capital plan is included as Appendix 2. The total forecast expenditure for the year remains at £6.5m, which is approximately £1m less than original estimates. This includes additional anticipated expenditure of £1m in 2006/07 on slippage from 2005/06 on the major refurbishments contract. This is balanced however by significantly less works than planned being required on pre-2006 general contract improvement works, as a result of the works completed so far as part of the major refurbishment contract.

Environmental improvement works have been much slower than planned and the original estimate has been reduced by £70k and will likely reduce further throughout the year. Expenditure on the window replacement contract and the 2006 major refurbishment contract will be less than originally planned. This is due in both cases to delays in awarding the contract. Both contracts have taken longer than originally planned to award because of additional tendering and preliminary works procedures imposed by European procurement directives.

Slippage on the 2006/07 contracts will roll forward to 2007/08. The financing will move with the slippage so there is no adverse financial impact to the HRA. Once the 2005/06 major refurbishment contract is finalised, details of how the contract has performed will be reported to cabinet.

Summary

The revenue and capital budgets as reported at the end of September 2006 do not adversely impact upon the council's Housing Stock Business Plan. However, RTB sales are still much slower than expected compared to previous years. The Business Plan is assumed still to be deliverable but will be tested again to fully assess the impact of RTB sales falling further, along with other items (positive and negative) affecting the affordability of the Plan.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The forecast surplus above estimates on the HRA is welcomed and it is pleasing that the impact of the leasing subsidy is beneficial. The position with regard to falling RTB sales is of some concern and will be kept under close review. The Business Plan should be tested again to assess the impact of RTB sales being less than planned targets over the longer term.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The HRA capital and revenue budget were agreed by Cabinet in January 2006.

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE & THE COUNCIL'S VISION

The level of funding available to services together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council. The HSBP will help achieve the ideal living vision through access to good quality, affordable housing, which is more energy efficient and designed to meet tenants' needs.

8 ACTION PLAN

The Head of Housing Services and the Senior Management Accountant (Social Services and Housing) will continue to monitor the HRA budget and Business Plan, in particular the situation regarding RTB sales. The Plan will be tested again to assess the impact of RTB sales being less than planned over the next three years but also to take account of the impact of other items that impact upon the affordability of the Plan.

9 RECOMMENDATION

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

Housing Revenue Account ~ 2006/07 Budget

<u>2005/06</u>		<u>2006/07</u>		
<u>Actual</u>	<u>Month 6</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Forecast Out-turn</u>	<u>Variance to Budget</u>
<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
1,240,343	Supervision & Management - General	1,118,236	1,098,130	20,106
219,533	Supervision & Management - Special	212,949	253,415	-40,466
129,481	Welfare Services	129,866	133,672	-3,806
0	Homelessness - Leased Accommodation	0	221,469	-221,469
373,200	Rents	391,451	360,082	31,369
2,657,345	Repairs and Maintenance	2,599,819	2,645,054	-45,235
4,619,901	Total Management & Maintenance	4,452,321	4,711,822	-259,501
28,745	Rent Rebates	0	0	0
927,876	Debt Charges	1,128,757	1,046,212	82,545
326,000	C.E.R.A.	0	0	0
0	Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation	53,316	110,607	-57,291
2,690,309	Subsidy	2,976,737	2,748,881	227,856
-40,608	Provision for Bad Debts	50,000	50,000	0
8,552,223	Total Expenditure	8,661,131	8,667,522	-6,391
<u>INCOME</u>				
8,534,781	Rents (net of voids)	8,803,016	8,894,905	91,889
	Leased Rents	0	194,539	194,539
94,189	Garages	96,912	99,488	2,576
143,532	Interest (Balances & RTB mortgages)	95,000	148,926	53,926
8,772,503	Total Income	8,994,928	9,337,857	342,929
Surplus / Deficit (-) for the Year				
546,279	General Balances	333,797	670,336	336,539
-326,000	Earmarked Balances	0	0	0
1,308,768	Balance as at start of year ~ General	1,855,264	1,855,264	0
326,216	Balance as at start of year ~ Earmarked	0	0	0
1,855,264	Balance as at end of year ~ General	2,189,061	2,525,599	336,539
0	Balance as at end of year ~ Earmarked	0	0	0

Appendix 2

HRA Capital Plan Update 2006/07
Month 6

Actual 2005/06 £	Description	Approved Schemes £	Actual at End Sep £	Forecast Outturn £
751,529	Housing Repair Work Pre 2006/07	136,273	300	20,000
171,991	Environmental Improvement Works	373,000	16,911	304,650
2,650,442	2005/06 Major Improvements – All Groups	0	975,419	1,000,419
0	2006/07 Major Improvements – All Groups	2,979,000	101,999	2,072,000
2,011,332	Windows Replacement	2,982,000	990,781	2,000,000
743,287	Central Heating Contract	1,000,000	624,294	1,000,000
100,000	DFG - Council Properties	100,000	100,000	100,000
6,428,581	Total	7,570,273	2,809,704	6,497,069

2005/05 £	HRA Capital Plan Financed By:	Original £	Forecast £
2,400,000	Major Repairs Allowance Grant	2,400,000	2,400,000
556,500	Useable Capital Receipts	706,000	343,750
3,146,082	Prudential Borrowing	4,464,273	3,753,319
326,000	CERA	0	0
6,428,582	Total	7,570,273	6,497,069

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor G Rowlands Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

DATE: 31 October 2006

SUBJECT: Revenue Budget 2006/07

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Members note the latest revenue budget performance figures for the 2006/07 financial year as detailed in the attached Appendix 1.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The need to deliver the Council's agreed budget strategy for the 2006/07 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 projections are as at the end of September 2006.

The appendix details a potential underspend totalling £784k. This excludes the schools' delegated budgets.

- i) **Social Services** is showing an increased under spend that is mainly due to the under spend brought forward from 2005/06 coupled with savings against Supporting People grant schemes. These savings have been made to help smooth out the anticipated significant reductions in Supporting People funding in coming years. We have now received the final Supporting People Grant and this is £356k higher than expected. It is proposed that this is treated as a specific provision to cover anticipated future reductions. Appendix 2 gives a brief update on the grant.
- ii) **Capital Financing Budget** is forecasting an underspend due to higher than expected cash balances, reduced borrowing requirements and a move in interest rates that will generate additional investment income.
- iii) **Lifelong Learning** is forecasting a £41k reduction in its overspend.

- 4.2 It is now highly likely that the back dated element of **equal pay claims** in connection with some former manual workers will lead to a significant pressure in the current year. The Treasury's refusal to grant Councils the ability to capitalise these costs will mean that a suitable provision will need to be set up to cover these costs. This will involve a major reduction in general balances which will need to be rebuilt in future years through the top slicing of the overall revenue funding.
- 4.3 Another potential but thus far unquantifiable pressure is the potential impact of the appeals against the recent **Council Tax revaluations** which may exceed the assumptions within the budget.
- 4.4 The **schools' delegated budget** – Forecasts are that schools will be using £119k of their brought forward balances in 2006/07. This is a reduction of £127k compared to the last monitoring report. Work is being undertaken to attempt to reduce this further.
- 4.5 Details are also included in Appendix 1 of the position regarding planned efficiency savings.

5. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 Directorates need to continue to exercise tight control over their revenue expenditure to ensure they are able to remain within their budgets. The recently clarified position on the treatment of equal pay back dated claims means it is essential to avoid service overspends.
- 5.2 The excess Supporting People Grant allocation should be moved into a provision to ensure it is available to offset the large reduction the grant will suffer in future years and it will also prevent the distortion of the Council's true financial position.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

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

7. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

7.1 The Vision

- 7.1.1 Proper management of the Council's revenue budget enables services to work towards delivering the Council's Vision.

7.2 Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

- 7.2.1 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

- 9.1 That Members note the budget performance figures for 2006/07 as detailed in the attached Appendix 1.

**MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 2006**

Directorate	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
Lifelong Learning (excluding schools delegated)	29,550	-10,676	18,874	29,611	-10,678	18,933	61	-2	59	100
Environment	37,938	-16,371	21,567	37,898	-16,331	21,567	-40	40	0	0
Social Services & Housing	52,485	-16,638	35,847	52,550	-17,449	35,101	65	-811	-746	-617
County Clerk	1,975	-570	1,405	2,035	-570	1,465	60	0	60	0
Resources	8,783	-2,793	5,990	9,000	-3,012	5,988	217	-219	-2	-2
Corporate, Miscellaneous & Benefits	26,463	-22,356	4,107	26,463	-22,356	4,107	0	0	0	0
Total All Services	157,194	-69,404	87,790	157,557	-70,396	87,161	363	-992	-629	-519
Capital Financing Charges/Investment Income			10,995			10,840			-155	-26
Precepts & Levies			4,185			4,185			0	0
			102,970			102,186			-784	-545

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 2006/07
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 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	52,889	-4,009	48,880	53,327	-4,328	48,999	438	-319	119	246
School Funds Held Centrally	15,620	-4,702	10,918	15,589	-4,702	10,887	-31	0	-31	-16
Non school Funding #	2,012	-881	1,131	2,012	-881	1,131	0	0	0	0
Corporate Services	444	-5	439	462	-5	457	18	0	18	18
Countryside & Leisure	6,109	-3,446	2,663	6,169	-3,434	2,735	60	12	72	82
Tourism, Culture & Heritage	5,365	-1,642	3,723	5,379	-1,656	3,723	14	-14	0	16
	29,550	-10,676	18,874	29,611	-10,678	18,933	61	-2	59	100
Total Lifelong Learning	82,439	-14,685	67,754	82,938	-15,006	67,932	499	-321	178	346

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
LIFELONG LEARNING
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 2006

<u>Comments</u>	Current Month	Previous Month
	£000s	£000s
EDUCATION		
Individual School Budgets:		
Projections would indicate that the school balances of £1,298k as at 31/03/2006 will reduce by £119k during 2006/07. The difference to the previous report is mainly due to staffing changes made over the summer months in two secondary schools and informative finance meetings with primary schools which have identified changes in their spending plans. Further meetings with all schools will take place over the	119	246
SCHOOL FUNDS HELD CENTRALLY		
School Transport		
Full year effect of re-tendered contracts in Feb in excess of budget. Effects of Sept 06 variations to be quantified and can vary until the end of the financial year.	49	49
Other		
Various savings from vacancy control and delays in appointment of staff. A number of vacancies were filled from September 06 and this is reflected in the projected outturn	-80	-65
NON SCHOOL FUNDING		
No items to report	0	0
CORPORATE SERVICES		
Projections indicate that there will be an overspend on the Translation Service budget of £53k due to the demand on the Service which requires the use of external providers. A tendering of external provision is being undertaken by the Procurement Unit which will hopefully reduce the pressure this year. The reduction is due to £35k from the underspend carried forward.	18	18
TOTAL EDUCATION	106	248
COUNTRYSIDE & LEISURE		
Energy costs above inflation allowance in budget.	39	39
Impact of closure at Corwen, Denbigh & Prestatyn Leisure Centres	47	47
Clwyd Leisure arbitration	28	28
Rhyl LC NNDR	6	6
Successful resolution of income dispute	-20	-20
Cut in sports development programme	-12	-12
Increased leisure centre income	-15	-5
Savings on leisure centre equipment purchase	-1	-1
TOURISM, HERITAGE & CULTURE		
Energy costs above average 24% inflation allowance in budget. 86% increase in electricity costs at Pavilion Theatre	22	23
Increased income projected for sales of confectionary at Pavilion Theatre	-7	-7
Reduction in staff costs	-2	-2
Match funding revenue implications to maintain grants & committed Heritage events, increased premises costs & reduced income	33	33
Non-appointment of curator post	-30	-30
Increased income from the Royal International Pavilion	-5	0
Salary savings due to delayed appointments	-11	0
TOTAL CULTURE & LEISURE	72	99
TOTAL LIFELONG LEARNING	178	347
Total		

CULTURE & LEISURE EFFICIENCY SAVINGS PROGRESS REPORT

Proposed Efficiency Saving	Target	Progress
Reduce funding to grant aided bodies	8,275	Achievable
Implementation of review of inherited terms & conditions for Library Service Staff	6,000	Unlikely to be achieved 06/07
New charges	6,000	Achievable
New tourist attraction lease at Children's Village & franchise at Riverside Park	8,000	Part Achievable
Ffrith Festival Gardens: secure new user, reduce fixed premises costs	10,000	Achievable subject to Council decision
Countryside & Leisure Services miscellaneous efficiencies	6,725	Achievable
Review of Leisure Centre staff rotas	5,000	Achievable
	50,000	
Education Efficiency savings	£	
Procurement contracts and teacher supply within schools	259,000	To be achieved by school governor bodies
Vacancy control/staff management	12,101	On target
Savings on supplies and services	40,689	On target
Introduce charge for grant administration	19,000	On target
TOTAL	330,790	

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 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
Development Services	9,177	-5,120	4,057	9,177	-5,120	4,057	0	0	0	0
Transport & Infrastructure (Notes 1 & 2)	9,078	-3,864	5,214	9,078	-3,864	5,214	0	0	0	0
Planning & Public Protection	4,210	-1,932	2,278	4,169	-1,891	2,278	-41	41	0	0
Director & Support (Note 3)	1,506	-369	1,137	1,506	-369	1,137	0	0	0	0
Environmental Services	13,967	-5,086	8,881	13,968	-5,087	8,881	1	-1	0	0
Total Environment	37,938	-16,371	21,567	37,898	-16,331	21,567	-40	40	0	0

Notes

Potential areas of budget pressure

1 As part of the budget setting process the Directorate is expected to achieve net income of £190K on the following initiatives in 2006/07:-

(a) Introduction of car parking charges on Rhyl Promenade (net of start up costs)	£150K
(b) Review and rationalisation of car parking charges across the County	£40K
	<u>£190K</u>

2 In the event of severe weather it is possible that the winter maintenance budget, together with the winter maintenance reserve, will be insufficient to cover the costs.

3 Ongoing pressures in the School Meals service currently being discussed with the Lifelong Learning Directorate could result in a significant budget deficit.

Other Points

4 The Directorate put forward a number of efficiency savings as part of the Budget setting process. These totalled £156K and will be monitored on an on-going basis throughout the financial year. These are summarised between the service departments below

Details	£'000s
Development Services - restructure	27 Achieved
Transport & Infrastructure - restructure	15 Achieved
Director & Support - efficiencies	12 Achieved
Planning & Public Protection - merger	57 Achieved
Planning & Public Protection - new charges	10 Under review
Environmental Services - reorganisation of street lighting	10 On Target
Environmental Services - public realm initiatives	15 To be achieved
Environmental Services - annual CCTV fee	10 Achieved
	<u>156</u>

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 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	8,857	-616	8,241	9,142	-940	8,202	285	-324	-39	-7
Adult Services	34,170	-8,786	25,384	34,872	-9,459	25,413	702	-673	29	38
Business Support & Development	2,112	-146	1,966	2,215	-244	1,971	103	-98	5	25
Cymorth Grant	1,651	-1,651	0	1,651	-1,651	0	0	0	0	0
Supporting People Grant	4,156	-4,153	3	3,339	-3,797	-458	-817	356	-461	-395
Underspend Brought Forward 2005/06	0	0	0	0	-224	-224	0	-224	-224	-224
Sub Total Social Services	50,946	-15,352	35,594	51,219	-16,315	34,904	273	-963	-690	-563
Non HRA Housing	1,539	-1,286	253	1,331	-1,115	216	-208	171	-37	-35
Underspend Brought Forward 2005/6	0	0	0	0	-19	-19	0	-19	-19	-19
Directorate Total	52,485	-16,638	35,847	52,550	-17,449	35,101	65	-811	-746	-617

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 2006

Comments	Current Month £000s	Prev Month £000
SOCIAL SERVICES		
CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
The expenditure within Children's Services is showing a slight decrease mainly due to the improvement in the number of residential out of county placements. This, combined with the continued underspend within the in-house fostering budget shows an increase in the underspend for the period ending 29/09/06	-39	-7
ADULT SERVICES		
Learning Disabilities		
Residential placements together with Family Support are the main pressures, this is in keeping with previous years as service demands continue to exceed the budget available. The outturn is based on projections accounting for actual expenditure and income to date.	263	242
Mental Illness		
Residential & Nursing spend is the main budget pressure based on current clients. The projection assumes client numbers remain reasonably constant in 2006/07.	94	81
Older People		
Older People Purchasing Unit- Income from charges when compared to last year seems to be exceeding expectations, evidenced by income actually received. The main area of overspend in the Provider Unit is once again Residential Homes. There are concerns over achieving budgeted income and there may be a need to contribute to the Extra Care projects from the revenue budget. Provider homecare spend has increased, mainly due to the intended filling of a vacant organiser post.	-76	-70
PDSI		
Though the main budget pressure is still likely to be Community Care, the outturn has reduced by £12k mainly due to slippage on social work posts. Expenditure on minor adaptations and equipment is still a major budget pressure. The Drug	193	205
Performance Management & Commissioning		
The majority of these budgets relate to staffing. It is anticipated that these budgets will be almost fully utilised with the exception of a small amount of slippage on vacant posts.	-14	-16
Other Adult Services		
The majority of the under spend reported is budget that is as yet unallocated. This will be re-allocated within the service to meet pressures during the course of the year and also to meet the cost of the Social Work Pay Review. There now appears to be a definite upward trend in charging policy income. It is currently assumed that £150k extra is achievable this year.	-431	-404
Joint Working & Older People Strategy		
This budget is grant funded supplemented by a small base budget. Printing costs expected in 2006/07 should see this fully spent.	0	0
Cefndy Enterprises		
Indications for 2006-7 are that Cefndy should achieve a balanced budget.	0	0
TOTAL ADULT SERVICES	29	38
Business Support & Development		
There is a reduction in the projected overspend in this area due to the receipt of additional grant income in relation to the PARIS project	5	25
	5	25
Supporting People Grant		
The Supporting People final grant settlement for 2006/07 is still under negotiation. Grant offers for SPG and SPRG have been received from WAG but were incorrect. Following discussions with WAG, the budget has been amended to reflect the expected offers. There is an estimated underspend of £504k due to projects awaiting commissioning, in year savings and revised sheltered housing costs. £338k of this year's grant is unallocated and will not be utilised as once the SP grant is integrated into the RSG, the formula based settlement suggests this will result in a significant cut in funding and it may be prudent to earmark any underspend in 2006/07 to dampen the impact in future years.	-461	-395
	-461	-395
CYMORTH GRANT		
The Cymorth Grant has been transferred to Social Services in 2006/07. The full allocation has now been awarded following discussions with WAG. It is expected that this grant will be fully utilised.	0	0
	0	0
Under spend brought forward (2005/06)	-224	-224
NON-HRA HOUSING		
An underspend in Welfare Services is off setting a projected over spend in Homelessness. The budget has been		

The budget has been reviewed to account for the leasing subsidy in the HRA, this accounts for the improvement from last month. £40k of the brought forward balance has been applied to affordable housing and housing strategy initiatives.	-37	-35
Under spend brought forward (2005/06)	-19	-19
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING	-56	-54
	-746	-617

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

Children Services	Target	Details	Status	Comments
Family Support Workers	£148,000	Transfer funding to Supporting People	Achieved	
Adult Services				
Domiciliary Contract Efficiencies	£53,000	Single rate for Domiciliary Care introduced October 2005.	Achievable	
EMI Nursing / Domiciliary Efficiencies	£5,000	Block purchase of 5 EMI beds to be paid at previous year's rates	Achievable	
General - Extending charges	£30,000	All service users except Mental Health to be charged. Widened to Cornerstone and increase in Day care rates as agreed in 2004/05.	Achieved	
Care Brokers	£30,000	To save Operational time and efficiency through Care Broker Services. Geographical patterns of provision should generate scope for efficiencies.	Achievable	
Local Authority Home Care	£11,000	Remove all Homecare overtime	Achievable	
Continuing Health Care	£70,000	Widen scope of current re-charging	Achieved	
General Contractual Savings in Adult Services	£20,000	Review of Link House and personal care service contracts.	Achievable	
Direct Payments	£10,000	Increase DP having financial benefits of £1.50 per hour	Achievable	
Adult Learning Disabilities- Contract Efficiencies in Work Opportunities & Community Living	£25,000	Carry out a review of costing etc. Similar to that carried out for older people to introduce planned purchasing.	Achievable	
Adult Learning Disabilities- Contract out Community Living Services.	£20,000	2 projects being tendered to independent sector.	Achievable	
Elderly Residential & Day Care	£16,000	Explore Options for the use of Llys Nant Special Care Unit and review agency cover.	Achievable	
Vacant Posts	£80,000	Staff savings through slippage on vacant posts.	Achievable	
Meals on Wheels	£5,000	Going out to tender for delivery of service and reviewing charging.	Achievable	
Voluntary Organisation Payments	£14,000	Reduction of 2% below inflationary uplift.	Achieved	
Business Support & Development				
Reduction in recruitment & Retention	£5,000	Less advertising costs due to better retention of employees.	Achieved	
NNDR - Henllan	£6,000	Henllan deleted from Valuations list so no NNDR charge.	Achieved	

Telephone Rental Streamlining	£1,000	Deleted Extension numbers no longer required.	Achieved
Paris Project Savings	£8,000	Reduction in revenue costs by possible grant funding	Achievable
Housing			
Homelessness	£5,000	Further savings to be made by transferring expenditure from B&B to leased accomodation.	Achieved
Totals	£562,000	Total = £647k -£85k re fee increase re-instated	

MONTHLY REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07
RESOURCES, COUNTY CLERK, CORPORATE & MISCELLANEOUS
POSITION AS AT END SEPTEMBER 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
County Clerks	1,975	-570	1,405	2,035	-570	1,465	60	0	60	0
Resources Directorate										
Finance	4,174	-1,976	2,198	4,174	-1,976	2,198	0	0	0	0
Policy Unit	360	0	360	360	0	360	0	0	0	0
Audit	437	-84	353	435	-84	351	-2	0	-2	-2
I.T	2,621	-480	2,141	2,621	-480	2,141	0	0	0	0
Personnel	1,191	-253	938	1,191	-253	938	0	0	0	0
Project Management	0	0	0	219	-219	0	219	-219	0	0
Total	8,783	-2,793	5,990	9,000	-3,012	5,988	217	-219	-2	-2
Corporate and Miscellaneous	4,830	-687	4,143	4,830	-687	4,143	0	0	0	0
Benefits	21,633	-21,669	(36)	21,633	-21,669	(36)	0	0	0	0
Capital Fin Charges/Investment Income	10,995	0	10,995	10,840	0	10,840	-155	0	-155	-26

Note : All efficiency savings proposals on target to be delivered.

Appendix 2 - Supporting People

Supporting People (SP) is a policy and funding framework for delivering accommodation based support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation, to facilitate independent living. It is a function which local authorities must perform to implement Welsh Assembly Government policy and deliver on the WAG 'Social Justice & Regeneration Agenda'.

Up to 31/03/03 support services were funded through various streams such as Housing Benefits (HB) and WAG grants. SP started on 01/04/03, when support money, from HB and grants, were pooled into SP funding.

The original grant in 2003/04 was calculated based on Transitional Housing Benefit (THB) claims submitted by the authority within a qualifying period. Denbighshire, like all authorities, was encouraged to maximise THB claims in order to maximise Supporting People grant and the council was very successful in that regard. Since then changes to the funding have come about because of cuts implemented by WAG (in an effort to redistribute Supporting People funding) and changes to service delivery requested by the authority, in light of the ongoing service reviews.

In September 2005, a paper was issued which highlighted the possible considerable cut in funding for the authority, once Supporting People was included in the Revenue Support Grant. As a result of this the Council has been prudent when allocating monies to new projects.

It is anticipated that the council could receive a cut in funding of around £2 million, from 2008/09. With this in mind £224k of the brought forward from 2005/06 and £338k of the current grant remains unallocated, to allow for a provision to be made to offset future cuts to reduce the future burden on revenue budgets.

The situation is further complicated by the delays in notification of grant from the Assembly. The Council has only just received confirmation of its likely grant allocation for 2006/07, which is six months into the financial year. The grant we are likely to receive is £356k higher than was anticipated and demonstrates how difficult it is to manage this funding stream.

It is clear that the Council will lose significant amounts of funding in future and is trying to manage this in a manner that will have the least impact possible on a very vulnerable group of service users. As such it is not committing to some new projects and will use the underspend to minimise the impact on service users in the future.

REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR S A DAVIES
DEPUTY LEADER / LEAD MEMBER FOR PERSONNEL**

DATE: 31 October 2006

SUBJECT: ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 For Members to note the enclosed report on staff headcount and to consider the proposals for the future reporting of personnel staff indicators.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 In the last 12 months, the Council has invested significantly in the HR system which has been introduced in all areas of the Council. The implementation has been more complex than originally imagined and progress slower than planned.

2.2 Basic information is however now in place in all directorates, and the system used to a greater or lesser extent in all areas. Headcount information, including starters and leavers, has been kept updated for many months. Appendix 1 details the movements in headcount since April 2005 for each service, the bottom part of each sheet shows the rolling 12 month averages in order to eliminate seasonal variations. At present there is still some data updating to be completed which might impact on the accuracy.

2.3 The Council depends on its staff to deliver services. It is also the single biggest cost within the Council and as such warrants separate monitoring.

2.4 Over the past 18 months there has been significant movement in staff numbers, much of which is linked to the provision of additional services and in a number of cases, is grant funded. At Cabinet, each directorate will provide brief analyses of the movements if required.

2.5 In future the report will be extended to include information about starters and leavers, sickness and absence. Payroll costs will also be reported, although this will not be on the same basis as the HR system until the new payroll system is implemented next year. It is also intended that the HR system will be used to record information such as driver records, performance appraisals completed, training plans and ways will be discussed to report this as appropriate.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Section III of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant cost implications associated with the preparation with this information.

4.2 Additional costs are involved in the implementation of the payroll system, and also in developing the interface between the time recording system and the HR system

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

5.1 Payroll costs are one of the largest costs faced by the Council and therefore any further actions to monitor and control expenditure are beneficial.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6.1 The headcount information has been prepared by the Central personnel Team directly from the HR system and discussed by the Corporate Directors

7 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

7.1 No direct implication on any corporate policy

8 ACTION PLAN

Action	By whom	By when
Report modified to include starters / leavers	Head of Personnel	December 2006
Absence information included	Head of Personnel	November 2006
Payroll information included	Financial Controller	December 2006

9 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 Members note the information considered in this report and the proposed Action Plan

9.2 Members consider any additional information requirements they may have.

Directorate: County Clerk & CE

		CE Number of staff	FTEs	CC Number of staff	FTEs	TOTAL Number of staff	FTEs
Establish't							
Apr	2005	2	2.0	56	50.2	58	52
May		2	2.0	57	50.8	59	53
Jun		2	2.0	57	50.8	59	53
Jul		2	2.0	58	51.4	60	53
Aug		2	2.0	60	53.0	62	55
Sep		2	2.0	54	49.6	56	52
Oct		2	2.0	53	48.8	55	51
Nov		2	2.0	53	48.8	55	51
Dec		2	2.0	53	48.8	55	51
Jan	2006	2	2.0	52	46.7	54	49
Feb		3	3.0	51	45.7	54	49
Mar		3	3.0	51	45.7	54	49
Apr		3	3.0	52	46.7	55	50
May		3	3.0	51	45.7	54	49
Jun		3	3.0	52	46.7	55	50
Jul		3	3.0	50	45.3	53	48
Aug		3	3.0	50	45.3	53	48
Sep		3	3.0	51	46.8	54	50
Oct						0	0
Nov						0	0
Dec						0	0
Jan	2007					0	0
Feb						0	0
Mar						0	0
Rolling Average							
Apr	2006	2	2.3	54	48.9	57	51.2
May		2	2.3	54	48.5	56	50.8
Jun		2	2.4	53	48.2	56	50.6
Jul		3	2.5	53	47.7	55	50.2
Aug		3	2.6	52	47.0	54	49.6
Sep		3	2.7	52	46.8	54	49.4
Oct							
Nov							
Dec							
Jan	2007						
Feb							
Mar							

**CABINET
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
NOVEMBER 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Review of Capital Prioritisation	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry / P McGrady
Use of the £200k 'Spend to Save' Efficiencies Budget	Councillor G O Rowlands A Evans
Amendments to Travelling and Subsistence	Councillor G O Rowlands A Evans
Delegations to Officers	I K Hearle
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor G O Rowlands J Williams
Review of Hospital Discharge Scheme	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling
Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling
Garages Review – may be included as part of the HRA report	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Tenant Involvement in Council Housing Improvement Programme	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
SSIW Children's Services Inspection Report	Councillor M A German N Francis
Child Trust Funds	Councillor M A German N Francis
Heather And Hillforts	Councillor S Roberts T Hughes
DECEMBER 2006	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Review of Older People Commissioning Strategy	Councillor P A Dobb N Ayling
Cefndy Healthcare: Delegation to Cefndy Manager	Councillor P A Dobb S Ellis / N Ayling
JANUARY 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
FEBRUARY 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands

REPORT TITLE	REPORT LEAD MEMBER / AUTHOR
	R Parry
Treasury Management Strategy	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Corporate Quarterly Performance Report	Councillor G O Rowlands J Williams
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
MARCH 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk
Modernising Education Update	Councillor D Owens H W Griffiths
Approval of LDP Preferred Strategy and Strategic Options	Councillor E W Williams M Pender
APRIL 2007	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Capital Plan	Councillor G O Rowlands R Parry
Use of the £200k 'Spend to Save' Efficiencies Budget	Councillor G O Rowlands A Evans
Housing Revenue Account Budget	Councillor P A Dobb P Quirk