

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 29 January 2008 in Conference Room 1, County Hall, Ruthin.

PRESENT

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Social Services; E C Edwards, Lead Member for Customer Care and Community Safety; H H Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Education; M A German, Lead Member for Environment; G M Kensler; Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Modernisation and Improvement; G O Rowlands, Lead Member for Regeneration and Housing; J A Smith, Lead Member for Business Management, Communications & Personnel and J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Finance.

Observers: Councillors R E Barton; J Chamberlain Jones; M LI Davies; G C Evans; S Frobisher; K N Hawkins; C L Hughes; N Hugh Jones; M M Jones and N P Roberts.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor J A Smith.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

1 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 January 2008 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

3 MONITORING OF ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO ESTYN

Councillor H H Evans presented the report for Members to consider the initial work undertaken to monitor the action plan which had been developed in response to the recent Estyn Inspection of Education Services. He discussed the work plans developed to respond to the main recommendations of the Estyn report and also the other

elements such as the Estyn Review of Youth Support Services in 2006 which were taken into consideration but were not linked to the Estyn report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet, having considered the progress to date against tasks, request that the Modernising Education Board reviews progress against those tasks identified as “Red” or “Amber” in Appendix 2 in advance of the next monthly monitoring report.

4 JOINT ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMMISSIONING STRATEGY (CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE) 2007-2010

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to adopt the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adult Mental Health and Social Care for Conwy and Denbighshire 2007 – 2010. The Partnership with Conwy had been established in 2006. The needs assessment had identified various factors which would need to be taken into account such as higher rates of mental illness than other areas in Wales, people with mental health problems finding it difficult to get jobs or housing, a higher rate of suicide than the Wales Average. Future commissioning would include basic mental health education and promotion.

Regarding Councillor P J Marfleet’s question on the legacy in Denbighshire being reflected in the funding allocation, the Financial Controller confirmed that the Welsh Assembly Government funding for Adult Social Services had been reviewed and the following year it would be more focussed on Health having increasing people numbers rather than the Local Authority. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing confirmed this was not reflected in the settlement. Councillor Marfleet suggested that the Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government be reminded of the historical data which affected the numbers of people.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Adult Mental Health and Social Care 2007-2010.

5 DRAFT HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING (HSCWB) STRATEGY 2008-2011

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Cabinet to consider and endorse the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing (HSCWB) Strategy 2008-2011 in advance of presenting to Full Council in February 2008.

The Strategy strongly impacted on both the Community Safety and Children / Young People policy areas. There were 8 priority themes within the Strategy: Reducing Poverty / Improving Social Inclusion; Our environment; Positive Lifestyles; Early Intervention & Crisis Support; Changing Needs / Responsive Services; Longer Term Needs; Protecting & Safeguarding; and Right Services in the Right Place. The Authority would be working with GPs to provide health and social services on a single site, for example the proposed site in Rhyl. Councillor Dobb referred to the Phase I Rapid Response Team, although it was too early to quantify its success. Joint working

would take place although the partners may not have the same priorities as Denbighshire. It was noted that Conwy CBC had chosen to follow a different route to Denbighshire, in particular regarding the provision of an equipment store.

Councillor Dobb supported Councillor G M Kensler's comments regarding the programmes to improve enjoyment of life by providing opportunities for physical activities. Councillor Kensler stressed the need to ensure services were not reduced.

RESOLVED that Cabinet, having considered the draft Health, Social Care & Well-Being Strategy, recommend endorsement by Full Council in February 2008.

6 GATING ORDERS

Councillor E C Edwards presented the report for Members to consider and agree the proposed Gating orders to be made under The Highways Act 1980 (Gating Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2007 in Rhyl, Denbigh and Prestatyn at various locations. The specific areas were detailed in the consultation papers in Appendix 1 (The Gating Order Schedule).

Councillor E C Edwards asked for Members' agreement for Gating Orders to be approved under Delegation to the Lead Member for Community Safety.

The Community Safety Manager detailed the specific areas. He asked Members to note that Location 2 the Footpath between Ffordd Talargoch and Ffordd Pennant, Meliden had been withdrawn by the proposer, Councillor R W Hughes. Members were asked to note that Location 4 was Marine Road and not Marine Drive.

RESOLVED that Members approve the proposed gating orders as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, with Location 2 Footpath between Ffordd Talargoch and Ffordd Pennant, Meliden being withdrawn. It was further agreed that Lead Member for Community Safety be given delegated authority to take all decisions on Gating Orders.

7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND CAPITAL PLAN REPORT 2007-2008

Councillor G O Rowlands presented the report for Members to note the latest financial forecast position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the current financial year. A surplus of £818k would be generated by the end of the financial year which was more than the planned surplus. However, there was a forecast overspend on repairs and maintenance of £100k that had been transferred to capital as part of the wider housing improvement programme.

Councillor E C Edwards referred to the Customer Service Centre which highlighted housing, highways and public realm issues which had been reported to the Authority and said this was an important tool for monitoring of the Authority's performance. He asked whether it was possible for the funding from the Housing Revenue Account to be

used to fund the housing repairs which were behind schedule, once the actual figures were known. The Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director: Resources said it was possible to release funds in principle, as long as the whole housing business plan was not dislodged by any actions taken. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing confirmed that once all the detail on the backlog had been updated and checked then the value of the jobs would be known and whether it would be possible to use some of the funding from the HRA towards the backlog of repairs.

Councillor G M Kensler referred to the backlog of work as shown by the Customer Care Centre some 4 months earlier and asked when the situation would be brought to an acceptable level. Councillor G O Rowlands said this could take up to 12 months and work was ongoing to improve on the Performance Indicators. However, Councillor E C Edwards said Performance Indicators were not the issue, but the work required on housing repairs. The Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing agreed it would take some time to deal with the backlog but the up-to-date figures were not on the Customer Services system.

Councillor E C Edwards asked the Corporate Director: Social Services and Housing to congratulate members of her team on their excellent work in helping an elderly resident in Llanferres.

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

8 REVENUE BUDGET AND SUMMARY CAPITAL PLAN 2007-2008

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Members to note the budget performance figures for the 2007/2008 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 and note the summary capital plan performance for 2007/2008 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.

The Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn 52 week residential unit continued to have a projected overspend of £277k. However, savings resulting from the Tourism Strategy tendering process had reduced the projected overspend by £30k. Social Services and Housing were in an improved position and the Directorate had been successful in securing grants of £145k and external contributions for expensive care packages. The non HRA Housing projected overspend had increased by £126k.

In response to various queries, it was confirmed that the £277k Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn overspend would have no impact on external funding figures; the Financial Controller confirmed that the Authority was insured externally for major claims including highways issues and that any small claims were covered from an internal insurance fund - the Authority operated a good inspection regime and most claims were defensible and avoided court action. Planning income appeared to tail off but this could be as a result of uncertainty over the economy or fewer large housing developers making planning applications.

RESOVLED that Members note the budget performance figures for 2007/2008 as detailed in Appendix 1 and note the feedback on urgent action to be taken to fill vacant places at the 52 week residential unit at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and to also note the summary capital plan performance figures for the 2007/2008 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.

9 BUDGET SETTING UPDATE 2008-2009

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Members to review the budget proposals for 2008-2009 in the light of the final Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) settlement. Members were asked to indicate whether they supported the updated savings proposals made by services in Appendix 3, the latest proposals in Appendix 1 for additional resources in response to anticipated service pressures and the further potential cuts that had been identified. Members were further asked to indicate whether they still wished to propose a Council Tax increase of 3% for 2008-09. Members were asked to note the need for significant further efficiency savings and cost reductions/cuts in future financial years, in light of the poor settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Councillor Thompson Hill discussed the budget proposals in detail, stating that the final settlement was slightly worse than anticipated. He highlighted the grant increases for the next three financial years which would be below the Welsh average.

The Authority was suffering adverse effects of the funding formula. It was not possible to match inflationary levels at this rate of funding.

The Lifelong Learning Directorate were in the process of firming up another £110k as savings in addition to the £292k already found.

A 5.5% increase in Council Tax would be required to fund the £36m which the Authority has to fund. To achieve a 3% increase in Council Tax additional savings would have to be found.

The impact of the settlement would have an adverse effect on Social Services and Housing. A number of bids in the sum of £1.5m had been received, whereas the allocation was only £0.5m. It had however been recommended in the Revenue Budget report earlier to carry over projected underspends of £0.5m which would reduce the bids to £1m. Further funding and savings options were being considered.

Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee comments were discussed - the Committee recommended the total savings by the Directorate should only be £200k. They also suggested reallocation of the £75k Performance Incentive Grant (PIG) to Countryside Services and that the Lifelong Learning Directorate contribution of £150k towards the vacancy control programme would not be achieved.

At this juncture (11.25 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 30 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

Councillor H H Evans thanked Councillor J Thompson Hill for his comprehensive report. He stated that the Authority had received a poor settlement from WAG which was putting the Authority under severe pressure. It was important for Denbighshire to manage its resources strategically. He understood that with the forthcoming Council elections in May, this would also have an influence on the level of Council Tax increase which some Members would support. He stressed the need to make sound decisions and reminded colleagues that during the current Council term the theme had been for a low Council Tax increase to try and close the gap between Denbighshire and other Local Authorities in North Wales. The debate in the recent informal Council meeting had led to a steer for an average of a 3% increase in Council Tax. This had led to severe concerns, for example, Social Services and Housing were not fully funded by WAG and neither were Waste Management and Highways in the Environment Directorate funded properly. Whilst he supported the Lifelong Learning Directorate it was also important that their figures were subject to challenge, as were the other Directorates. He expressed concern and disappointment regarding the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee comments and felt strongly that they should achieve the set efficiency target of £400k. He recommended that Lifelong Learning be asked to find the required savings and he suggested Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee should discuss all the proposals in detail.

Councillor P J Marfleet expressed his frustration at the settlement and said Denbighshire would receive the worst settlement in Wales in 3 years' time whilst the WAG were putting millions of pounds in reserves. He stressed the need for all Members to remember their duty of care to the wider population of Denbighshire. He felt a 3.1% Council Tax increase could be achieved whilst also ensuring service delivery. He also felt that in some ways, Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee had abdicated their responsibilities.

In response to a query from Councillor P A Dobb regarding the review of vehicle fleet costs, Councillor M A German said details had been provided on the individual costs and needs for each vehicle at earlier informal meetings. A fleet procurement group had been established to discuss replacement vehicles. There was no separate fleet budget in the Environment Directorate. She raised the question marks over both the increase of Fees and Charges and Fleet Vehicle Costs and said she would not be able to support any increase in car parking charges, particularly in the rural areas. Councillor Thompson Hill confirmed that Fees and Charges and Vehicle Fleet Costs would be subject to review longer term.

Although he had initially proposed a Council Tax increase of 2% in the informal Council meeting, Councillor G O Rowlands said he realised this would not be achievable and was now prepared to support an increase of 3% in Council Tax.

Councillor G M Kensler felt that officers were on the one hand trying to make savings and also provide a service which would be acceptable to the public. She felt extra work was required on finding further savings. She referred to possible cuts in grants to the Pavilion Theatre Rhyl, ECTARC and the Royal International Pavilion at Llangollen and Bodelwyddan Castle and asked whether such cuts would have an adverse effect on the grants the organisations received.

The Financial Controller responded to a number of queries from Councillor Kensler. The settlement figures for the next 2 years are fixed but the figures for 2010/11 are subject to the next Comprehensive Spending Review. The WLGA will work hard to drive up the overall level of WAG funding while the Distribution Sub Group work programme will focus on some areas where DCC might gain additional funding. He confirmed the Authority was working closely with schools as part of the Estyn Action Plan on school balances. Denbighshire spent below SSA on Leisure Services but the spend on all non Education, Lifelong Learning services was £1.1m above the SSA. Denbighshire spends double the Wales average on Culture and three times the Wales average on Tourism. 2008 was the final year for LABGI funding.

Regarding landfill tax, this had been increasing at £3 per tonne per annum previously but currently was increasing by £8 per tonne. The Corporate Director: Environment said WAG had met the cost of landfill tax in full in earlier years but were expecting the reductions in the amount of landfill created would now pay for the increase in costs. There was a need for investment and to make more use of the X2 scheme.

Councillor E C Edwards supported the funding of Education as agreed in the Estyn Action Plan but reminded colleagues that other services still had to be provided. It was unacceptable that WAG were reportedly working towards £830m in their reserves by 2011 as this was making it difficult for Local Authorities in Wales to deliver services. Referring to the vacancy control of posts, he said that although posts were frozen, a few would probably be deleted. Although the Authority had no time left in its current term for a radical restructure, he felt that should the need arise, some staff in surplus posts should be given the opportunity to be re-trained. The Authority would have to work in a different way. He also asked that more detail on Leisure Centres be provided before any decisions were taken. He supported a Council Tax increase of 3%.

A 3% increase was also supported by Councillor H H Evans, with the possibility of a small increase if necessary. He said there was insufficient information to support the issues within Lifelong Learning and suggested that an informal meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee for Members be convened. He said the proposed budget should fund Education to the SSA level by the end of the current Council term. He also supported Councillor Edwards' suggestion of more detail being provided on Leisure Centres.

Councillor G M Kensler supported more in-depth discussion on Leisure Centres. She suggested that there were areas which had not been considered, for example free staff

car parking and 25% discount for staff in leisure centres. She withdrew her earlier suggestion of a Council Tax increase of 4.2%.

Councillors G O Rowlands, M A German, P J Marfleet, H H Evans, E C Edwards, J A Smith and J Thompson Hill were in favour of an increase of 3% in Council Tax whilst Councillors P A Dobb and G M Kensler were not in favour of a 3% increase.

Councillor P A Dobb felt it was important to ensure Council Tax was kept low and said she would find it difficult to agree a 3% rise until further information was provided.

The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning said the Directorate had 3 objectives, consistent with funding in the Council. The first was to increase funding for education to address various issues, secondly the Council Tax should be as low as possible (the steer had been 2-3% to the Corporate Executive Team) and Lifelong Learning would have to contribute to this. The third objective was to minimise the effect on service delivery and maximise efficiency savings. He believed the £400k target and further £150k from the vacancy control procedure were reasonable for Lifelong Learning but this would not all be achieved from efficiencies. He supported the Leader's positive statement on Education. He also accepted this could put more pressure on other areas leading to service / budget cuts elsewhere in Education. He agreed a further informal meeting would be helpful but stressed that the target had to be delivered.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that Council Tax had to be set by the end of February 2008, Cabinet would make its recommendation on 5 February 2008 therefore any meeting would have to be before 5 February 2008.

Members discussed in detail various aspects of the proposals. They agreed it was necessary to know if budgets were cut, whether there would be any implications for the grants received from outside organisations such as the Arts Council of Wales. Members also agreed that Rhyl Pavilion Theatre and Llangollen International Pavilion, for example, would have to work more efficiently.

Members would need to realise the implications of their proposals and what this would mean in detriment to services. The Chief Executive said the information provided for the extra informal Learning Scrutiny Committee would need to include the impact on the other Directorates should Lifelong Learning not be able to meet the savings targets set. To achieve an increase of only 3% Council Tax, there would not be much room for changes in the figures already provided. The Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning confirmed that his Directorate would be recommending £400k of savings.

The Chief Executive asked for Members' endorsement of the current proposals, subject to the requested further information being provided. He said that it was still possible for Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee to recommend amendments to the budget within the Directorate. Future years would be even more difficult and the next round of meetings would start following the Elections in May 2008. At least a further £1.5m savings would need to be made the following year.

RESOLVED that having reviewed the budget proposals for 2008-2009 in the light of the final Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) settlement, Members indicated their support of the updated savings proposals made by services in Appendix 3, the latest proposals in Appendix 1 for additional resources in response to anticipated service pressures and the further potential cuts that had been identified. Members (apart from Councillor P A Dobb and Councillor G M Kensler) further indicated they would propose a Council Tax increase of 3% for 2008-09. Members note the need for significant further efficiency savings and cost reductions/cuts in future financial years, in light of the poor settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Members further agreed an informal Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee be convened to further discuss the Directorate budget.

10 ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL

Councillor J A Smith presented the report for Members to note the information on the staff headcount. The Agency figures provided were noted.

RESOLVED that Members note the information in the report.

11 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor J A Smith presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme. The Chief Executive said the Rhyl Post 16 Education report should be included on the March Cabinet Agenda and the Tender Award for Collaborative Temporary Agency Contract should be considered in March.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

12 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Urgent Items.

At this juncture (1.15 p.m.) the meeting adjourned for 30 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

ANNOUNCEMENT On behalf of Members and officers, Councillor H H Evans congratulated Councillor J A Smith on the occasion of his Silver Wedding anniversary.

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

The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Councillor H H Evans.

13 CAPITAL PLAN

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Members to note the latest position on the 2007-2008 element of the Capital Plan and sought Members' recommendation to Council of the proposals on the Members' Priority Capital Allocation as shown in section 2.3 of the report. He said the latest figures would be sent to all Members following the meeting.

Members agreed to amend page 3 Members' Priority Budget para (a) to read 'All projects must be allocated by Members by 31 March 2008'.

The Chief Executive confirmed that projects already agreed in the Members' Priority Budget would continue even if the Member was not returned at the elections in May 2008 but the expenditure would still have to be incurred before 31.03.2009.

***RESOLVED** that Members note the latest position on the 2007-2008 element of the Capital Plan and recommend to Council the proposals on the Members' Priority capital Allocation as detailed in Section 2.3 of the report.*

14 CAPITAL PLAN 2008-2009 AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAPITAL STRATEGY GROUP

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Members to endorse the recommendations of the Capital Strategy Group for projects to be included in the 2008-2009 Capital Plan. Members were also asked to recommend to Council the proposals for the 2008-2009 element of the Capital Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. The Capital Strategy Group had evaluated 64 bids, amounting to just under £50m over 3 years. The items scoring 16 points or above had been given further consideration.

Reserves in the DSO were being released into DSO schemes to fund health and safety requirements.

Councillor M A German asked for further information / detail information regarding item 214 additional storage records.

Councillor E C Edwards, declared an interest in item 254 loan to community association, and expressed his disappointment with the Capital Strategy Group's scoring. The works were required to keep cars off the busy main road and to ensure safety of children. The Chief Executive suggested the item should not have been included in the Plan and should be an item for commercial borrowing as it was self funding as were other schemes which had been given approval at an earlier date.

Discussion followed on the provision of laptops for all new Councillors and whether being computer literate or willing to be trained should be a condition of being elected as a Councillor.

Councillor E C Edwards requested that the use of any future Capital Receipts be given further consideration by the Capital Strategy group at a later date.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED that Members recommend to Council the proposals for the 2008-2009 element of the Capital Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR J THOMPSON-HILL,
LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2008

SUBJECT: BUDGET PROPOSALS 2008/09

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 That Members agree the amended budget proposals for 2008/09 and recommend accordingly to Full Council.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 29.01.2008, Members agreed a 3% target increase for Council Tax next financial year. Following concerns over the impact of savings proposals as expressed by the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee Members also reinforced their view that the directorate needed to deliver savings at the agreed reduced level of £400k and that the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee be asked to support savings proposals to this level from the latest list of potential savings.

2.2 Proposals to deliver a robust budget within a Council tax increase of 3%.

- 2.2.1 On 31.01.2008 the Resources Scrutiny Committee, with Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee Members present, considered the Corporate Director's proposals to deliver savings of £400k. The proposals came to more than this figure to provide Members with a choice of which proposals to accept. After much debate Members recommended the scenario detailed in appendix 3b), which falls £30k short of the £400k total required. (The £30k is made up of £25k of savings which are dependent upon bids to the Efficiency fund, which will be decided by the Corporate Executive Team on 04.02.2008; and £5k of savings that have not been identified. In the proposals at Appendix 3b the savings from the Pavilion Theatre have been set at £40k accordingly.)
- 2.2.2 Appendix 1 shows the updated proposals that deliver a Council Tax increase of 3.4% next financial year. Further proposals are included to drive the increase down to 3%.
- 2.2.3 If the further proposals are unacceptable to Members other options will need to be agreed before a 3% increase can be recommended to Council.

2.4 Impact of the settlement on services

- 2.4.1 Because of the poor settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government, the only way to deliver a low council tax increase is by reducing spending on services. A wide range of efficiency savings have been included in the proposals but the reality is that it is also necessary to include significant cuts, which will impact on the services received by residents and others.
- 2.4.2 The most significant of these relates to social services. Well-evidenced bids of £1.5m have been submitted, reflecting the growing number of elderly people and people with learning disabilities, as well as costs of external provision and support that grow much faster than inflation. These costs will potentially be dampened by the proposals to carry forward the projected underspend of £500k in the current financial year. It is also proposed to allocate £500k of additional resources in respect of these pressures and therefore social services will, in effect, have to make cuts of £500k in addition to the efficiency savings already identified and the impact of vacancy control (see below). Negotiations will be entered into with the Local Health Trust to ensure that the additional WAG funding given to them for the increased demand from the aging population can be used to fund as much as possible of this increased demand.
- 2.4.3 As part of the package of proposals, the vacancy control mechanism has been strengthened and is expected to yield additional savings worth £500k in 2008-09. This equates to approximately 20 posts over and above those being removed as part of the efficiency savings. Cabinet will receive a monthly report on which jobs have been frozen or deleted as a result of this mechanism, together with the estimated impact on services. Freezing this number of jobs, in addition to the measures already taken, is bound to have some impact on service delivery.

2.5 Future years

- 2.5.1 The position for future years will be extremely tight with WAG settlements expected to remain poor for some time. Appendix 2 demonstrates this but includes only the most obvious service pressures and excludes demographic pressures within Social Services and the need for further prudential borrowing, for example. Because of negligible or zero increases in WAG funding for capital spend on the Council's key priorities, significant further funding for prudential borrowing will be necessary if the Council is to modernise its stock of schools and continue with its programme of improvement in roads.
- 2.5.2 An early start will need to be made on identifying more cost effective methods of service delivery, together with a review of service levels generally, to ensure the Council is in a position to meet its statutory obligations at a time of WAG financial support that is reducing in real terms. Preparations for budget setting for the future will commence in May 2008 when the new Council will be invited to review corporate priorities as the first stage of a fundamental review of all aspects of the budget.
- 2.5.3 The financial strategy reflects the forward projections from the Welsh Assembly Government and continues to assume a low Council Tax increase of 2% a year in future.

2.6 Detailed construction of the budget for 2008-09

- 2.6.1 The position as summarised in Appendix 1, demonstrates the impact on Council Tax of the budget proposals.
- 2.6.2 Spending reductions to deliver a 3% increase in Council Tax are identified. These involve proposal that represent potentially unpopular decisions, but this is inevitable if the Council Tax increase next year is to be kept to a reasonable level, following the extremely disappointing and unrealistic increase in Assembly funding.
- 2.6.3 Provision has however been made in the proposals for the costs of about £2m of further Prudential Borrowing. Cabinet have agreed the recommendations of the Capital Strategy Group on the use of this sum at the last meeting.

3 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

- 3.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972
Local Government Act 1992
Part 1 of Local Government Act 2003

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Appendix 2 shows the detailed movement in budget for 2008/09 and also incorporates information for later years. Members need to be fully aware of the extremely difficult financial position for this and later years. Robust implementation of the Council's Efficiency Strategy is essential.
- 4.2 Appendices 3a) and b) detail savings agreed and how these compare with the staffing and travel cost savings agreed within the Efficiency Strategy.
- 4.3 Appendices 4a) to d) summarise the bids for additional resources that have been received for 2008/09.
- 4.4 Appendix 5 outlines how the Performance Incentive Grant is currently distributed. The Appendix includes the proposed allocation of the available funding into priority areas. WAG have implied that the funding will continue to be unhypothecated but new targets for improvement are likely.
- 4.5 Appendix 6 helps clarify the eligibility position of pensioners for Council Tax benefit purposes. Members have often sought assurance on the pro active nature of the Benefits service in this aspect. For information, the state pension will increase by 3.9% in April 2008 which is in line with inflation.
- 4.6 The final settlement includes indicative data on specific grants that suggest an increase in Waste grant of £500k and the anticipated level of funding for the Flying Start grant at £773k. It is not clear when the actual figures will be confirmed.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 5.1 During the final review of budget proposals any savings/cuts that are deleted or reduced, and any additional allocation of resources, will result in an increase in Council Tax next year and/or an alternative saving needing to be identified.
- 5.2 It is important to stress that the assumptions built into the Budget for next year must be robust and deliverable. This is particularly so for savings proposals. The final level of Council Tax next year must be based on proposals that there can clearly be reasonable confidence over delivery.
- 5.3 The figures in Appendix 1 demonstrate that the proposals to deliver a Council Tax of 3.4% are potentially robust but further consideration/support is necessary to deliver an increase of 3%.
- 5.4 The proposals include a £600k contribution to Reserves. In reality, this provision is already largely allocated to cover issues from the current year that remain unresolved (Blessed Edward Jones RC High School, Rhyl and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn, Denbigh), costs of interim management and other financial risks faced by the Council.

6 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 6.1 2 rounds of Directorate meetings with Lead Members have been held to review savings proposals and bids for additional resources.
- 6.2 CET has considered the position on several occasions.
- 6.3 Scrutiny Committee meetings as reported previously.
- 6.4 The recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Committee with Lifelong Learning Members present are included in the report.

7. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 7.1 The level of resources available and the cost effectiveness of service delivery, impacts upon all the services of the Council.
- 7.2 Resources need to be allocated in a manner that reflects the agreed priorities of the Council.

8 ACTION PLAN

- 8.1 Cabinet recommendations to Full Council 12 February.
Council to set Council Tax resulting from above programme 26 February.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 **That Members agree the budget proposals for 2008/2009 as detailed in this report and appendices 1-5 and recommend accordingly to full Council.**

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**APPENDIX 1****BUDGET SCENARIOS 2008/9****£000****1. Base Budget 2007/8****159,579**

2. Adjustments to base

- provisional estimate of inflation including
pay awards 2.45%, generic goods 0%, energy 20%
- Employer's pension contributions

4,139
415

3. Transfers from specific grants

1,035

3. Service pressures agreed Estyn/PWC response

700

4. Committed changes inc no of school transport days

300

Landfill Tax inc

200

Equal Pay

-650

Scala/Health & Safety

97

LABGI

-150

5. Additional WAG funding Increasing Court Costs

70

6. Savings Lifelong Learning (target £776k)

-400

Environment (target £531k)

-317

Social Services & Housing (target £775k)

-675

Resources (target £148k)

-180

County Clerk (target £34k)

-34

Corporate (target £237k)

-242

Performance Incentive Grant

-295

Use of Firefighters Pension costs reserve

-50

7. Further savings Vacancy Control procedure - LLL

-150

- Environment

-125

- Social services & Housing

-125

- Resources

-100

Bring travel saving up to 10% target

-70

Energy usage savings

-40

7. Additional Resources - Lifelong Learning

750

Environment

355

Social Services & Housing

500

Resources

30

County Clerk

43

Prudential Borrowing

150

Sub Total (see Appendix 2 for details)

164,760

8. Funding WAG

129,294

Balance funded through Council Tax**35,466****+3.4%****b) Proposal awaiting acceptance**

Increase Car Park charges in light of increases by other N Wales Councils.

-110

Reduce provision for contribution to reserves

-30

COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT**35,326****+3%**

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Draft Budget Requirement 2008/9 to 2012/13

APPENDIX 2 Page 1

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	Budget 2007/8	Provisional Inflation 2008/9	Employer's increased pension costs	Transfers into RSG	Committed Changes 2008/9	Service Pressure & Growth	Agreed Savings	Vacancy & travel savings	Projected Budget 2008/9	Inflation 2.7% 2009/10	Committed Changes 2009/10	Service Pressure 2009/10	Projected Budget 2009/10
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Lifelong Learning - Schools budgets	50,344	1,371	63	-20		860	-40	0	52,578	1,420		290 (5)	54,288
- Other Education	12,602	390	18	804		890		-86	14,618	395			15,013
- Culture & Leisure	7,072	194	38		40 (2)		-375	-86	6,883	186			7,069
- Corporate services	387	7	1				-2	0	393	11			404
Environment	21,755	588	103	104	-93 (2)	555	-317	-148	22,547	609			23,156
Social Services & Housing	38,067	998	131	182		500	-675	-150	39,053	1,054	200 (1)		40,307
Resources	6,549	137	50			30	-180	-100	6,486	175			6,661
County Clerk	1,387	38	11	35		43	-34	0	1,480	40			1,520
	138,163	3,723	415	1,105 (9)	-53	2,878 (5)	-1,623	-570 (7)	144,038	3,889	0	490	148,417
Corporate	3,515	281				0		-334	3,462	93		0 (4)	3,555
Fire/Sea Fisheries levies	4,212	135			0				4,347	130	0		4,478
Capital Finance/Interest received	10,882	0				150 (5)	-203		10,829	0	150 (2)	0 (4)	10,979
Contingency for Single Status *	2,207	0				-650 (6)			1,557	0			1,557
Inflation	0	0			0				0	0	0		0
Contribution to Reserves	600	0			0				600	0			600
Further Efficiency Savings *	0	0							0		-1,450 (3)		-1,450
	159,579	4,139	415	1,105	-53	2,378	-2,160 (4)	-570	164,833	4,113	-1,300	490	168,136
2. Level of Funding													
W A G funding	125,355	2,665		1,105					129,125	2,583			131,708
Deprivation grant	169								169	5			174
Use of reserves	0						50		50				50
LABGI	300				-300 (2)				0				0
	125,824	2,665	0	1,105	-300	0	50	0	129,344	2,588	0	0	131,931
Council Tax yield	33,755	1,474	415		247	2,378	-2,233	-570	35,466	1,524	-1,300	490	36,180
	159,579	4,139	415	1,105	-53	2,378	-2,183	-570	164,810	4,112	-1,300	490	168,113

* Note : to be apportioned over service budgets

Council Tax Bill increase	3.4%		
RSG	2.2%	Increase Council Tax collection	2%
NNDR	2.2%	RSG	2.0%
	£k	NNDR	2.0%

Notes :			
1 Reduced Supporting People grant	0		
2 Full year effect of Scala & Envir pressure less LABGI	-53	1. Reduced Supporting People grant	200
3 Effect of Capital Plan	0	2. Effect of Capital Plan	150
4 Savings	-2,183	3. Further Efficiency Savings	-1450
5 Additional funds for pressures and Prudential Borrowing	2875	4. Potential funds for pressures/growth and further Prudential Borrowing	0
6 Equal pay impact reduction	150	5. Phased increase for Secondary Schools resulting from PWC report	290
7 Vacancy control & reduced Travel savings	-650		
8 Former specific grant funding transferred into RSG	-570		
	1105		

	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-	-9-	-10-	-11-	-12-	-13-
	Budget 2009/10	Inflation 2.7% 2010/11	Committed Changes 2010/11	Service Pressure & Growth	Projected Budget 2010/11	Inflation 2.7% 2011/12	Committed Changes 2011/12	Service Pressure & Growth	Projected Budget 2011/12	Inflation 2.7% 2012/13	Committed Changes 2012/13	Service Pressure & Growth	Projected Budget 2012/13
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Lifelong Learning - Schools budgets	54,288	1,466			55,753	1,505			57,259	1,546			58,805
- Other Education	15,013	405			15,418	416			15,834	428			16,262
- Culture & Leisure	7,069	191			7,260	196			7,456	201			7,657
- Corporate services	404	11			415	11			426	11			437
Environment	23,156	625		500 (2)	24,281	656		500 (2)	25,437	687		?	26,123
Social Services & Housing	40,307	1,088		350 (1)	41,746	1,127		480 (1)	43,353	1,171		?	44,523
Resources	6,661	180			6,841	185			7,026	190			7,215
County Clerk	1,520	41			1,561	42			1,603	43			1,646
	148,417	4,007	0	850	153,274	4,138	0	980	158,393	4,277	0	0	162,669
Corporate	3,555	96		200 (6)	3,851	104			3,955	107			4,062
Fire/Sea Fisheries levies	4,478	134			4,612	138			4,751	143			4,893
Capital Finance/Interest received	10,979	0		150 (3)	11,129	0		150 (3)	11,279	0		150 (3)	11,429
Contingency for Single Status*	1,557	0	0		1,557	0	950 (5)		2,507	0	550 (5)		3,057
Inflation	0	0			0	0			0	0			0
Contribution to Reserves	600	0	-600 (5)		0	0			0	0			0
Further Efficiency Savings *	-1,450	0	0	-1,200 (4)	-2,650	0	-950 (4)	-1,800 (4)	-5,400	0	-550 (4)	-870 (4)	-6,820
	168,136	4,237	-600	0	171,774	4,381	0	-670	175,485	4,526	0	-720	179,291
2. Level of Funding													
W A G funding	131,708	2,898			134,605	2,961			137,566	3,026			140,593
Deprivation grant	174	5			179	5			185	6			190
	50				50				50				50
	0				0				0				0
	131,931	2,903	0	0	134,834	2,967	0	0	137,801	3,032	0	0	140,833
Council Tax yield	36,180	1,333	-600	0	36,913	1,413		-670	37,654	1,493		-720	38,428
	168,113	4,236	-600	0	171,750	4,380	0	-670	175,460	4,525	0	-720	179,265

* Note : to be apportioned over service budgets

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Increase Council Tax collection	2%	2%	2%
RSG	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
NNDR	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
	£k	£k	£k
1. Reduced Supporting People grant	350	480	0
2. Waste management cost increases	500	500	0
3. Effect of Capital Plan	150	150	150
4. Further Efficiency Savings	-1200	-2750	-1420
5. 3 yr contributions to balances completed	-600	950	550
6. Potential funds for pressures/growth	200		

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL				
			APPENDIX 3 a)	
2008/9 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS				
Details of savings proposals	Proposal		Staffing element inc	Travel cost reduction
	£000		£000	£000
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE				
A. Efficiency Saving proposals				
1. Service-All Departments				
i) Reduce staffing levels in workforce reduction plan. Directorate restructure following departure of a number of senior officers	170	:	170	
ii) e-working and continued property rationalisation £50K target)	:		
iii) reduction in staff travel – 10% £38K (target 07/08))	:		
iv) Improved sickness absence management in Environment	50	:	0	15
v) implementation of internal business process re-engineering net of costs £20K)	:		
vi) Produce an Energy Efficiency Policy £10k directorate saving)	:		
	220	:		
2. Service-Transport & Infrastructure				
i) Passenger Transport – conversion of St Asaph bus service to taxi	16	:		
3. Service-Environmental Services				
i) Street Lighting - stop night-time inspections	7	:	7	
ii) Street Lighting - increased fees & charges	5	:		
iii) CCTV - reductions in overtime working	6	:	6	
iv) Cemeteries - increase charges by 15%	3	:		
v) Closure of Llangollen CA Site	15	:	0	
	36	:		
4. Service-Finance & Performance				
i) Reduction in cost of external audit of Objective 1 projects	5	:		
Environment Directorate Total	277	:		
B. Other Savings proposals				
1. Service-Planning & PP				
i) Increase Development Control income	15	:		
ii) Increase Licensing income	5	:		
iii) Reduce Contaminated Land budget	5	:		
	25	:		
2. Service-Transport & Infrastructure				
iv) Deletion of school crossing patrol	5	:	5	
3. Service-Environmental Services				
i) Public Conveniences – closure of old Golf Road toilets	5	:		
4. Service-Finance & Performance				
i) Reduce supplies budgets	2	:		
ii) Renegotiate SLA with Flintshire for Joint Emergency Planning Unit	3	:		
	5	:		
Total Other Savings	40	:		
Total Environment Directorate Savings	317	:	188	15
		:	(Target 167k)	38k)

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING DIRECTORATE					
		:			
A. Efficiency Savings proposals		:			
		:			
1. Adult Services		:			
i) Restructure day care provision.	37	:	0		
ii) Reduction in staffing budgets.	55	:	55		
iii) Joint Commissioning	40	:			
iv) Hospital Discharges Service (Older People)	40	:	0		
v) Telecare Service (Older People). Wider introduction of electronic detection and other equipment into people's homes to delay/prevent more substantial care needs.	70	:	0		
vi) Mental Health . Relocation to Westbourne Avenue Rhyl will result in accommodation efficiencies.	10	:			
	252	:			
2. Business Support & Development		:			
i) Reductions in stationery and printing costs	17	:			
ii) Staff savings	16	:	16		
iii) Staff Travelling	34	:		34	
	67	:			
3. Children & Family Services		:			
i) Reduce costs of placements for children looked after (none disabled)	78	:	0		
ii) Re-commission family centre services	90	:	0		
Other	50	:	50		
iii) Children's voluntary organisations	30	:	0		
	248	:			
		:			
Directorate Efficiency Savings	567	:			
		:			
B. Other Savings proposals		:			
		:			
1. Adult Services		:			
i) Extension of charges for mental health services.	30	:			
ii) Additional scope to charge for learning disability services due to introduction of AVSC.	40	:			
iii) Older people – running down of Llys Nant as part of the Extra Care development in Prestatyn.	30	:	23		
iv) Enhanced Keyring Scheme	8	:	0		
	108	:			
		:			
Directorate Total Savings	675	:	144	34	
		:	(Target 212k	59k)	
		:			

RESOURCES DIRECTORATE		:		
1. Service – FINANCE		:		
i) Revenues –		:		
a) reduced staffing level for systems reconciliation team	20	:	20	
b) increased fees from Bailiff's service	30	:		
ii) Benefits –		:		
a) reduced hours for processors and reception staff	26	:	26	
iii) Exchequer & Financial Accounting –		:		
a) reduced hours for technician post	10	:	10	
	86	:		
2. Service - Customer Contact Centre		:		
i) Processing fee from extension of Parking Fines scheme	12	:		
ii) Cash office changes	10	:		
	22	:		
3. Service – Policy Unit		:		
i) Reduced grade for vacant post	10	:	10	
ii) Freeze vacant post	40	:		
	50	:		
4. Service – Personnel		:		
i) Various	12	:		
5. Service – General		:		
i) Reduced travel costs	10	:		10
Directorate Efficiency Savings	180	:	46	10
		:	(Target 81k	9k)
COUNTY CLERK		:		
1. Service - Administration		:		
i) Deletion of post in Administrative Support	14	:	14	
ii) Cessation of relocation expense costs	20	:		20
County Clerks savings	34	:	14	20
		:	(Target 16k	2k)
CORPORATE		:		
i) Reduced External Audit fees following continued improvement in preparation of final grant claims.	25	:		
iii) Reduced Bank Charges following continuing move to direct debit payments	14	:		
	39	:		
CAPITAL FINANCE & INVESTMENT INCOME		:		
i) Continued improved cash flow, investment returns and debt rescheduling	202	:		
USE OF RESERVE FOR FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COSTS	50	:		
LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE		:		
see separate sheet Appendix 3b for details		:		
LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE TOTAL	400	:	49	3
		:	(Target 214k	28k)
PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT - REVISED DISTRIBUTION	295	:		
OVERALL TOTAL	2192	:	441	82
		:	(Target 692k	136k)

DENBIGHSIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET SETTING 2008/09 – 2010/11

1. Savings Proposals for Lifelong Learning Directorate

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
1. Partnership & Inclusion and School Improvement				
Joint working re Mobility Officer	3			Efficiency, joint working with another Authority – shared information service
Review of use of Temporary Admin staff & other office efficiencies	10			Re-look at sharing existing admin support
Freezing of Partnership Managers post (LL) initially for 6 months and may realise further efficiencies if continued longer term	10 37			
Reduction in SEN administration	6			Absorbed by existing staff
Increase income for delivering training to outside agencies	5			
LEA “initiatives budget” reduced	39			Delivered by our action plan
Reduction in Music Tuition budget	8			None

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
Efficiency Targets Partnership & Inclusion 65k School Improvement 67k Total 132k Partnerships & Inclusion and School Improvement Total	118			
2. Countryside and Leisure				
Leisure Centre Water Efficiency Measures	5			A range of water saving initiatives including installation of water inverters / controllers to pool pumps to reduce flow during pre-determined times such as overnight.
Reduced Staff Travel	3			Enhanced efficiency
Leisure Vehicles Reduction	6			
Alternative Service Delivery (Countryside)	7	10	5	Non replacement of a member of staff taking EVR; service to be delivered in different way.
Alternative Service Delivery (Barkby Beach Pitch and Putt)	5			
Alternative Service Delivery (East Parade Bowls Centre)	5			
Reduce Beach Lifeguard Service	25			Provide main service for peak 8 week season (July – Sept.) in place of current week (May – Sept.) provision; skeleton service from May
Cut Active Lifestyles Officer post	17			Delete full time post. Reduce health and physical activity initiatives for the community and staff.
Close Events Arena water feature/fountains	2			Loss of amenity feature on Rhyl Promenade

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
Close Llantysilio Green Public toilets	0			Proposal deleted
Reduce opening hours of leisure centres	3			The proposal results in minor reductions in opening hours at some sites
Efficiency Target 78k				
TOTAL COUNTRYSIDE & LEISURE	78			
3. Policy and Performance				
Corporate communications	2			Reduction of staff costs
Savings as a result of Strategy and Resources restructure	8			
Efficiency Target 10k				
Policy and Performance Total	10			
4. Tourism, Heritage & Culture				
<i>Impact of 'Historic Houses of Denbighshire' Invest to save proposals from increased revenue</i>	<i>5*</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Reduced on-going DCC subsidy (dependant on successful bid into the efficiency fund – E1)</i>
A restructure of the Tourism, Heritage and Culture service over 3 years.	14	48	0	A redefined set of service priorities.
<i>Impact of 'invest to save' library debtors initiative.</i>	<i>20*</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Potential £20k increase in fines income, with further income from invoicing for unreturned books (dependant on successful bid into efficiency fund – E4)</i>

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
CADW to take over direct management of Denbigh Castle	2	-	-	
Alternative delivery of Mobile Library Service Lease costs, maintenance and fuel savings Estimated savings from redeploying library/driver assistant at other libraries	0			Proposal deleted. Alternative funding stream is to be investigated. This is not certain at present and therefore no saving has been assured.
Pavilion Theatre	40			The proposal is to reduce funding by £40k (which will also trigger loss of Arts Council grant) and to review funding for future years during 2008 in the light of a business plan that shows what could be achieved for a lower level of subsidy. Resources Scrutiny Committee recommended £35k
Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl - to change programming policy during 2009/10 in order to develop a more rounded offer of commercial, community and educational benefit.	5	20		Provision of a more rounded community and regeneration focussed arts offer. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday usage to be focussed on community, school and voluntary service usage. Programme and funding to be developed as part of the local PACT partnership and the Rhyl Going Forward campaign. By 09/10 efficiency savings of £20k to be achieved with an additional £10k being employed to match fund new community external funding bids.
Bodelwyddan Castle Trust	2			The proposal is to apply a 1.5% reduction.
Llangollen International Pavilion	Est 20k			The proposal is to discontinue the arts programme and focus only on meetings and events (in addition to the Eisteddfod). The cost savings from this approach have not yet been identified and may exceed the £20k shown.
ECTARC	4			The report assumes a 1.5% reduction.

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
Reduction in Library Hours Ruthin	8			A full time Sc 2 Library Assistant at Ruthin Library has requested a reduction in working hours from 37 to 23 This can be accommodated by reducing opening hours. Visitor and usage figures on Wednesday mornings suggest that this would be the best option, with the library to open from 2pm to 5.30pm (reduction of 4.5 opening hours.)
Prestatyn	10			Reduce opening hours by 6, closing at 1pm on Thursdays instead of 7pm. (Thursday is Prestatyn's quietest day for visits, computer use and issues, with an average of 34 visits per hour throughout the day.) This could be achieved by reducing the current full time Sc2 front-line vacancy from 37 to 20 hrs. and redistributing existing staff hours.
Corwen	0.6			Reduce opening hours by 5. (Close all day Wednesday instead of current 10-1 opening and close earlier on Friday - at 5 instead of 7pm). No direct staff saving, but will incur indirect relief budget savings.
Llangollen	16			Delete current front-line 30 hour Scale 3 Lib/One Stop Shop Assistant vacancy at Llangollen, and utilise redirected staff hours from Corwen on certain days. Reduce opening hours by 3.5 on Monday, to open 1pm – 7pm.
Rhuddlan	0.7			Reduce opening hours by 5.5, closing at 5 instead of 7 on Monday night and opening at 1pm on Wednesday. (Visits are average on Wednesday mornings, but this would produce more of a saving than a 30mins or an hour per day.) No direct staff saving, but there would be indirect relief costs.

Details of proposals	08/09 £000	09/10 £000	10/11 £000	Potential impact on service
St Asaph	6			Reduce opening hours by 4 – thus closing all day Thursday. With libraries at similar sized communities already closed for 1 full day per week (Rhuddlan on Tues., Llangollen on Thurs.), and visitor figures at St Asaph lower than both of these libraries, it makes sense to introduce a full day's closure at St Asaph.
Rhyl	2			Reduce opening hours by 2, closing at 5pm on Tuesday instead of 7pm. Visit figures show this to be the busiest evening, though not as busy as during the day. However, there is no manager or supervisor left to work on Tuesday night. We now employ a security guard between 4.30 and 7pm. We also have problems in recruiting library assistants to work in the evenings at a time when we are reducing staffing levels. Closing the library on a Tuesday night will be easier to manage and will ensure better staffing levels at other nights.
Deletion of Senior Library Assistant post at Rhyl Library	30	-	-	
Reduction in staff hours at Denbigh library/OSS	9			A full time scale 3 Library and OSS assistant at Denbigh Library has requested a reduction in hours from 37 to 21. This can be accommodated by reducing opening hours by 4.5 hours, eg on Wednesday morning, (fairly average usage) but retaining the Wednesday afternoon and evening from 2 pm to 7 pm.
Total Culture Heritage & Tourism	194.3 *			
TOTAL LIFELONG LEARNING	400.3			

**Note these figures are dependant on successful bids into the efficiency fund, which account for £25k of the savings.*

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET SETTING 2008/09

Proposals for Lifelong Learning Directorate

2. Committed cost increases, (unavoidable, contractual or agreed as part of 2007/08 budget process)

Details of proposals	£000 2008/09	£000 2009/10	Impact on service if not agreed
A. Estyn Related			
Additional SEN & Behaviour Support	70		Work plans will not be implemented
Increase School Improvement Team	120		Work plans will not be implemented
LSA's and Behaviour Support Teachers	100		Work plans will not be implemented
Schools PWC Funding	290		Work plans will not be implemented
Policy & Performance posts	120		Work plans will not be implemented
	700		
B. Education Transport.			
Increase of 12 Operating days	302		Statutory service. Cannot cease transport leading to budget overspend
	302		
C. Scala revenue budget (as agreed during 07/08 budget round)			
	40		No matched funding for arms length trust
	40		
Total	1,042		

3. All other bids

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
P1	<p>Schools</p> <p>i) Reducing cover by secondary teachers</p> <p>By September 2009 all schools must ensure that teaching staff are required to cover for absent colleagues only under exceptional circumstances. At present such cover is widespread in secondary schools. To comply with the law schools will need to employ additional supply staff.</p> <p>Some funding to support workforce remodelling has already been allocated to schools but this was not sufficient, particularly in the context of school funding in Denbighshire, to implement the statutory obligations outlined above.</p> <p>The 2008/09 bid is the first phase of the funding needed to ensure compliance with statute and more efficient use of staff time. It will improve the situation but the phasing of the bids means that all schools may not achieve full compliance by September 2009.</p>	261	261	261	<p>A majority of the authority's secondary schools continue to rely on teachers to provide cover. Teachers may (and in some schools at least are likely to) refuse to cover for absent colleagues, resulting in some classes being left without suitable cover. Quite apart from the further legislative breaches and parental reaction this will induce, it will compromise performance improvements required by Estyn.</p> <p>Attempts to comply with statutory targets without adequate funding will continue to oblige schools to skew resource use in ways which compromise leadership and management functions designed to maintain and improve attainment.</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>ii) Providing time for lesson planning, preparation and pupil assessment Schools are required to provide at least 10% non teaching (PPA) time for teaching staff (in addition to time required for any leadership and management duties). Many primary schools do not comply or do so only by re-deploying staff inappropriately and inefficiently.</p> <p>Again, some funding to support workforce remodelling has already been allocated to schools to establish PPA time. It has helped but was not nearly sufficient to implement the 10% requirement.</p> <p>This 2008/09 bid is also the first phase of the funding needed to ensure compliance with statute and more efficient use of staff time. It will not be sufficient to ensure full compliance and eliminate all cases of inappropriate use of staff time.</p> <p>iii) Changes to the primary curriculum</p> <p>The entire 3 to 19 curriculum is undergoing change. Training to support whole-school and cross curricula aspects of that change is being funded through targeted grants available from</p>	199	199	199	<p>A considerable number of primary schools will continue to fail to comply with the 10% PPA requirement or achieve it only at the expense of other key tasks. Headteachers, for example, perform inappropriate roles such as cover and lunch time supervision.</p> <p>Attempts to comply with statutory targets without adequate funding will again oblige schools to skew resource use in ways which compromise leadership and management functions at primary level to the detriment of school performance.</p> <p>Schools must introduce the required curriculum changes. If new funding is not forthcoming they will be required to fund the changes from within existing resources. Since the scope to redeploy resources is limited, the most likely outcome is that schools will fail to provide adequate training and/or sufficient new course materials. The consequences will become evident</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>the Better Schools Fund. BSF managers within the authority have emphasised that those grants are not intended or sufficient to support the further comprehensive change at KS 2 in 2008/09.</p> <p>This bid is designed to ensure that</p> <p>a) all KS 2 staff are competent to teach the new curriculum; and</p> <p>b) schools are able to purchase the new course materials associated with that revised curriculum.</p> <p><i>This would be a one-off allocation.</i></p> <p>iv) Changes to the secondary curriculum</p> <p>The Key Stage 4 curriculum is also undergoing significant change, again requiring substantial retraining of staff and the provision of new materials. BSF grants will impinge on and contribute to changes in the general approach to teaching and learning at KS4 and all other key stages but will not support the substantive training needed to ensure the class teachers are familiar with the new content of KS4 or have access to the new course materials schools will be obliged to use.</p> <p><i>This would also be a one-off allocation.</i></p>	133			<p>in end of key stage attainment scores.</p> <p>As with the change at KS2, schools have no option but to introduce the required curriculum changes. If new funding is not forthcoming, secondary schools will also be forced to fund the changes from within existing resources. Since the scope to redeploy resources is similarly limited at secondary level, the most likely outcome again is that schools will fail to provide adequate training and/or sufficient new course materials, with the same risk to end of key stage attainment scores.</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>v) New assessment requirements</p> <p>End of Key Stage Assessments at KS2 and KS3 will take place using teacher assessment only (rather than a combination of testing and assessment). Greater reliance on assessment means that teachers will now have to devote more time to it (Previously, test results form an important element).</p> <p>The new assessment regime will also see a change in moderation arrangements. Previously, the assessment process was externally moderated, with moderation being funded by the government. Schools are now required to arrange and undertake moderation either individually or in clusters. BSF grants will be available to train staff to perform their new assessment responsibilities (although there are question-marks over the sufficiency of those grants), but schools must now fund supply cover to enable teachers to perform moderation duties. This bid is to enable schools to fund such cover.</p>	98			<p>Schools will be in breach of statutory obligations if they do not undertake the additional assessment and moderation duties required of them.</p> <p>Attempting to fund these new duties from within existing budgets will undermine current provision and may oblige at least some schools to 'cut corners', leading to inaccurate assessments and unsafe moderation.</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>vi) Ysgol Clawdd Offa Demand for school places in the Prestatyn area has prompted the opening of this new school. This opening is cost neutral in some respects (e.g. transfer of pupil-related funding) but generates additional expense in others (e.g. creation of a new Senior Management Team). This bid covers those additional costs. The additional costs may be cancelled out if and when savings materialise from any re-organisation of existing schools as part of the modernising agenda. Any such savings would not be generated next year.</p> <p>vii) Improving performance: providing adequate time for leadership and management Increased leadership time for senior staff in both primary and secondary schools is necessary to complement Estyn-related changes at authority level. As a consequence of the general shortfall in schools funding, schools cannot currently afford to allocate to senior managers the amount of dedicated non-teaching time commonly regarded as necessary to discharge leadership and management responsibilities. In addition to its direct impact on performance, this bid is also expected</p>	51			<p>The additional costs will be funded by top-slicing the budgets of other primary schools.</p> <p>Achieving significant improvements to performance will require concerted challenge to and development of current practice in schools. While the authority has a part to play in exerting such challenge and supporting such development, much of it must emanate from and be sustained by senior managers in schools.</p> <p>Current levels of leadership and management time severely constrain the ability of senior staff to focus on proactive developmental work. The focus will remain on 'fire-fighting' and attempting to simply sustain performance rather than moving forward and improving it.</p> <p>Sickness absence – resulting in part from de-motivated and over-worked staff – will continue to drain LA resources and hamper performance.</p> <p>The number and quality of applicants for senior posts in schools will remain cause for serious concern.</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>to produce a number of indirect benefits: improving staff morale, producing more efficient use of senior staff time, encouraging career progression and promoting more and stronger candidates for senior management posts.</p> <p>An increasing amount of leadership time entails LEA-school liaison regarding strategic (County level) and other issues. At present, this is funded either rarely, on an ad hoc basis, or not at all. Development of the LEA-schools partnership will depend on school leaders devoting even more time to such LEA-school liaison. This bid is designed to ensure that such liaison occurs without prejudice to leadership and performance within schools. Enhanced funding for cover and PPA time (Bids Di and Dii) will release leadership time in some schools. In so far as that occurs, the 2009/10 and 2010/11 elements of Ei will be adjusted down.</p> <p>viii) Improving performance: ensuring competency in classroom teaching</p> <p>Providing adequate in-service training for classroom teachers is fundamental to sustaining and improving standards. Schools currently depend on external</p>	65	65	65	<p>Given the general level of funding available to schools in Denbighshire, schools tend to devote considerably less time and funding to staff training and development than is required to ensure that all staff remain familiar with developments in techniques, approaches and materials in their subject areas/phases.</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>grants (chiefly, the Better Schools Fund) which are subject to change and tightly controlled with regard to the training they support. Those grants are orientated primarily towards supporting whole school training related to topics such as ICT and inclusion. They are not intended to ensure that classroom teachers receive essential subject-related training (in maths, science etc). This bid is intended to ensure that subject teachers remain up to speed with good practice in their subject areas. As such, it does not overlap with the 'School improvement fund and training' bid put forward elsewhere by the LL Directorate which is intended to support the development of middle and senior managers in schools.</p> <p>This bid would enable secondary schools to send 2 members of staff from each department on one day's subject-related training per year and primary schools to send an average of 5 teachers on one day subject-related courses each year.</p>				<p>At present, schools rely on the goodwill of staff to ensure they sustain their competence or bend the rules governing training-related grants. This does not constitute a tenable, sustainable long term strategy for maintaining adequate levels of Continuous Professional Development in Denbighshire schools. The consequences of relying thus far on such an approach are evident.</p> <p>(NB This bid does not include training required by class support or other support staff in schools. As higher level teaching assistants and other support staff come to play an increasing part in the delivery of the curriculum and management of schools, so it will become increasingly necessary to provide comparable training for them. This will be the subject of a bid in next year's budget round)</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	<p>ix) Achieving equitable funding</p> <p>The review of the mainstream funding formula identified specific funding pressures associated with Social Deprivation, small secondary schools, Welsh medium education and transient pupils. The case for additional funds was set out in detail during the formula review.</p> <p>The SEN delegation formula for mainstream schools is expected to change in 2009/10. Delegation and management of SEN funds at school level will result in a more efficient and effective use of funds, but will require additional funding if the new system is to work. Bids elsewhere from the LLL Directorate are intended to support this transition, although further funding may be necessary.</p>	198	198	198	The current inequitable distribution of funds will continue, adversely affecting the performance of many schools and the ability of some to set and sustain viable budgets.
	Schools Total	1435			

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
P2	Estyn Related – additional bids to meet the action plan				
1.1	Attainment of pupils	40			Appoint KS2 Numeracy Officer
1.2	School Improvement Strategy	25			Training programme for experienced heads
		18			Middle management training programme
		55			Support programme for schools
		20			SOS programme
		120			Increase capacity for School Improvement Team
1.3	Improve attendance	61			Core funding for 3 ESW posts
1.4	Reduce exclusions	100			Recruitment of 16 LSA's managed moves
1.5	Support for pupils with SEBD	80			Recruitment of 2 Behaviour Support Teachers
1.7	Determine school entitlement to support	15			Consultants fees to review ALN formula (One off)
2.1	Performance Management	120			Appoint Business Change Manager & Programme Manager
		124			Core Fund Tim Data
		30			Software costs
3.4	Funding formula	70			SEN funding to schools to offset SEN pressure
3.5	Understanding funding decisions	40			Recruitment of new member of staff to support schools (LMS team)
		20			Training costs for teachers/bursars/governors
	PWC funding in schools	290			
	Total	1228			
	Less already committed	700			
	Additional bids required to meet action plan	528			

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
P3	Youth Service – previous Estyn inspection				
	New contributions to voluntary sector	0			Identified within Estyn YPP.
	Annual Grant contributions	38			PAGS funded
	Personal Support Project – Team Leader	46			WAG funding of £220k through 14-19 Network, dependent on future LA funding being secured
	School Youth Work – Raising Standards	67			WAG funding of £220k through 14-19 Network, dependent on future LA funding being secured
	Youth Centre HUB Youth Council Support Workers	0			1 additional worker each year to build up capacity within the statutory Youth Service as identified within the Estyn YPP.
	Rhuddlan Information Shop	0			Shop at risk of closure if not funded. Information identified within Estyn YPP.
	Corwen Centre	0			Match funding towards external funding for Healthy living centre.
	Increase Capacity from core Budget	32			To support School holiday programmes, Welsh culture youth work, Accreditation of achievements, Work with young people with disabilities, Use of Basic Skills and Welsh in social settings, International Forum/Global Citizenship, Youth For a, identified within Estyn YPP
	Youth Service Total	183			

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
P4	Tourism, Heritage & Culture i) Bodelwyddan Castle Increase in grant aid to compensate for loss of rental revenue to BC due to possible purchase of freehold by Warner Hotels Group (£1m capital receipt to DCC)	60			Would threaten the viability of Bodelwyddan Castle Trust (additional 60k could come from interest accruing from capital receipt of £1m)
	Tourism, Heritage & Culture Total	60			
P5	Countryside & Leisure i) Loss of PAG Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Exercise Referral Scheme (£31k) • Health Walking Schemes (£20k) • Biodiversity Officer/NERC Act Duties (£20k) <p>The loss of PAGS funding is the single biggest pressure facing Countryside and Leisure Services in 2008-09. Much has been achieved over the last 4 years which would be lost if funding did not continue</p>	71			<p>The three areas currently receiving PAG's grant will either stop or be substantially reduced. Potential redundancies are involved.</p> <p>The Council has been awarded WAG funding (£62k 07/08, £107k 08/09) to participate in a 3 year all Wales trial to evaluate the clinical value of GP Exercise Referral Schemes. However, withdrawal of the PAG funding will result in stopping our well established existing self referral schemes at Rhyl, Prestatyn, Corwen and Llangollen leisure centres, and a reduction in the number of fitness suite based staff delivering our current exercise programmes.</p> <p>Failure to compensate for the loss of walking scheme funding will effectively stop a number of successful programmes (Let's Walk Denbighshire, 'Footloose', Walkfit and Workfit). These are also part funded by other external grant (SCW) which would be lost by failure to match fund.</p> <p>The GP exercise referral and walking schemes impact directly on the Council's Vision – "people will ... be fully aware of the</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
					<p>benefits of taking regular exercise, and more adults and young people will participate in sport and physical activity". Withdrawal of funding will particularly impact on workplace health (the schemes helped Denbighshire attain Silver Corporate Health Standard) and the most deprived areas of the County where most of this work is focussed to help reduce health inequalities. The Council's commitment to tackling issues as obesity and other public health problems arising from low physical activity rates (see HSCWB Strategy, Climbing Higher, etc) will also be reduced</p> <p>The NERC Act 2006 places a new statutory duty on local authorities in respect of conserving biodiversity. The duty impacts on all areas of the Council, not just Countryside Services. The need to enhance capacity in this area was recognised 4 years ago with a PAG allocation to support our Biodiversity Officer, but this need has increased significantly since the NERC Act. Failure to implement new statutory duty could possibly result in legal challenge. Post also part funded by external grant which would be lost by failure to match fund. Detrimental impact on the Council's Vision – "we will celebrate and respect the diversity of our county, and...make sure that any actions we take protect the environment", and a failure to commit to the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>
	<p>ii) Drift Park Pool, Play Area and Amphitheatre Operation of new facilities with no additional budget. The new Drift Park enjoyed a good first season, particularly the new pool, amphitheatre and play area, all of which are extensively used by both visitors</p>	37			<p>To balance budgets it will be necessary to reduce the service provided at the Drift Park (pool opening hours, repairs and maintenance, events, etc) and/or reduce or cut other leisure services to compensate. Detrimental impact on the Council's Vision to "attract more visitors throughout the year"</p>

Priority	Details of proposals	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	Comments
	and local people.				
	<p>iii) Park Attendants Improving the cleanliness and appearance of our public places has been a council priority for some years. Some of the most popular and visible public spaces are our parks in Rhyl, Prestatyn, Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen. This proposal involves the appointment of seasonal park attendants to supplement the basic service provided by Environmental Services at peak times (April – Sept). The attendants would patrol the parks, interact with visitors and users, carry out some enforcement duties (eg litter and dog fouling), help to develop local volunteer groups, and deliver events and other small improvement schemes. A number of Town Councils have expressed a real interest in partnership funding to help us deliver this scheme.</p>	20			<p>Continued complaints about the cleanliness and appearance of parks and anti social behaviour and vandalism.</p> <p>Failure to capitalise on funding which would be made available by Town Councils for this initiative.</p>
	<p>iv) Leisure Centre Booking System Introduction of an e-booking and management information system for all 7 leisure centres. A joint review is currently underway by ICT and Leisure to identify the best option, which should be concluded early next year.</p>	25			Failure to engage with the e-government agenda. Maintain inefficient management information systems.
	Countryside & Leisure Total	153			

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

PRESSURES/GROWTH 2008/9

Priority	Service	Details of proposals	£000	Impact on service if not agreed
Committed from 2007/08 Budget Round				
	Environmental Services	H & S bid from 07/08 budget round	12	
	Environmental Services	CCTV – shortfall from 07/08 budget	20	
	Development Services	H & S bid from 07/08 budget round	25	
Inflationary Pressures				
	Environmental Services	Street Lighting – energy costs	23	Energy increase forecast – latest prediction between 10.8% and 14% rise. Actual rise to be confirmed in December
	Transport & Infrastructure	Passenger Transport - impact of increased fuel and insurance costs plus external contractors costs likely to cause an above inflation rise	14	
	Transport & Infrastructure	Increased fuel costs affecting bitumen prices	10	
Priorities				
1	Environmental Services	Refuse Collection & Disposal – procurement costs – residual waste disposal	250 to 500	The wide range is due to a) uncertainty over number of L.A.'s participating in the process and b) uncertainties over the levels of extra WAG funding via grants
2	Planning & PP	HMO PIG funding lost	70	Team reduced to very lower numbers
3	Planning & PP	Need for Section 106 Obligations Officer to ensure development contributions are maximised	35	Spend to save bid if funding available

4	Development Services	Loss LABGI funding	50	Loss of staff, reduction in regeneration activity and the ability to draw down match funding
5	Environmental Services	To improve public realm service – new response team (North)	75	Likely that one of the Council's priority areas will be "downgraded"
6	Environmental Services	To improve public realm service – new response team (South)	75	Likely that one of the Council's priority areas will be "downgraded"
7	Environmental Services	Provision of rural bring sites	24	Running costs associated with the provision of a further 6 rural bring sites
8	Planning & PP	DEFRA funding for Animal Licensing & Welfare not confirmed for 08/09 and subsequent years	150	Service no longer possible
9	Transport & Infrastructure	Street works - costs relating to charity events which affect the highway	20	In the past these costs have been covered by the Council but decision needed from Members as to whether the organisers of events should be required to pay these costs.
10	Environmental Services	Dee Valley CA site (extra running costs)	15	Carrog CA site is under pressure from the E.A. (exemption given until 03/09. Llangollen CA site has already closed. New site needs to be double manned to improve recycling rates. Capital bid will also be required
11	Environmental Services	Waste disposal – extra 230 households approx	25	
12	Transport & Infrastructure	Structures Group – use of new Code of Practice	30	Code of Practice for Bridge Assessments came into force in 2005 and needs to be adhered to. This puts greater emphasis on inspections and any resultant remedial works.
13	Development Services	Nantclwyd House	25	Extending the opening for a longer period in 08/09 will result in a budget pressure

APPENDIX 4 (c)

SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING DIRECTORATE

Prioritised Pressures 2008/9

Table 1 Prioritised Demographic & Statutory Pressures

	Area	Pressure	£'000
1	Learning Disability	Demographic Growth	646
2	Housing - Homelessness	Removal of Grants	27
3	Older People (i)	Demographic Growth	363
4	Recruitment & Retention	Removal of Grant	47
5	Children's Services (ii)	Placements for Disabled Children	130
6	Mental Health	Demographic Growth	199
7	Physical Disability	Demographic Growth	242
8	Older People	Advocacy Services	25
9	Learning Disability	Implement New Strategy	100
		Total	1,779

(i) Note implications of the Vale of Glamorgan ruling have become more immediate with indications other councils are allowing big increases in fees to mitigate the risk of challenge.

(ii) Bid has been reduced by £70k from original paper in October.

Table 2 Prioritised Service Development & Growth Bids

	Area	Pressure	£'000
1	Physical Disability	Work Connections Grant Funding Ends	60
2	Physical Disability Stores	Funding for Project Manager ends before project goes live	35
3	Business Support	Project Manager for PARIS	40
4	Cefndy Enterprises	Investment in R&D	75
5	Housing Strategy (iii)	Collaboration Projects	13
6	Business Support	Mobile Working Devices	15
		Total	238

(iii) Housing bid has been reduced by £25k from the original as external funding for empty homes initiative secured

Table 3 Prioritised Corporate Bids

	Area	Pressure	£'000
1	Child Protection	Training programme to comply with Children Act 2004.	25
2	N Wales Race Equality Network (iv)	Development of a drop-in centre in Denbighshire	17
		Total	42

(iv) This is a new bid added since the last meeting

The total pressures bid are therefore £2.193m.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET SETTING 2008/09

Proposals for RESOURCES Directorate

D. Service development and growth

Details of proposals	£000	Impact on service if not agreed
1. Service – FINANCE		
i) Increased capacity within Education Finance Team in response to Estyn report. To be bid for as part of the overall response.		To be included in overall bid for response to ESTYN report as part of the Lifelong Learning bids.
ii) Increase capacity within Procurement and Project Management teams to deliver Efficiency Strategy targets. Graduate appointments proposed.	25	To be funded from savings delivered.
	25	
2. Service - ICT		
i) Increase Business Process Analysis staffing by 1 additional post and provide a Technical Analyst to deliver Homeworking, in response to Efficiency Strategy targets.	70	
	70	
3. Service – Customer Care		
i) Web site editor	30	
	30	
4. Service – Personnel		
i) Additional post & increase part time post to full time to support sickness management	52	
	52	
	52	
Directorate Total	177	

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET SETTING 2008/09

Proposals for COUNTY CLERK'S Directorate

E. Demographic & Statutory pressures, (may be allowed for within WAG settlement)

Details of proposals	£000	Impact on service if not agreed
3. Service Legal – Planning and Highways		
i) Legal Officer – Highways (S02)	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlog of traffic orders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major road safety implications and loss of revenue. • Backlog of Definitive Map and public rights of way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • failure to comply with statutory duty and time limits. • Backlog of S106 Agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant risk of unauthorised developments • significant risk of losing planning gain – roads, schools, regeneration monies. • New legislation e.g. Commons Act 2006 with statutory requirement to produce a new Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inability to deal will result in breach of statutory duty. • Flood Alleviation Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high risk of compensation claims and land related issues.
	36	
2. Service Legal - Conveyancing		
i) Legal Officer – Conveyancing (S01 – S02)	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity to deal with the increasing number of land related transactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious detrimental affect on ability to meet corporate objective to sell £3m of surplus land and buildings by 2009
ii) Trainee Legal Executive Conveyancing (Sc4 – S01)	32	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor management of DCC's land and property holdings • critical delays in completing leases leading to loss of income.
	68	
1. Service Legal – Litigation / Employment / Contracts		
i) Solicitor – Contracts and Corporate Governance (P03)	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed in principle as part of 2007/08 budget process but only 50% of £150k bid received • failure to update Contract Procedure Rules / Constitution - high risk of being open to challenge through the courts.
ii) Solicitor – Contracts (2 year fixed term) P03	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Information/DPA requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant risk of challenge from Information Commissioner/Audit Commissioner, Judicial Reviews and maladministration claims. • Multi-million pound contracts not negotiated in best interests of DCC. • Contractual flaws place DCC in high risk position if contractors default. • Procurement unit operating without benefit of appropriate legal support. • External fees incurred increasing cost to DCC. • High value contracts require consideration of European legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open to challenge through the courts.
iii) Solicitor – Litigation P03	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing volume of prosecutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • failure to achieve corporate objectives (public realm) includes dog fouling, littering, counterfeiting and environmental • failure to maintain tough

		<p>stance on offences which materially affect DCC's image</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unable to support Community Safety Team (new). • Increasing volume of employment work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased disciplinary / capability if lack of appropriate legal advice at early stage • high risk of compensation payouts • high risk areas – disability, sex and race discriminating increasing – leading to compromise agreements and large pay offs. • Single Status Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high risk / high value area • risk of claims, compensation packages.
	129	
4. Service.....		
i)		
ii)		
iii)		
Directorate Total	238	

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET SETTING 2008/09

Proposals for **CORPORATE BUDGETS**

F. Service development and growth

Details of proposals	£000	Impact on service if not agreed
1. Service		
i) Continue with and increase level of physiotherapy costs to enable swift return to work.	23	
	23	
2. Service - Members		
i) Provision of Broadband inc Citrix	10	
ii)		
iii)		
	10	
3. Service Corporate Training		
i) CRB training requirement	25	
ii)		
iii)		
	25	
4. Service.....		
i)		
ii)		
Directorate Total	58	

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT 2008/9**APPENDIX 5****Base Budget position 2007/8**

Service	Current level of grant £k	--Suggested treatment--	
		Element retained £k	Element reduced £k
Countryside	25		25
Sports Development	15		15
Corwen LS	9		9
Rhyl LS	9		9
Prestatyn LS	3		3
Denbigh LS			
Llangollen LS	9		9
Secondary schools delegated	262	262	0
Special Schools delegated	13	13	0
Adult Education	31		31
Youth service	40	36	4
ICT/Call centre	80	80	0
HR trainees	47		47
Food safety	48	40	8
Housing enforcement	86	86	0
Envir man & performance	16		16
Non Princ Rds maintenance	54		54
Soc Servcies admin	47		47
Children's social workers	98	80	18
Homelessness	134	134	0
Spare provision	18	18	0
TOTAL	1044	749	295

NOTE

Detail to be reviewed when final confirmation of WAG requirements is received.

ELIGIBILITY FOR COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT.

Council Tax benefit is payable to Pensioners irrespective of the level of Council Tax due dependant on their income and savings circumstances.

The following are examples of Council Tax Benefit availability.

The figures are accurate as at 1st April 2008.

Example A:

Single lady aged 63 - Council Tax charged £841.50 per year (inc Single Person Discount).

Weekly income: State Pension £ 75.60, Private pension £23.56, Savings £5,500.00 would qualify for Full Council Tax Benefit of £16.14 per week.

If her circumstances were the same for the previous 52 weeks we could also award full benefit for this period.

She would also qualify for Pension Credit of another £24.89 per week (also payable for previous 52 weeks).

Example B:

Couple one aged 66, one aged 65 - Council Tax charged £1,122.70.

Weekly income State Pensions £115.35, £60.70, Private Pensions £87.30, £40.35, Savings £6,257.00 would qualify for £3.69 per week.

If their circumstances were the same for the previous 52 weeks we could also award some benefit for this period.

Example C:

Couple one aged 66, one aged 57 - Council Tax charged £875.50.

Weekly Income State Pension £125.35, Private Pensions £65.90, £23.40, Savings £12,257.00 would qualify for £14.36 per week.

If their circumstances were the same for the previous 52 weeks we could also award some benefit for this period.

As part of the Benefits Departments commitment to promoting benefit take up by Pensioners the Department will review a listing from the Pension Service confirming people who receive Pension Credit, but not Council Tax Benefit. These people are then proactively contacted inviting claims for benefit.