

Minutes of the special Performance Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 9.30 am in Conference Room 1B, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin

Present:

Councillors Bobby Feeley (Chair), Gwilym Evans, Colin Hughes, Huw Jones and Lucy Morris

Observers: Councillors Meirick LI Davies and Julian Thompson-Hill (Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency)

Also Present:

Head of Business Planning and Performance (AS), Head of Internal Audit (IB), Head of Customer Services (CW), Head of Children and Family Services (LR), Corporate Improvement Manager (TW), Democratic Services Officer (RH), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

QUORUM

The Chair reported that the committee was one member short of a quorum but that Councillor C. Hughes would be arriving shortly. It was agreed to proceed informally pending his arrival.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillors: M.J. Eckersley, I.A. Gunning, G.A. Green, T.R. Hughes and D.W. Lee
Acting Head of Finance and Assets

2 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

At this point Councillor C. Hughes arrived and the committee became quorate.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interest had been raised.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

(This item was brought forward on the agenda with the consent of the Chair)

In the absence of the Acting Head of Finance and Assets, Councillor J. Thompson-Hill, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency (LM:F&E) submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the Council's performance against its budget strategy for 2011/12 as detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report submitted to Cabinet on 25 October 2011 (Appendix 1) reviewing the Council's

budgetary position as at the end of September 2011, including the Council's revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account budget, had been attached to the report.

The LM:F&E sought clarification from the committee regarding their expectations for future financial reporting arrangements and he explained, in detail, the financial issues reported on a monthly basis to Cabinet which included reference to –

- the forecast position for the revenue budget and performance against the budget strategy for 2011/12 – currently forecasting an under spend of £492k on council services and an overspend of £376k on schools
- the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan
- progress against the agreed savings and pressures as part of the 2011/12 budget setting process – currently 95% of total net savings had been agreed (£6.027m against £6.359m); sufficient assurance had been given that a further 4% (£0.272m) of savings would be achieved, and details of the remaining 1% savings and likelihood of meeting those targets
- key variances from budgets or savings targets, risks or potential additional savings and details of individual service budget reviews had been provided

Members were pleased to note that 95% of budget savings had already been achieved and reassured to hear the likelihood of the total savings target being met, which could result in 5% incash saving which had been set aside for slippage in the budget strategy. However, concerns were raised regarding the variance in the school budget highlighting an overspend due to eight schools classed as being in financial difficulty. The committee highlighted the need to ascertain how and why those deficits had arisen and sought assurances in terms of the robustness of those schools financial recovery plans and subsequent impact on schools performance. Councillor C. Hughes reported upon the financial position of a particular High School and paid tribute to the work of the Education Finance Team in supporting schools. He also referred to the intention for a Financial and Business Manager to be assigned to each school cluster which was currently being piloted in the Rhyl area.

The committee discussed a number of issues with the LM:F&E and officers arising from the report including –

- concerns that the Council was not consistently charging for all services/consents/permissions, etc. within its remit. The Head of Business Planning and Performance (H:BP&P) advised that a report was being produced for the Senior Leadership Team on fees and charges in totality and he agreed to check on the progress of that piece of work
- concerns that whilst savings were being made it should not be at the expense of carrying out important duties such as planning enforcement where a delay in enforcement action being undertaken had been highlighted at the last Planning Committee meeting
- the reasons behind the provision for bad debts of £26k in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to deal with tenants default and the provision being negligible in comparison to the total rent income

- queried the consultation process before approving the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the LM:F&E indicated that tenants appointed their own representatives to the Tenant Federation and he would ascertain which councillors had been consulted on the HRA. He also agreed to report back on the debt profile for the HRA account including the total debt, the length of time it had been outstanding/accruing, and the level of debt written off
- discussions around the collection of rent and rent arrears
- highlighted the huge expenditure on school transport which may be an area for national review in order to achieve future efficiency savings. The H:BP&P reported that School Transport had been subject to a North Wales regional review but no consistent agreement had been reached. Modernising Education were currently assessing eligibility issues and criteria but any changes would be subject to members' decision
- the issue of sustainability of sixth form provision in the Vale of Clwyd was raised in terms of future funding delegation
- the importance of scrutinising the Review of Housebound Service and its implications was raised.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *subject to members' comments above the latest financial position be noted;*
- (b) *a report on the eight schools classed as being in financial difficulty be submitted to a future meeting detailing the reasoning behind the deficit, their recovery plans and subsequent impact on school performance;*
- (c) *the Lead Member for Finance and Efficiency be asked to provide information on the Housing Revenue Account as detailed above, including the debt profile and elected members subject to consultation, to the Scrutiny Coordinator for dissemination to members, and*
- (d) *the submission of a quarterly finance report to the committee be reaffirmed.*

5 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

In the absence of the Acting Head of Finance and Assets, Councillor J. Thompson-Hill, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency (LM:F&E) submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the budget planning process for 2012/13 which focused upon medium term planning and greater challenge to services about how budgets were spent. An example Service Challenge Agenda (Appendix 1) had been attached to the report.

The LM:F&E elaborated upon the success of the Service Challenge budget process introduced in 2011/12 and advised that a similar approach had been adopted for 2012/13. A complete set of service challenges had now been carried out and progress was being made on the second tranche of challenges which would be completed by the end of the month. Members' involvement in the process had been highlighted and a meeting with councillors in September regarding budget setting had been poorly attended. The next session would be held in on 6 December and the LM:F&E verbally reported upon a draft agenda which included a session based on Area Members Groups targeting cuts in their own areas. He urged all members to attend and welcomed members' input on areas for discussion. A final session would be held on 10 January following which the budget

would be submitted to Cabinet in January and Council in February for approval. The Corporate Improvement Manager reminded members that any savings proposed must be subject to an equality impact process. The Chair suggested that a reminder to that effect be sent to all Heads of Service.

During the ensuing discussion members considered that, in general, the Service Challenges had not been as effective and challenging as the previous year. The lack of information provided to scrutiny members in comparison with Cabinet members on the service challenges was also highlighted and issues were also raised regarding the timeliness of that information. Councillor G.C. Evans felt there would be merit in circulating brief minutes of matters discussed at the Corporate Executive Team and Service Challenge meetings. The Head of Business Planning and Performance reported upon recent changes made to the service challenge process to improve its effectiveness and focus and he agreed to review the process again in light of members' concerns. He confirmed that timely minutes would be available in future and encouraged members to meet with the relevant services beforehand to ensure they were equally prepared at service challenge meetings. Councillor H. Ll. Jones referred to the election of a new Council in May and highlighted the importance of ensuring that financial training was provided at an early stage to enable councillors to make informed decisions regarding budget setting. The LM:F&E responded that a training programme for the new Council was currently being prepared and a session on finance would be included early in the process.

RESOLVED that, subject to member's comments above, the approach to budget planning for 2012/13 be noted.

At this juncture (10.50 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break.

6 THE COUNCIL'S IT STRATEGY

The Head of Customer Services (H:CS) submitted a report (previously circulated) on progress being made on the Council's ICT Strategy (2011-14) and seeking members' observations on the Strategy and the associated work plans. Confidential appendices had been attached to the report: Draft ICT Strategy (Appendix 1) and ICT Strategy Delivery Plan (Appendix 2).

Members were presented with the ICT Strategy 2011-12, the plans and funding for the first phase of the strategy and details of the expected benefits to be accrued. There were three phases to the ICT strategy as follows –

- Phase 1 (October 2011 – March 2012) – Fit for purpose ICT (funding bid to the Strategic Investment Group £319k capital and £62k revenue)
- Phase 2 (January 2012 – March 2012) – Benefits Delivery (funding bid to the Strategic Investment Group to include the development of technology to invest in improving projects approximately £1.5m)
- Phase 3 – (post March 2012) – ICT Service delivered in Collaboration maximising collaboration opportunities.

The H:CS elaborated upon the first phase to make the service fit for purpose which included updating the website; improving usability of security measures; piloting mobile devices; installing wireless networks; upgrading and standardising desktop software and hardware; creating better working relationship with services; improving corporate training in ICT systems, and reviewing ICT budget. At this point members wished to consider the detail of the ICT strategy and work plans which contained confidential information and it was –

RESOLVED that under Section 100A 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

In scrutinising the document members took the opportunity to ask questions of the H:CS and discussion focused on the following areas –

- the need to demonstrate value for money in terms of technology provision and ICT services and to keep pace with developments
- acknowledged the reasoning behind upgrading and standardising desktops hardware and software in order to support ICT efficiently and effectively; improving performance in service areas, and in the smooth transition of collaboration arrangements
- noted the financial investment required in order to ensure fit for purpose ICT and the development of technology to invest in improvement projects
- the H:SC updated members on the recent bid made to the Strategic Investment Group during which support had been given to all elements but further evidence had been requested in terms of website benefits
- the importance of an in house trainer to provide opportunities and support staff and members working online and recognising the different level of abilities which needed to be accommodated
- how to engage the public and promote the take up of online services and use of the website with the Contact Centre used to support those unable/unwilling to access such technology
- providing it was fit for purpose and met business needs, outdated systems and service specific software would continue
- prioritised spending on IT was rated on the basis of project mandates for the most benefit to the council with financial regulations limiting the amount of spend on IT without involvement from the ICT service; larger projects such as Proactis were reported back to the Business Transformation Board
- the H:CS elaborated upon the outsourcing of the curriculum element by some schools to Gaia and the subsequent implications of that approach
- discussed the features of mobile technology for potential use and the need to pilot mobile devices to ensure models were fit for purpose
- members highlighted the delays encountered when seeking support with their IT equipment and the H:CS reported upon future changes to the ICT Help Desk operation including the availability of technicians to address problems
- considered the perception problems associated with ICT services and the reasons behind them which could be improved by investing in technology

- noted that staff with the right skills mix would be crucial in delivering the ICT service and that prudential borrowing was unlikely to be a viable option due to the rate at which ICT equipment became obsolete.

The committee highlighted the need for sufficient financial investment in order to ensure fit for purpose ICT and in the development of technology to invest in improvements projects. Consequently it was –

RESOLVED that –

- the ICT Strategy 2011-14 together with associated work plans be received and noted;*
- the committee's support for the provision of sufficient financial investment in order to deliver the ICT Strategy be communicated to the Corporate Executive Team when considering the bid for revenue funding, and*
- the need for financial investment in order to ensure fit for purpose ICT and in the development of improvement projects be raised as an issue at Informal Council to be held on 6 December to consider the budget.*

OPEN SESSION

Upon completion of the above the meeting resumed in open session.

At this juncture (12 noon) Councillor M.LI. Davies left the meeting.

7 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Head of Children and Family Services (H:C&FS) submitted a report by the Performance and Information Manager (previously circulated) detailing the Children and Family Services' performance as at the end of the second quarter of 2011/12, comparing it to performance for the previous year 2010/11 and to the Welsh average. Details of performance against the national suite of performance indicators as at 30 September 2011 (Appendix 1) had been attached to the report.

The H:C&FS provided some contextual information to the report including significant changes to management arrangements within the section and sickness absence issues. He also advised that some of the performance indicators used did not present a clear success/failure perspective focusing on process management rather than effective intervention and outcomes. During his presentation of the main report the H:C&FS elaborated upon the main indicators as follows –

- Referral Activity
- Initial Assessments
- Core Assessments
- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Child Protection

Overall the performance figures were positive for Denbighshire with no major issues. Areas for improvement included Core Assessments and Statutory Visits to LAC and the H:C&FS detailed progress in those areas and measures being

undertaken to improve performance. He added that he did not wish to focus all resources on delivering a process because social workers' time needed to be spent in practice and structural arrangements had been made to that end.

The committee discussed the merits of the existing performance indicators in comparing performance across Wales and noted that, in light of concerns that the indicators risked deflecting focus from outcomes to process management, revised indicators focusing on outcomes were currently being developed. It was felt that whilst some of the current indicators proved useful in comparing performance much interpretation was required. The Corporate Improvement Manager (CIM) highlighted the need to focus on crucial issues and reminded members that reference to safeguarding issues and child protection had now been included within quarterly performance reports. Consequently members considered it was unnecessary to receive a separate quarterly performance report on Children's Services.

During consideration of the report discussion focused on the following areas –

- the set of indicators did not include Adoption Services and the H:C&FS elaborated upon the North Wales Adoption Service (NWAS) and progress being made in that regard and the varying amount of time spent from children entering the care system to formal adoption ranging from 4 – 15 months dependent upon a variety of factors. The intention was to submit a report to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on the NWAS and the committee was keen to ensure this item was included in that scrutiny committee's work programme
- in response to concerns the H:C&FS provided assurances that every effort had been made to ensure that during the section's reorganisation, and despite staff sickness, children had not been missed in the process
- members discussed the categorisation of RAG status and its appropriateness for particular indicators. The CIM advised that, unless set otherwise, the Ffynnon system applied a standard intervention of 10% below target for amber status. Once a more focused set of indicators had been agreed for inclusion in the quarterly performance report each indicator could be considered in more detail to ensure an appropriate RAG status was achieved
- the H:C&FS elaborated upon the new staffing structure focusing on the establishment of a practice leading approach which would enable any stress points in the system to be identified.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the key issues highlighted within the report requiring further attention be included in the regular quarterly performance report submitted to this committee for monitoring purposes, and*
- (b) the Scrutiny Committee's Service Lead Members for Children and Family Services, Councillors G.A. Green and I.A. Gunning scrutinise the performance issues relating to the Core Assessments and Statutory Visits to Looked After Children with the Head of Children and Family Services and report back on any issues of concern requiring the committee's attention.*

At this juncture (12.40 p.m.) Councillors C. Hughes and L.M. Morris left the meeting which became inquorate.

8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

A report by the Scrutiny Coordinator was submitted (previously circulated) seeking members' review of the committee's future work programme and providing an update on relevant issues. A draft forward work programme (Appendix 1); Proposal Forms for two agenda items (Appendix 2a & 2b), and Cabinet's forward work programme (Appendix 3) had been attached to the report. A copy of the work programmes for the Council's two other scrutiny committees had also been circulated at the meeting.

The Scrutiny Coordinator reported upon the development of the draft work programme for members' consideration and discussed potential amendments in light of officers' requests and decisions made during today's meeting. Members noted the large number of items requiring scrutiny and it was suggested that the committee's January meeting be arranged as an all day meeting. After consideration members agreed that –

- the Project Register be included as an agenda item at the meeting on 1 December and future reports on the Project Register be included within the committee's Quarterly Performance Report
- a report on those schools classed as being in financial difficulty as agreed earlier in the meeting be submitted to the meeting on 12 January
- the Financial Report 2011/12 scheduled for 23 February be deferred
- the reports on Adult Services and the CSSIW Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance 2010/11 scheduled for 1 December be amalgamated
- the purpose of the Energy Efficiency Report scheduled for 12 January be expanded to include energy consumption and savings and the relevant Lead Cabinet Member be invited to attend
- the Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services report scheduled for 23 February be expanded to include enforcement and the relevant Lead Cabinet Members be invited to attend
- the report on Housing Services scheduled for 23 February be expanded to include reference to Rent Arrears.

Members also highlighted the importance of the Self Evaluation Report for Estyn scheduled for the committee's next meeting and it was suggested that all councillors be provided with a copy of that report. It was also agreed to invite the appropriate Lead Cabinet Member to attend the meeting during consideration of that item.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendments and agreements referred to above, the forward work programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

The meeting concluded at 1.10 p.m.

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee held in the Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 1st December, 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors R.L. Feeley (Chair), M.J. Eckersley, G.C. Evans, G.A. Green, T.R. Hughes, H.L.I. Jones, D. Lee and Co-opted Members Ms C. Burgess, Mrs G. Greenland, Ms D. Houghton and Dr D. Marjoram.

Councillors W.L. Cowie, P.A. Dobb, D. Owens, J. Thompson-Hill, E.W. Williams attended as Observers.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Business Transformation and Regeneration (BJ), Head of Business Planning and Performance (AS), Head of Adult and Business Services (PG), Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management (IB), Head of School Improvement and Inclusion (KE), Corporate Improvement Officer (IM), Programme and Project Team Manager (KA), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Administrative Officer (CIW).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors P. Duffy, I.A. Gunning, C. Hughes and L.M. Morris, and Coopted Member Mr J. Saxon

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

3. URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No items were raised which in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of a meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 20th October 2011 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

5. SELF EVALUATION REPORT FOR ESTYN

A copy of a joint report by the Head of Modernising Education and the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. A copy of the Self Evaluation Report (SER), Appendix 1 to the report, had been circulated to Committee members electronically prior to the meeting, with hard copies being made available at the meeting. It was explained that this was a work in progress document which would be continually altered and modified.

The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion introduced the report which provided an update in respect of the SER, and requested that the Committee scrutinise the draft SER prior to the forthcoming Estyn Local Education Authority Services for Children and Young People (LEASCYP) inspection.

Members were informed that a number of officers throughout the Authority had contributed to the SER document, which would be evaluative rather than descriptive with much of the evidence being found via the hyperlinks within the document. The Performance Scrutiny Committee Working Group had highlighted a number of items as areas for further investigation including Governors and the Youth Service. Further recommendations had been submitted to the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group for allocation to the Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes to ensure continued progress.

The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion referred to the significance of Key Question 1 which was a standards question and the separate performance commentary which charted the performance as an Authority from 2007 against all the major national bench marks and indicators. She explained that the information on Key Question 1 would be updated that day as the Key Stage 4 results had now been validated, with the verified information received being positive for the Authority.

An outline of the criteria for measuring success, in terms of the significance of the impact of what the Authority does and its input was provided for the Committee. The importance of the Authority recognising areas of weakness and identifying its own development was highlighted, and four possible lines of enquiry which might be pursued by Estyn were identified for Members. It was confirmed that work was continuing in respect of Key Question 2, particular reference being made to the outcomes for children with additional learning needs.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor G.A. Green, the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion confirmed that Key Stage 3 results had continually improved and that there had been an increase in number of pupils achieving CSI and a strategy had been developed to support the children in question. However, it was confirmed by Councillor E.W. Williams that there were concerns in respect of the robustness of moderation.

During the ensuing debate the following issues and key points were raised by Members, and the following responses were provided:-

- The final version of the document would be presented in a more eye-catching, easy reference and user-friendly format. The use of a larger font, different coloured text for headings, deletion of boxes/gridlines was also suggested.
- Areas already identified as requiring 'further development' would be highlighted for ease of reference. If preliminary measures on how these areas would be moved forward had been agreed reference to these would also be included within the report, these would include areas such as those discussed by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group and allocated to various committees.
- Page 12 of the SER - evidence to be provided of the work undertaken and underway to improve the Welsh 1st and 2nd language standards. Work undertaken by the Athrawon Bro team, commissioned from Cynnal, and information on the restructure of the Athrawon Bro team and the objectives of that restructure from an outcomes perspective would also be included.
- Page 14 (1.2.2 and 1.2.3) Wellbeing - participation and enjoyment in learning and community involvement and decision making - it would be beneficial to refer to Youth work in rural areas and evidence the outcomes achieved through that work. It was suggested that the Head of Leisure, Libraries and Community Development be requested to assist in this area.
- Page 20 'Unlocking Potential' grant - It had been suggested that it may be useful to refer to the fact that Additional Learning Needs (ALN) was a positive aspect of the last Estyn inspection and emphasise the work which had taken place since then in this particular area. Reference should also be made to the potential affect on this area of education of the cut in grant funding from WG, and what the Authority was doing to try and avoid or alleviate the detrimental consequences on all pupils, their families and teachers of the loss of this targeted funding.
- It was suggested that the section on Leadership and Management on pages 31 onwards may require strengthening quite considerably prior to the SER's submission.

Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the report be received;*
- (b) pending the inclusion of the above areas and comments, as far as reasonably possible all aspects of the Authority's education services for children and young people had been addressed, or were being addressed, and had been included in the SER document; and*
- (c) the Chair and Scrutiny Coordinator liaise to agree the action points arising from the discussions prior to forwarding them to the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion.*

6. ADULT SERVICES

A copy of a report by the Head of Adult and Business Services had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

It was explained by the Head of Adult and Business Services that the report provided an update and overview of the issues facing Adult Services in relation to:-

- Residential Care Home Fees, Market and Relationships
- Older People's Care – Residential/Home Care
- Learning Disability Services
- Annual Report from the Director of Social Services

The Head of Adult and Business Services referred to the ongoing work with partners across North Wales to develop a fee setting methodology, focusing mainly on North East Wales. He confirmed that an unavoidable pressure had been identified with respect to residential/nursing home fees which could present a risk in financial terms to the Authority. Consequently, it was proposed that a further more detailed report, outlining the new fee setting methodology, be presented to the Committee in January 2012.

The Head of Adult and Business Services summarized the report's contents and answered members' questions:

In reply to questions from Councillor M.J. Eckersley with regard to the changing market forces, it was confirmed by Councillor P.A. Dobb that respite care facilities were available within the County, both in Extra Care facilities and in council and private run residential/care homes. She also provided an outline of staffing provision within care homes and the provision of training for staff in the private and public sectors.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor G.C. Evans regarding the statement on page 2 of Appendix 2, "the Council does not have a robust means of determining if sign posting is effective in meeting people's needs", the Head of Adult and Business Services referred to the client information system and the work being undertaken in recording information. Councillor P.A. Dobb explained that the slight delay in respect of the further development of partnership working had been due to the fact that the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) had been concentrating on its own services reviews.

Councillor P.A. Dobb, in response to concerns raised by Councillor G.A. Green, provided details pertaining to the establishment of integrated Health and Social Care Locality Teams in partnership with the BCUHB in North Wales, and the creation of the Intermediate Care Locality Board to facilitate the pending changes.

The view expressed by Councillor H.LI. Jones regarding the importance of service provision through the medium of Welsh, particularly services to elderly persons in the central and southern areas of the County, was supported by Councillor Dobb.

During the ensuing discussion, the Chair supported the views expressed by Councillor G.A. Green regarding the need for further detailed and focused information prior to further scrutiny by the Committee. The Chair agreed to liaise with the Head of Adult and Business Services to identify areas which would benefit from future detailed scrutiny.

RESOLVED – that:-

(a) the report be received ; and

(b) the Chair liaise with the Head of Adult and Business Services to identify areas which may merit further detailed scrutiny in future

7. MONITORING PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE CORPORATE PLAN – (QPR 2)

The Corporate Improvement Manager introduced a report (previously circulated) which summarised the Council's current performance in 2011-12 against each outcome within the Corporate Plan, the 2012 Indicators, and the Authority's Outcome Agreements with the Welsh Government. Due to their importance the report also included outcomes in respect of safeguarding and child protection and the protection of vulnerable adults. The report Had been submitted to enable the Committee to carry out its performance management function in relation to the Corporate Plan 2009-2012, which would be essential in ensuring that the Council was able to take action to address specific performance issues.

The 2012 indicators were the set of national performance indicators chosen by the Council to act as a proxy to evaluate whether it was on track to becoming a "High Performing Council". These would be used to compare Denbighshire's performance against other local authorities in Wales to establish whether the Denbighshire had become a high performing Council by 2012.

Denbighshire's most recent annual performance report against the 2012 Indicators indicated significant improvements from the baseline position at the start of the Corporate Plan 2008-09, with only 3 of the 19 indicators remaining in the bottom half of authorities in Wales. Information on the current status of the 3 indicators identified as being below median performance during 2010-11 had been included in the report, together with the latest performance data available for the quarterly measures in the 2012 set which highlighted 4 additional indicators which may require scrutiny or intervention in order to achieve performance above the Wales median for 2011-12:

The Council's Improvement Objectives and a summary of performance against the nine outcomes had been included in the report, with further details contained within Appendix II. It was confirmed that a number of key national indicators relating to safeguarding and child protection would require focused attention to ensure satisfactory performance. The current status for the safeguarding and child protection outcome, based on the indicators, was NEUTRAL, with significant improvement in some indicators balanced by a reduced or static performance in others as illustrated in the report.

Each Local Authority had developed an Outcome Agreement with the Welsh Government and a summary of the Outcome Agreement, which consisted of 10 outcomes, was provided by the Corporate Improvement Officer.

During the ensuing discussion the following concerns were raised by Members and responses provided:-

- The Committee supported a proposal by Councillor H.LI. Jones that the Empty Homes Officer be invited to provide a presentation to Informal Council in respect of officer's role.

- In response to concerns raised by Members regarding the percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions and levels in non domestic public building stock and the possible financial penalties which could be incurred by Denbighshire, the Corporate Director: Business Transformation and Regeneration confirmed that in terms of performance the Authority had not met the statutory requirements and targets, however, work had been undertaken by the Head of Finance and Assets to address the situation. The Scrutiny Coordinator confirmed that an item pertaining to Energy Efficiency had been included on the Committee's Forward Work programme for January 2012. Members agreed that the report presented in January also detail the Council's performance in improving energy consumption across the Authority and in meeting Performance Indicator EEF002.

Councillor G.A. Green referred to page 8 of Appendix 1, which referred to the current 6 monthly energy efficiency monitoring process, and stressed the importance of the need for more accurate monitoring of energy usage to enable the Committee to focus on performance in this area. The Corporate Director: Business Transformation and Regeneration outlined the role of the Scrutiny Committee and confirmed that the relevant officers could be requested to attend meetings to address any areas of specific concern expressed by Members. The Head of Business Planning and Performance explained that a mechanism had been established where Committee Lead Members could liaise and work with Heads of Service to address performance issues.

- The Corporate Director: Business Transformation and Regeneration responded to questions from Members and explained the in some instances issues could be identified but not always influenced, as they were outside the Authority's control.. She highlighted the importance of focusing on issues and areas which could be influenced by intervention when developing the new Corporate Plan.

- Councillor H.LI. Jones referred to page 6 of the report and expressed concern that the disability sports sessions indicator had been performing below target, Members agreed that representations be made to the Head of Leisure, Libraries and Community Development expressing the Committee's concerns in respect of this matter.

- In reply to a question from the Chair regarding the performance indicator on "the percentage of older people having their needs and care plan reviewed on time" being below target, the Head of Adult and Business Services explained this related to only one target and this was currently under review.

- Councillor G.A. Green questioned whether the data input to IT systems such as PARIS and Ffynnon was accurate and up to date and queried if improvements could be made to ensure that the Council's performance was accurately recorded. The Head of Adult and Business Services provided details of the current IT systems and technology utilised by the Social Services Department. The Corporate Director: Business Transformation and Regeneration explained that Denbighshire was in the process of piloting tablet technology which, if successful, could be built into the IT Strategy. The Scrutiny Coordinator referred to the decision taken by the Committee at its previous meeting to forward to CET, SLT and the Informal Council meeting dealing with budget setting, a recommendation regarding the funding of the IT Strategy. Committee members supported the concerns expressed by Councillor Green. Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

- (a) to support the approval of the proposed Action Plan to address issues identified within the report as per paragraph 28 of the report;*
- (b) that the Empty Homes Officer be invited to provide a presentation to Informal Council in respect of the post's role and objectives;*
- (c) that representations be made to the Head of Leisure, Libraries and Community Development expressing the Committee's concerns that the disability sports sessions indicator had been performing below target, and*
- (ch) that, if appropriate, Heads of Service be requested to attend Performance Scrutiny Committee meetings to address any specific areas of continual underperformance*

8. CORPORATE PROJECT REGISTER

A copy of a report by the Head of Business, Planning and Performance, which provided a status report on the progress of those projects recorded on the Corporate Project Register which had a status of Red or Amber, and which provided a reflective position on all current corporate projects, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Head of Business, Planning and Performance introduced the report which provided information regarding the Corporate Project Register and current project status information. Future reports would provide a summary of significant changes to project activity which merited being brought to the attention of the Committee. He explained that the delivery confidence for each project was reflected next to the project title, as shown on the Appendix to the report.

He explained that the scrutiny of the Corporate Project Register would assist in measuring service delivery against the Corporate Plan and in identifying the overall performance of the Council in respect of the key projects across the Authority. The projects included a variety of scales and importance with many incorporating service changes or partnerships.

It was explained that, in future, the second section of the quarterly performance reports presented to the Committee would incorporate the Corporate Project Register information. This would enable a proper and transparent flow of information to Members and assist in deciding if further scrutiny would be required, or if intervention would add value to process.

Councillor G.A. Green expressed his support for the Project Register which provided a clear indication in respect of the status of each of the projects identified. With regard to Information Management, Members endorsed the view expressed by Councillor Green that the Committee should support the bid made to the Risk Management Fund for a consultant to look at the structure and governance of information management.

In response to concerns raised by the Chair and Councillor Green, it was agreed that the Scrutiny Coordinator contact the relevant officers regarding the concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the problems experienced with both the Trent and PARIS software systems. Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – *that the Committee:-*

- (a) receive the report;*
- (b) endorse the bid to the Risk Management Fund to secure funding for a consultant to look at the structure and governance of information management; and*
- (c) requests that the Scrutiny Coordinator contact the relevant officers with respect to the concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the problems experienced with both the TRENT and PARIS software systems.*

9. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

A copy of a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator, seeking the Committee to review its future work programme and updating members on relevant issues, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Committee were informed by the Scrutiny Coordinator that a copies of documents and an e-mail from the Lead Member for Finance and Efficiency, which responded to issues raised at the special meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 17th November, 2011, had been circulated to Members of the Committee. Updated copies of the Forward Work Programmes for Cabinet and the Partnerships and Communities Scrutiny Committees had been circulated with the Information Update papers for the meeting.

The Scrutiny Coordinator provided a summary of the report and Members agreed the following actions:-

Progress on Committee Resolutions - A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising Members on progress with their implementation had been included as Appendix 3 to the report. The report on the performance of the Rhyl Sixth Partnership in this year's external examinations was still awaited and was being pursued by the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion.

Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) – The SCVCG had considered a number of areas identified by the Estyn Self-Evaluation Working Group as ones which would benefit from close scrutiny. The Committee agreed that the areas identified by the SCVCG for inclusion on the Committee's work programme be accepted.

Proposal Form for Agenda Item on Care Home Fees – Members agreed that an item in respect of Care Home Fees be included in the Committee's Forward Work Programme for the 12th January, 2012. As six business items would be considered on the 12th January, 2011 it was agreed that the meeting be scheduled for morning and afternoon sessions.

February 2012 meeting – The SCVCG had considered the Welsh Public Library Authorities: Annual Return 2010/11 report on Denbighshire's Library Service and requested that the Committee scrutinise specific areas identified in the annual return as ones where the Authority attained a low ranking position. It was explained that the report would also incorporate the findings of the review of the Housebound Service. Due to the potential number of business items for discussion at February's meeting Members agreed that the meeting be provisionally scheduled for a morning and afternoon session and that the matter be reviewed at the January meeting.

In response to a request from Councillor G.A. Green, the Scrutiny Coordinator agreed that officers be requested to provide exceptions reports in respect of items pertaining to Housing Services; Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services and future Corporate Plan performance monitoring reports, and that the respective Heads of Service be requested to attend Performance Scrutiny Committee meetings to discuss consistently under performing areas.

Representatives on Council Boards and Groups – a template had been developed to enable scrutiny representatives on various Boards and Groups to report back to their respective committees on the key messages and actions/recommendations taken at meetings attended by them. The template had been agreed and a copy had been included at Appendix 4 to the report. Committee Members were requested to complete the form and return it to the Scrutiny Coordinator who would arrange for the report to be shared with Committee Members. An electronic copy of the template would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above inclusions and amendments, the Committee's forward work programme be approved*

Meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.

Report To:	Performance Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 January 2012
Lead Member/Officer:	Lead Member for Education/ Head of School Improvement and Inclusion
Report Author:	School Effectiveness Performance Officer: Secondary
Title:	The Performance of School External Examinations Results at Key Stage 4 and Post 16.

1. What is the report about?

1. The performance of school external examinations results at Key Stage 4 and post 16.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the performance of Denbighshire schools external examinations.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members review the performance of schools against previous performance, and the external benchmarks that are currently available, and comment accordingly.

[These results do not include the final benchmarking and value added data, which has not been released to date.]

4. Key Stage 4 Results

Overall, performance of pupils at Key Stage 4 has improved significantly across a range of indicators since 2009. In 2011 improvement has been secured in all indicators at KS4. The key performance indicators at key stage 4 are the number of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold, pupils gaining 5 GCSE A*- C's or vocational equivalents, those achieving the Level 2 threshold plus English/Welsh and mathematics and in addition the Core Subject Indicator (CSI).

The Level 1 Threshold is the number of pupils gaining 5 GCSE A*-G's or vocational equivalents. This indicator has increased from 90.0% in

2010 to 92.2% in 2011. The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 1 threshold has consistently increased since 2009 from 88.2% to 90.9% in 2010. In 2011 the Denbighshire percentage is slightly above the Wales average of 90.4%.

In 2011, Denbighshire achieved a rank position commensurate with the free school meal (FSM) position.

	Level 2 incl. English or Welsh & Maths				Level 2				Capped Point Score
	2009	2010	School Target 2011	2011	2009	2010	School Target 2011	2011	2011
St Brigid's	78%	75%	82.8%	75.0%	82%	93%	89.7%	95.0%	369
Denbigh HS	36%	24%	54.5%	41.0%	50%	46%	57.6%	57.0%	296
Ysgol Dinas Bran	55%	46%	55.5%	60.0%	73%	67%	78.0%	86.0%	357
Prestatyn HS	40%	47%	52.5%	50.0%	53%	65%	70.7%	80.0%	335
Blessed Ed Jones	30%	18%	25.3%	37.0%	37%	38%	48.2%	46.0%	260
Rhyl High School	32%	31%	35.0%	36.0%	42%	39%	50.0%	52.0%	256
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	70%	58%	71.4%	68.0%	78%	82%	79.5%	83.0%	366
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	66%	63%	61.1%	66.0%	72%	73%	74.6%	76.0%	333
Denbighshire	47%	44%	52.0%	53.0%	58%	61%	64.0%	71.0%	318
WALES	47%	49%	50.0%	50.0%	61%	64%	67.0%	67.0%	312

	Level 1				CSI			
	2009	2010	School Target 2011	2011	2009	2010	School Target 2011	2011
St Brigid's	94%	100%	93.1%	96.0%	78%	75%	82.8%	75.0%
Denbigh HS	84%	90%	87.9%	93.0%	36%	24%	47.0%	40.0%
Ysgol Dinas Bran	94%	98%	100.0%	100.0%	55%	46%	54.9%	60.0%
Prestatyn HS	90%	91%	92.9%	94.0%	37%	45%	51.1%	48.0%
Blessed Ed Jones	85%	85%	90.4%	84.0%	32%	18%	25.3%	37.0%
Rhyl High School	81%	81%	84.0%	79.0%	32%	30%	33.0%	33.0%
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	97%	97%	100.0%	98.0%	69%	55%	70.0%	67.0%
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	96%	95%	98.4%	96.0%	64%	67%	65.1%	66.0%
Denbighshire	88%	90%	93.0%	91.0%	46%	43%	49.0%	51.0%
WALES	88%	90%	90.0%	90.0%	46%	48%	48.0%	59.0%

The number of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold, pupils gaining 5 GCSE A*-C's or vocational equivalents has consistently increased over the last four years. In 2011, Denbighshire was ranked in fifth position in Wales which is significantly higher than the previous two years, 14 and 19 respectively, and is 8 positions above the above the FSM rank of 13th.

50% of secondary schools are now in the 1st and 2nd quartile. This is an improvement on the previous two years.

Level 2 Threshold including English or Welsh and Mathematics is the number of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold including English or Welsh and Mathematics A* to C grades. This is now the key performance indicator for secondary schools at the end of key stage 4.

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold inc..E/W&M indicator has increased by 8.6% in 2011. This percentage has risen to 53.0% from 44% in 2010 exceeding the Welsh average of 50% by 3% in 2011. 63% of secondary schools are now in the 1st and 2nd quartile; the drop sustained in 2010 has been successfully addressed.

The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) is the number of pupils achieving A*-C grades in English/Welsh, mathematics and science. The percentage of pupils achieving the core subject indicator fell in 2010 by 2.83%, but this dip has been reversed and in 2011 there is an increase of 6%, compared to the previous year. The percentage achieved exceeds the Wales average by 2.6%. 63% of secondary schools fall in to the 1st and 2nd quartile, a significant improvement on the previous year.

Denbighshire is ranked 8 in this indicator in 2011; this is 5 positions above the FSM rank, 10 positions above the previous year's rank and 4 positions above the 2009 rank.

The Wider Points Score increased from 395.9 in 2009 to 449.8 in 2011. This indicator has shown a trend of improvement and has risen by 53.9 since 2009. Since 2009 the LA has consistently exceeded the Wales average and over the last two years achieved a rank position above the FSM rank. In 2011 the rank position of 4 is 9 points above the FSM.

The Value added summary matched to prior attainment in KS2 for both model 1 and model 2a achieves 1st quartile position; and achieves 1st quartile position in KS3 model 1 and 2nd quartile position for model 2b this year.

The Capped Wider Points score is calculated using a pupil's best eight Level 2 results. The score has increased from 299.44 in 2010 to 317.6 in 2011. Subsequently, the rank position has improved from 16 in 2010 to 9 in 2011. This is above the FSM rank and above the Wales average.

For the first time all schools in Wales have been banded. The performance of schools are grouped into one of five bands from Band 1, schools which are performing well, to Band 5 schools which need to improve. The banding shows how well 15-16-year-olds have performed in examinations and their level of attendance. The Welsh Government also takes account of the level of poverty of pupils in the school as this can have an impact on what the school can achieve. There are no Band 5 schools in Denbighshire and 50% of schools are in Bands 1 and 2.

Blessed Edward Jones CHS	Band 3
Denbigh High School	Band 4
Prestatyn High School	Band 2
Rhyl High School	Band 4
St Brigid's Secondary	Band 2
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	Band 2
Ysgol Dinas Bran	Band 1
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	Band 3

5. Special Schools results

50% of pupils at Ysgol Tir Morfa achieved one or more Entry Level Qualifications and no pupil left full time education without a qualification.

At Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn 53% of pupils achieved one or more Level 1 qualification and 7% achieved the Level 1 Threshold. 33% of pupils achieved one or more Entry Level Qualifications and no pupil left full time education without a qualification.

6. Post 16 results

The percentage of pupils attaining the Level 3 threshold has increased from 94.2% in 2009 and 2010 to 96.7% in 2011. The percentage achieved exceeds the Wales average and has secured a rank position of 11 which has shown consistent improvement compared to the previous two years, 19 and 15 respectively; and compares favourably with the FSM position.

	Points Score													
	Total	Entered 2+ A Levels		Level 3 Threshold		All Pupils		Pupils with Level 3		Pupils without Level 3		Total number of grades	A* & A Grades	
		No	%	No	%	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average		No	%
Prestatyn HS	121	92	76.0%	89	96.7%	78349	647.5	68479	769.4	9870	308.438	212	26	12.3%
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	74	69	93.2%	68	98.6%	66787	902.5	66205	973.6	582	97.0	110	26	23.6%
Denbigh HS	58	56	96.6%	50	89.3%	42503	732.8	40150	803.0	2353	294.1	125	25	20.0%
Ysgol Dinas Bran	60	40	66.7%	39	97.5%	29483	491.4	29570	758.2	3513	167.3	106	27	25.5%
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	101	91	90.1%	91	100.0%	80556	797.6	77928	856.4	2628	262.8	259	85	32.8%
St.Brigid's	25	21	84.0%	20	95.2%	18315	732.6	16597	829.9	1718	343.6	52	19	36.5%
Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	1	0	0.0%	0		34	34.0					0		
Rhyl Sixth	35	34	94.1%	32	91.4%									
DCC	440	369	83.9%	357	96.7%	316027	718.2	295329	827.3	20664	249.0	864	208	24.1%

The Level 3 Threshold for students at the Rhyl Sixth increased from 64.% in 2010 for the combined results from Blessed Edward Jones CHS and Rhyl High School to 91.% at the Rhyl Sixth in 2011. However this is below the Denbighshire average of 96.7% in 2011, the Rhyl Sixth results do count towards the local authority averages.

The A to E grade A-level pass rate has remained static in 2011 at 97.7%. The Welsh average figure for A-E grades is 97.2%.

The proportion of A grades, including the new A* grade, has increased this year moving from 19.8% in 2010 to 24.1% in 2011. This is above the Welsh average of 23.9%.

There is an increase in the number of students awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma from 2010 from 95.7% in 2010 to 97.7% in 2011. This is significantly above the Welsh average of 83.5%.

The average wider point score per examination entry is calculated as the sum of the points awarded to each 16-18 year old student, divided by the total number of qualification entries. The wider points score increased from 684.3 in 2009 to 688.0 in 2010, but fell to 647.9 in 2011. This is a drop of 40.1 compared to the previous year and is below the Wales average. The position in terms of overall ranking fell to 20 which compares unfavourably with the FSM position.

7 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Modernising the education service to achieve a high level of performance across the county is one of the corporate priorities. The raising of attainment at all key stages particularly key stage 4 is a key objective.

8 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

N/A

9 What consultations have been carried out?

N/A

10 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Sustaining improvement in teacher assessments and external examination results.

Addressed by closely monitoring underperforming and high risk schools.

Providing support and training for targeted schools.

Regularly reviewing progress and intervening if insufficient progress is made.

11 Power to make the Decision

N/A

Contact Officer:

School Effectiveness Performance Officer: Secondary

Tel: 01824 708098

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2012

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for the Environment and Sustainable Development/Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure

Report Author: Section Manager – Network Services

Title: Highways and Infrastructure Capital Works 2011/2012 Update

1. What is the report about?

To scrutinise the highway improvements and street works programme (including accessibility through adequate provision of dropped kerbs)

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The report was requested by the Committee and Councillor Diana Hannam asked that information relating to dropped kerbs was incorporated into the information provided. It also provides an opportunity to update Scrutiny on recent work in this area and seeks members' views on the delivery of one of the Council's priority services and a corporate priority.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the report and comments on the issues raised in the report.

4. Report details.

4.1 Improved Accessibility

In response to Councillor Diana Hannam's specific request for information regarding improved accessibility through the provision of dropped kerbs there are details of the Highways approach in Appendix A of this report.

4.2 Highway Capital Works Programme 2011 / 2012

As a Corporate Priority to improve the condition of Denbighshire's roads the Council put forward a significant amount of funding this year so that the backlog in highway maintenance could begin to be addressed. Denbighshire was not alone in having such a backlog but was one of the few counties that had begun to take steps to tackle it. Funding for the year to address the highways element was £6.34 million and following close consultation with Officers, Members and

Town and Community Councils a programme of works totalling almost 200 individual schemes was drawn up. See Appendix B. These works were divided into four main types including the treatment of footways and I will review each of the carriageway types in turn.

Surface Dressing

This treatment is the traditional 'tar spray and chip' and it is a cost effective method of sealing up a carriageway to prevent the ingress of water whilst adding significantly to the carriageway texture. This work was divided between two contractors this year with Conwy County Borough Council's Highway team being one of them as part of the ongoing collaboration between our two departments. Good weather ensured that all of this work went well and we are pleased with the results. Unclassified Roads in the Pentredŵr, Llandyrnog and Glascoed areas in particular benefited from this work although we also undertook on more major routes including the A543 near Llyn Brenig.

Microasphalt

Again two contractors were utilised to undertake this work which is an overlay but gives a more substantial treatment than Surface Dressing. Following some problems with the material laid in the 2010 season (most notably on the B4401 near Cynwyd) these were re-done by the contractor under the terms of their contract with us and at no additional cost to the Authority. We are now happy that this work and all the new schemes carried out this year are to a good standard and meet the required specification. Roads in the Prestatyn, Dyserth, Llangollen and Carrog areas were significantly upgraded due to these works

Surfacing

Once the more weather dependent elements of the programme had been completed our focus then moved on to the more traditional form of resurfacing. Here we have a whole range of schemes covering the county from small rural roads near Nantglyn to complicated little schemes such as Dog Lane and Record Street in Ruthin. Logistically some of these have required considerable forethought, planning and liaison with Abbey Road in Llangollen, Denbigh Bypass and Vale Road Bridge in Rhyl being foremost amongst these. At the time of writing we still have approximately 30 of the almost 100 schemes to complete but, with just a few exceptions, these will all be finished by the end of March. One or two schemes will be delayed due to impending works by utility companies and there are works on the A5104 between Rhydtalog and Llandegla that are currently being held up by the need to address environmental and land access considerations but again it is hoped that these can be overcome in the near future.

All in all the highway improvement works are on schedule and within budget and ongoing updates to Members will continue as will regular press releases until all the work is completed.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 Improved Accessibility

The proportion of older people in Denbighshire is increasing and catering for this demographic change is a corporate priority. As the number of older people increases, so too will the number of people with impaired mobility. It is, therefore, essential that we continue to extend the number of facilities such as dropped kerbs.

5.2 Highway Capital Works Programme

Improving the highway network (and flood defences) is a corporate priority. Better facilities for people with impaired mobility will improve the quality of the road network for all. It will also improve road safety as it will reduce the need for people to cross at undesignated locations, for example.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 Improved Accessibility

Whilst there is no defined Highway Maintenance budget for the provision of dropped kerbs it is felt that an average of £50,000 per annum is the ongoing commitment in this regard.

Other sources of funding are grant related and thus their only impact upon the Council's budget is in terms of future maintenance liability. See next comment.

The provision of more dropped kerb facilities only has a negligible additional impact in terms of future maintenance costs.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

7.1 Improved Accessibility

Specific consultation is carried out on a project by project basis. The amount of consultation undertaken is generally in proportion to the size and significance of the project. All of the highway capital maintenance works projects are on the list as a result of the extensive consultation undertaken in spring 2011.

With respect to other works which might be more related to improving access than any significant new scheme or policy, and all schemes funded by the Welsh Government, through the Regional Transport Plan, require the preparation of an Equality Impact Assessment.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not required.

9 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

9.1 Highway Capital Works Programme

Within the capital programme we have closely monitored costs and, where necessary, minor cost cutting measures have been introduced. We have also used a range of contractors so that the risk of not fulfilling the programme is significantly controlled too. Much of the preparation work has also been carried out by our own workforce too.

9.2 Improved Accessibility

A failure by the Council to promote disability equality would be deemed to be in breach of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. There is also a statutory duty for local authorities to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment for any projects that receive Grant funding through the Regional Transport Plan.

10. Power to make the Decision

No decision required. Instead the purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Committee on the latest developments in this area and seek members' views on progress to date.

Contact Officer:

Section Manager Network Management

Tel: 01824 706875

Improving Accessibility

Standard highway features such as raised kerbs can act as a physical barrier for those with mobility impairments. Those who can be affected include people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters; people who have difficulty walking far; and also people who are “encumbered”, for example, by a pram laden with shopping.

There are many other barriers to mobility that may exist within the highway. Examples include: narrow footways; footways and/or roads with steep gradients; inconsiderate parking blocking crossing points; a lack of available, convenient parking spaces; buses and stops without facilities for the disabled. This list is not exhaustive.

Sometimes, the historical layout of the buildings and roads in our towns and villages and the topography of our landscape can create inherent problems which cannot be easily overcome through design. For example, footways may be narrow because the buildings on either side of the road are particularly close together, or perhaps a relatively steep crossfall (this is a gradient at ninety degrees to the kerblines) has had to be provided on a footway to prevent an adjacent property flooding.

Nonetheless, there are many locations where improvements have or can be made to improve accessibility. A list of some of the past and future initiatives being overseen by the Highways and Infrastructure Department is given below:

Highway Maintenance Budget/Grant Funding – Annual works

In the current financial year Highway Maintenance used a £20,000 Grant from the Community Capital Projects Grant and added £20,000 from its own resources and this was used to provide a significant number of dropped kerb crossing points. These were targeted in areas where there are a significant concentration of elderly residents and covered parts of upper Prestatyn, Rhyl and St. Asaph.

In previous years other grants have been used to provide similar crossing points and on those occasions these were focussed on providing a systematic network which would provide specific links between, for example, Doctors surgeries and chemists or Sheltered Housing and shops.

At other times, as part of the ongoing highway maintenance capital programme we do assess sites and if there is a need to undertake kerbing works then invariably these alterations will then include the introduction of improved crossing points at junctions. Other more minor maintenance works may take a similar, though more ad hoc approach.

Safer Routes in the Community (SRiC)

Formerly known as “Safer Routes to School” this is a Welsh Government led initiative where local authorities can bid for funding to improve walking and cycling routes in their communities. The Council has been successful in being awarded over £600k of funding for such projects over the past 5 years alone. Bids have been recently submitted to fund projects in Ruthin and Bodelwyddan for implementation in financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14. Typical measures provided by these projects include pedestrian crossings, dropped kerb crossings and traffic calming to slow traffic down to make it easier to cross the road safely.

Passenger Transport Projects

The Passenger Transport Section has successfully bid for several million pounds of grant funding over the past decade which has been used to improve passenger transport facilities around the County which have improved accessibility. These range from large scale improvements, such as the new bus station at Rhyl and the one proposed for Prestatyn, to smaller improvements such as the provision of raised height kerbs at bus stops. Many buses in the bus companies’ fleet are of the low-floor type, which facilitate wheelchair access.

Parking Reviews

A systematic review of the parking and loading restrictions has been undertaken on a town by town basis across the County over the past few years and is still ongoing. One of the key features of this is to review provision for blue badge holders to ensure spaces are provided in convenient locations.

General Traffic Projects

Dropped kerb provision in a particular area will often be reviewed when general traffic engineering projects are being carried out in the vicinity.

Sustainable Transport Study

In early 2011, Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council jointly commissioned a project to look at improving accessibility, in its widest sense, between employment, education and residential areas. As well as looking at higher level issues such as access to transport generally, the study did recommend that as a ‘quick win’ a piece of work should be undertaken to extend the number of dropped kerbs along key walking routes. It is intended that this study is used as a basis for future bids for funding in this area.

Contact Officer:

Section Manager - Traffic and Transportation
Tel: 01824 706959

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE - MAINTENANCE SECTION -
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2011 / 2012**

INDEX:		Author: Tim Towers		
PN		Contract Status	AREA	Project Name / Address
				Carriageway Resurfacing
R01	ME	Complete	Denbigh	A543 Denbigh Bypass
R02	ME	Complete	Denbigh	A543 Rhyl Road Denbigh
R03	ME	February	Elwy	A5151 Dyserth High Street
R04	ME	Complete	Rhyl	A548 Coast Road opp Rhyl Golf Club
R05	ME	Complete	Elwy	A541 Blue Hand Corner
R06	ME	Complete	Rhyl	A548 Vale Road Traffic lights Rhyl
R07	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	A525 Crown Crossroads, Llandegla High Friction
R08	ME	Complete	Elwy	B5381 Woodfest St Asaph
R09	ME	Complete	Elwy	B5428 Pen Cae Du to Trefnant
R10	ME	Complete	Denbigh	B4501 Bryn Glas to Bwlch Ddu
R11	ME	Complete	Denbigh	B5428 Henllan village to jct R142
R12	ME	February	Elwy	B5119 Waterfalls Road(top and bottom section only)
R13	ME	February	Rhyl	B5119 Grange Road Rhyl - last section
R14	ME	February	Elwy	B5429 Criccen Road Rhuddlan
R15	RJ	18th January	Ruthin	A525 Lon Spiriol Junction to Anchor Corner, Ruthin
R16	RJ		Ruthin	A5104 Shooting Ground to Rhydtalog
R17	RJ		Ruthin	A5104 Glan yr Afon to Shooting Ground
R18	RJ		Ruthin	A542 Horseshoe Pass Summit to Berwyn Quarry
R19	RJ		Ruthin	A5104 Pen Stryt to Bodidris, Llandegla
R20	ME	March	Rhyl	Warren Road and section of H bridge Rhyl
R21	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Prince Edward Avenue Rhyl
R22	ME	February	Rhyl	Ernest Street Rhyl
C	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Grosvenor Avenue Rhyl
R24	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Quarries Road Nantglyn(R239)
R25	ME	Complete	Elwy	Pont y Cambwll Trefnant(R114)
R26	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Park Street/Castle Hill by Post Office Denbigh
R27	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Bryniau(upto County Bdry)
R28	ME	PART ONLY	Prestatyn	Ffordd Tanrallt(urban and rural sections)
R29	ME	Deferred	Prestatyn	Kings Avenue Prestatyn
R30	ME	Complete	Elwy	Hafod y Green and Ddolibod Junction Trefnant(R078)
R31	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Graig Road(Colomendy to Barkers Well Lane) Denbigh
R32	ME	MICRO	Denbigh	Erw Salisbury/Mytton Park Denbigh
R33	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Henllan to Llaneffydd Road(DCC Section only)
R34	ME		Denbigh	Cader Road Nantglyn(R244)
R35	ME	9th January	Elwy	Grove Lane Bodfari(R119)
R36	ME	9th January	Elwy	Ty Coch Road(R020)
R37	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Llangwyfan xroads(R145)
R38	ME	Complete	Elwy	B5429 to Argoed(R144)
R39	ME	9th January	Elwy	Tan Lan Cwm(R025)
R40	ME		Denbigh	Maes Sadwrn Henllan
R41	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Westfield/Knowsley/St Annes Rhyl
R42	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Cae Drain Denbigh(R138)
R43	ME		Elwy	R059 One section near Tyn Y Coed
R44	ME	Complete	Elwy	Abergliniau Road(R0227)
R45	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Leonard Avenue/Shawn Close Rhyl
R46	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Rhyd Farm(R005)
R47	ME	Complete	Elwy	Pentre Lane Rhuddlan
R48	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Drws y Buddel to Bryn Golau
R49	RJ		Denbigh	Cyffylliog Village to Cemetary
R50	RJ	February	Denbigh	Lodge to Ty'n Celyn, Clocaenog
R51	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Saron Chapel
R52	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Clocaenog to Clawddnewydd
R53	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Pant Glas Isa to Maes Anodd, Rhewl
R54	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Eryrys Village
R55	RJ	Patch Only	Ruthin	Gellifor to B5429 jnc.
R56	RJ	Complete	Dee	R737 Vivod Hall to A5 Jct
R57	RJ	February	Ruthin	Efenechtyd Church to Golf Club
R58	RJ	Awaiting Welsh Water	Ruthin	Bettws GG to Melin y Wig
R59	RJ	30th January	Ruthin	Erw Las to Cae Mawr jnc, Pwllglas
R60	RJ	Complete	Dee	R732 Foel to Jct R738
R61	RJ	Complete	Dee	R732 Jct R738 to Finger Farm
R62	RJ		Ruthin	Bryn Rhydd, Ruthin
R63	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Maes Cadarn, Cyffylliog
R64	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	R427 Piggeries Lane, Llanarmon yn Ial
R65	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	R422 Jct B5430 to Jct R420 (Ceiriog Uchaf)
R66	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	R420 Jct B5430 to Jct R418 (Cae Gwyn)
R67	RJ		Denbigh	Ysgol Prion to Tan y Garth
R68	RJ		Denbigh	Tan y Garth to Waen Wen, Prion
R69	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Foel Farm, Penial
R70	RJ	March	Ruthin	R400 Llanferres to Maeshafn
R71	RJ		Ruthin	Graigfechan to Derwen Llanerch
R72	RJ	Complete	Dee	R624 Hafod Calch, Druid
R73	RJ	Complete	Dee	Wern Road Estate, Llangollen
R74	RJ	Complete	Dee	Fron Bache inc spur to water tanks
R75	RJ	Complete	Dee	Aber Adda, Llangollen
R76	RJ	Complete	Dee	Hall Street, Llangollen
R77	RJ	Complete	Dee	Link road by Smithfield A5 to Hall St.
R78	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Bryn Haidd road, Llanarmon
R79	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Hafod Bilston Road, Llandegla

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE - MAINTENANCE SECTION -
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2011 / 2012**

INDEX:		Author: Tim Towers		
PN		Contract Status	AREA	Project Name / Address
R80	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Erw Fawr Road, Llandegla
R81	RJ	patching	Ruthin	Ty Terfyn Road, Pentrecelyn
R82	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llainwen Road, Pentrecelyn
R83	RJ	Complete	Dee	A5 to Glyndyfrdwy Rail Station
R84	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5429 Glan Hesbin to Rhydymedwy
R85	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5429 Garth y Groes to Leyland Arms
R86	RJ	Deferred	Dee	B5437 A5 to Carrog
R87	RJ	Complete	Dee	Tyn y Ddol, Corwen
R88	RJ	Deferred	Ruthin	Derwen Village to Bryn SM
R89	RJ	Complete	Dee	Llantysilio to Glandwr, Rhewl (4 sections)
R90	RJ	9th January	Ruthin	Tank House, Clawddnewydd
R91	RJ		Ruthin	Tyn y Celyn, Bryneglwys
R92	RJ		Ruthin	R550 Lletty Road
R93	RJ	Deferred	Ruthin	Bryneglwys Village

Carriageway Microasphalt - Fibre				
M01	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5429 Graigfechan to Capel Salem
M02	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5429 Hendrewydd to Speddyd Junction
M03	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	A525 Rhewl Village
M04	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Ffordd Anwyl/Llys Brenig/Laburnum Avenue Rhyl
M05	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Patagonia/Madryn Avenue Rhyl
M06	ME	Complete	Elwy	Rhodfa Gofer Dyserth
M07	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Sandringham/Palace/Butterton/South Avenue Rhyl
M08	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Bro Deg Rhyl
M09	ME	Resurface	Rhyl	Tower Court Rhyl
M10	ME	Complete	Elwy	Heol y Hendre/Bodrhuddan Avenue Rhuddlan
M11	ME	Complete	Elwy	Maes Derwen/Maes Onnen Rhuddlan
M12	ME	Complete	Elwy	Upper Foel Road Dyserth
M13	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Post Office Lane/Chapel Street/Abrahams/Middle Lane Denbigh
M14	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Sandy Lane(one section)/Brooke Park Avenue Prestatyn
M15	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Bastion Road/The Mall Prestatyn
M16	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Pen y Maes/Bryn Llys Meliden
M17	ME	Part Resurface	Prestatyn	Tudor Avenue/Aberconwy/Norman/Bosworth Grove Prestatyn
M18	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Top of Fforddlas/Stoneby Drive/Bryntirion Court Prestatyn
M19	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Ochyr y Bryn Henllan
M20	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Llandaff Drive/Broadway/Burlington Drive Prestatyn
M21	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Ffordd Tynwydd/Rhodfa Hendre Meliden
M22	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Maes Meurig/Cefn y Gwyrch Meliden
M23	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Ferguson Av/Willows/Sandhurst Prestatyn
M24	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Dawson Drive Prestatyn
M25	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Plas Uchaf Avenue, Prestatyn
M26	ME	Complete	Elwy	Maes y Graig Bodfari
M27	ME	Complete	Elwy	Bryn Coed St Asaph
M28	ME	Complete	Elwy	Pandy Lane Dyserth
M29	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Plastirion Drive Prestatyn
M30	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Clement/Merfyn Way Rhyl
M31	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Princess Avenue Prestatyn
M32	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Sycamore Crecent/Elmsway Drive Prestatyn
M33	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Grosvenor Avenue/Berwyn Crescent Prestatyn
M34	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	A5104 Jordans Garage, Bryneglwys
M35	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5429 Llysfasi to Tyn Llanfair
M36	RJ	Complete	Dee	B5437 Green Lane Junction to Carrog
M37	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Eryrys to Tan y Graig Junction
M38	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	B5430 jnc to Pant y Gwylanod
M39	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Bryn Awelon, Eryrys
M40	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	R555 Pen y Gaer
M41	RJ	Complete	Dee	Tower Road, Llangollen
M42	RJ	Complete	Dee	Dinbren Road from Tower Rd to Wharf Hill
M43	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llanfair DC
M44	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Ffordd Celyn, Denbigh

Surface Dressing				
SD01	ME	Complete	Denbigh	A543 Llyn Brenig
SD02	ME	Complete	Elwy	B5381 Eryl Hall
SD03	ME	Complete	Elwy	B5381 Glascoed to Bryn Pin
SD04	RJ	Complete	Dee	A539 Woodlands Corner
SD05	RJ	Complete	Dee	A542 Ty Newyddion Bend
SD06	RJ	Complete	Dee	A542 Pentre Isaf
SD08	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	B5429 Llandyrnog rbt to Creamery
SD09	ME	Complete	Elwy	Glascoed Road(R059 one section)
SD10	ME	Complete	Elwy	Cefn Road(R068)
SD11	ME	Complete	Elwy	Wigfair Road(R069)
SD12	ME	Complete	Elwy	Pont y Ddol Road(R058)
SD13	ME	Complete	Elwy	Nany Faenol Road Bodelwyddan(R048)
SD14	ME	Complete	Elwy	Cilgant Eglwys Wen Bodelwyddan
SD15	ME	Complete	Elwy	Nant Bach Road(R057) and Bryn Celyn Nr Glascoed(R056)
SD16	ME	Complete	Elwy	Lower Foel Road and Ffordd Ffynnon Dyserth
SD17	ME	Complete	Elwy	Rose Hill Lane(R070)
SD18	ME	Complete	Elwy	Rhuallt to Cwm Road(R030)
SD19	ME	Complete	Elwy	Tan y Coed Road(R029)
SD20	ME	Complete	Elwy	Groesffordd Marli Road(R062)

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE - MAINTENANCE SECTION -
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2011 / 2012**

INDEX:		Author: Tim Towers		
PN		Contract Status	AREA	Project Name / Address
SD21	RJ	Complete	Dee	Foel to finger farm(at finger farm end of road)
SD22	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llangwyfan to Llangynhafal
SD23	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llangynhafal to Llanbedr School junction
SD24	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Tafarn y Gelyn to top cattle grid
SD25	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llandyrnog Village past Ty Coch
SD26	RJ	Complete	Dee	Sun Trevor road
SD27	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Llangynhafal Church
SD28	RJ	Complete	Dee	Donkey Hill
SD29	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Speddyd Road
SD30	RJ	Complete	Dee	Dinbren Road (from A542 - Eglwyseg)
SD31	RJ	Complete	Dee	Worlds end road
SD32	RJ	Complete	Dee	Pentredwr - Eglwyseg
SD33	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	R366 Tyn Celyn
SD34	RJ	Complete	Dee	Old horseshoe pass
SD35	RJ	Complete	Dee	Pentredwr to Jct A542 (incl Pentredwr village)
SD36	RJ	Complete	Dee	Berwyn Area (excluding Tynycelyn hill)
SD37	RJ	Complete	Dee	Nantyr Road, Glyndyfyrdwy
SD38	RJ	Complete	Dee	Rhydyglaves Road, Cynwyd
SD39	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Melin y Wig to Bettws GG
SD40	RJ	Complete	Dee	Bodheulog Road, Cynwyd
SD41	RJ	Complete	Dee	Dolgynlas Road, Bettws GG
SD42	RJ	Complete	Dee	Allt y Billo

Footway Slurry				
FS01	ME	Complete	Rhyl	A548 Coast Road by Robin Hood camp
FS02	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Brynheddyd Road Rhyl
FS03	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Pen y Maes Avenue Rhyl
FS04	ME	Complete	Rhyl	B5119 Grange Road Rhyl
FS05	ME	Complete	Rhyl	Bath Street Rhyl
FS06	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	A547 Gronant Road Prestatyn
FS07	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Warren Road/Drive/Close & section of Marine Road Prestatyn
FS08	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Plastirion Drive/Avenue Prestatyn
FS09	ME	Complete	Elwy	Heol y Hendre/Grenville Avenue Rhuddlan
FS10	ME	Complete	Elwy	Bryn Coed St Asaph
FS11	ME	Complete	Prestatyn	Ffordd Tanrallt Meliden
FS12	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Love Lane, Denbigh
FS13	ME	Complete	Elwy	A525 Chester Street St Asaph
FS14	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Love Lane Denbigh
FS15	RJ	Ongoing	Ruthin	Footway Slurry South (Various)

Carried Over from 2010 / 11				
C01	RJ	Completed	Ruthin	Pen Coed Road, Eryrys
C02	RJ	Completed	Ruthin	Record Street, Ruthin
C03	RJ	Completed	Ruthin	Dog Lane, Ruthin
C04	RJ	Completed	Ruthin	Bontuchel to Clocaenog
C05	RJ	Completed	Ruthin	Maes y Delyn Junction, Cyffylliog
C06	RJ	Completed	Dee	Abbey Road, Llangollen
C07	RJ	Completed	Dee	Vicarage Road, Llangollen
C08	ME	Ongoing	Dee	Bodnant Bridge, Prestatyn

Additions				
A01	ME	Complete	Rhyl	West Parade (Part only)
A02	ME	Complete	Denbigh	Henllan Street / Gwaenynog Road Junction
A03	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Clocaenog School Junction
A04	RJ	Complete	Denbigh	Wern Chapel to Ysceibion Bach Jct, Llanrhaedr
A05	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Bontuchel to Cae Haidd Junction
A06	RJ	Complete	Ruthin	Colomendy Road, Cyffylliog

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Modernising the Council

Report Authors: Principal Energy Manager/
Head of Finance and Property

Title: Energy Efficiency

1. What is the report about?

The report is an overview of the Council's progress in becoming more energy efficient.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To update members on the Council's progress in becoming more energy efficient and provide information on the accuracy of utility billing and carbon reporting.

2.2 To seek the Committee's views on the measures taken/being developed to improve performance in energy efficiency and consequently mitigate the risks of additional financial costs to the Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the progress made to date on improving the Council's energy efficiency and provides observations accordingly.

4. Report details.

Consumption and Costs

4.1 The Council's energy consumption in 2010/11 was 50,298,039 Kwh which equates to 13,338 tonnes of CO2 and cost the Council around £2m for electricity and £800k for gas.

4.2 The top five sites for consumption of gas and electricity (by cost and excluding street lights) for 2010/11 are shown below.

Electricity Cost £		Gas Cost £	
56,702	Pavilion Theatre	37,083	Rhyl High School
	Car Parks		Prestatyn High
56,164	Underground	36,749	School
53,904	Rhyl High School	36,115	Brynhyfryd School

	Prestatyn High		Rhyl Leisure
45,347	School	29,259	Centre
42,730	Rhyl Leisure Centre	24,166	Pavilion Theatre

- 4.3 Energy prices have continued to rise and it is forecast that the Council will have to pay an additional 10% in 2012 (although this has yet to be confirmed)
- 4.4 The Government had been developing a Carbon Trading Scheme that would encourage large organisations to become more energy efficient. However, as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) the scheme was revised into a tax. It is similar to the Landfill Tax that the Council already has to pay. The current proposals are that each tonne of carbon will cost £12. Based on this figure the Authority will have to pay £160,000 in Carbon Tax in 2012/13. This is likely to go up significantly each year (in a similar manner to Landfill Tax).
- 4.5 The graph in Appendix 1 shows 2 years' energy consumption and indicates how Denbighshire compared to other Welsh authorities. In 2009/10 we decreased our consumption by 6% compared to the previous year, but in 2010/11 it increased by 2%.
- 4.6 The graph also shows not only a wide range of changes between councils but also in individual councils over the two years. This is likely to be due to the high level of estimated figures used in the two years and poor data quality. This was certainly the case in Denbighshire. During 2010/11 over two thirds of meter readings were estimated. This leads to high levels of inaccuracy and volatility. The graph clearly suggests that at least seven other councils were not providing accurate meter readings over the period.
- 4.7 Appendix 2 shows the improvements in meter readings that have taken place during the first 6 months of 2011. By September over 70% of readings were actuals. A significant number of those that are left relate to small usage sites or those that are occupied by third parties. The Council has over 200 sites for which it pays electricity and the combined annual cost of the electricity use of the bottom 30% is less than £15k. This shows that it is not cost effective to read all meters every month.
- 4.8 Part of the improvement is down to an agreed protocol that was introduced at the beginning of 2011 with site and building managers across the County. Part of the improvement is also down to the continued roll out of 'Smart Meters'. These are able to automatically read meters and download the readings to us directly. Currently 60% of our sites, supplied with gas, have Smart Meters (SMR). This will be increased to 80% within the next 12 months. Less than 1% of our sites have electric SMRs. With the help of British Gas we have started rolling out a programme of installing these units in sites where it is difficult to read or

we are not getting readings from the sites. Sites are now being monitored monthly to see if they would benefit from a Smart Meter.

4.9 The majority of the sites above have benefited from the installation of energy savings measures but some have just been advised on good housekeeping practises. An Energy Efficiency training programme for caretakers and building managers is being rolled out in January. The scheme will demonstrate how good housekeeping can reduce energy consumption by at least 10%. In December 2010 the caretaker from Caledfryn won the Excellence Denbighshire – Internal Customer Service award for his improvements to energy efficiency in the building.

4.10 Since June this year, Corona Energy, our gas supplier, encountered major problems with their computer billing software. We have not paid any gas bills since June but it is hoped that July and August will be cleared by the 1st week in January. We will then have 6 months data to compare with last year to see if our consumption has decreased.

Energy Saving Projects

4.11 During the past 2 years a significant number of energy saving projects have been undertaken using both Council funds and interest free loans from Salix (an organisation set up to promote improved energy efficiency). Appendix 3 shows a sample of projects that were undertaken during 2010/11 and their impact on energy usage for the first 6 months of this year. Appendix 4 shows a sample of projects undertaken during 2011/12 and their likely impact on energy costs. Further projects are being developed and delivered.

4.12 A detailed review of possibilities for major renewable energy schemes was also undertaken during 2011. This looked at investments ranging from developing the Council's own solar farm or wind farm down to micro generation on specific buildings.

4.13 The review discounted large scale energy farms as not cost effective given the likely changes to government subsidies.

4.14 The review however did recommend medium scale, site specific investment at 4 large secondary schools that would use a mixture of technologies. These projects were worked up to full business case stage and were due to be presented to the Strategic Investment Group (SIG) in December. However, the Government's recent announcement that it would halve the grant payable on such schemes has meant they are no longer viable. They will be revisited to see if smaller schemes are still viable at these sites.

4.15 Detailed work has also been undertaken at Rhyl Leisure Centre with a major energy supplier to look at introducing a renewable energy heating system. Government grants for heating have not been cut in the same way as electricity grants and this project will provide one of biggest energy using sites with heat from renewable energy sources. This will bring more

efficient plant, lower energy prices and reduce the carbon emissions from the site. Negotiations are at an advanced stage and the project should be agreed in January. Should the project prove successful, we are likely to undertake further similar projects.

Department Resources

- 4.16 The Council had adopted a Carbon Reduction Strategy in 2008 which set a target for a reduction in energy use of 3% per year. It did not however provide additional resources to implement this strategy and allocated a very limited budget for energy saving projects.
- 4.17 During 2010 the Department was restructured to place a bigger emphasis on energy efficiency. Previously, the Energy Manager had also been responsible for managing all office moves which meant that he was unable to dedicate any time to reducing our energy consumption. He also had very little support in the task. Energy Management was moved into the Strategic Asset Management Team to give it greater prominence. Short term funding (12 – 18 months) was obtained for two additional members of staff. One worked on engaging with departments, increasing 'green' initiatives and improving communication with services. The other completed a review of renewable energy possibilities for the Council including full wind and solar maps of the County and proposals for larger renewable energy projects. An additional permanent member of staff was also appointed to support operational improvements such as data collection and database management.
- 4.18 During 2011 the Team therefore grew to 5 people and a number of initiatives were implemented as detailed above. Both of the temporary officers have now left and the remaining temporary funding will be used to employ another officer for a further 12 months to continue improving the service.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Council has set itself a target to reduce carbon emissions by 3% a year until 2020. The work in progress will help it meet that target. By being more Energy Efficient the Council will make monetary savings by spending less on utilities allowing funds to be released for other priority areas.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The Council spends almost £3m a year on gas and electricity. This will increase significantly over coming years and the introduction of the Carbon Tax has further increased the costs of energy.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Consultation was carried out with Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to improve energy management at specific sites and work was also undertaken with schools and other large use sites to determine how best to improve.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The high and increasing cost of energy means that the Council must continue to improve its energy management and be prepared to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The risks of not continuing the improvement in the service are mainly financial with increased energy and tax costs.

10. Power to make the Decision

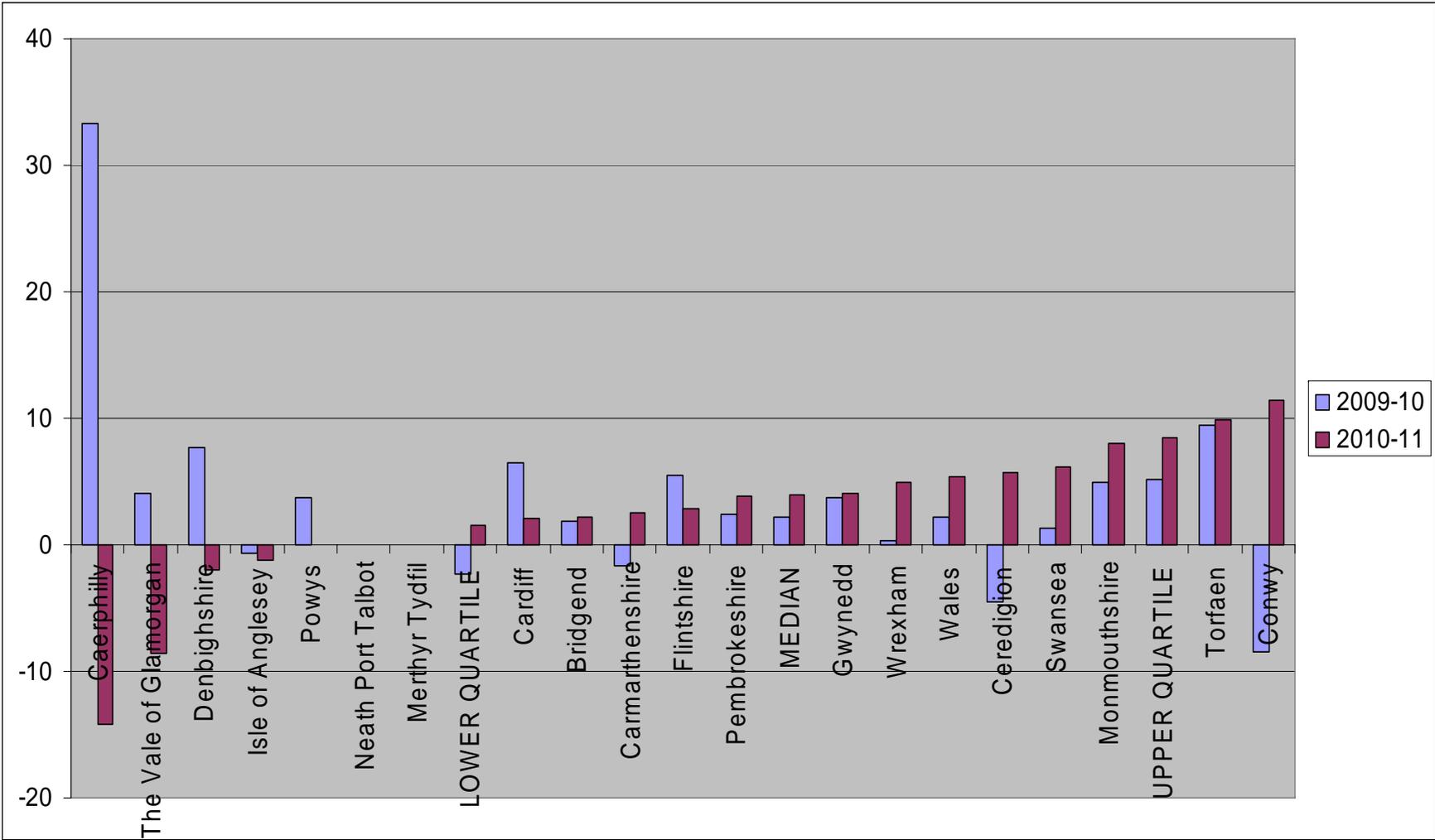
N/A.

Contact Officers:

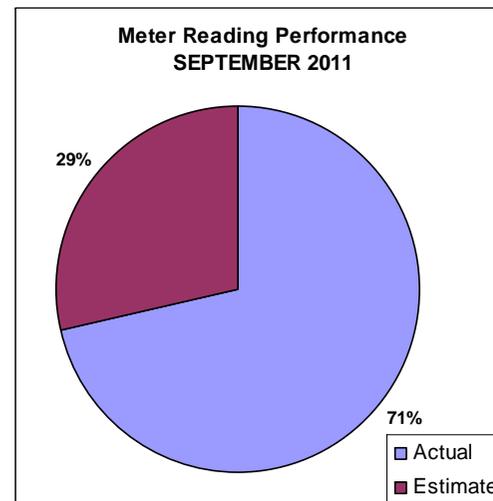
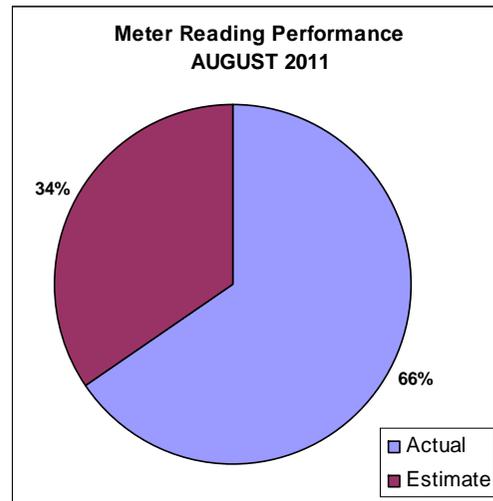
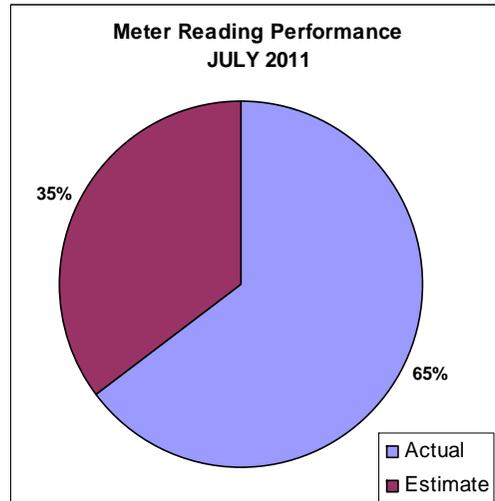
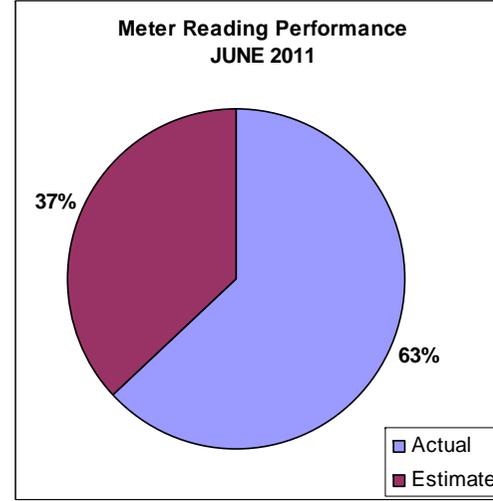
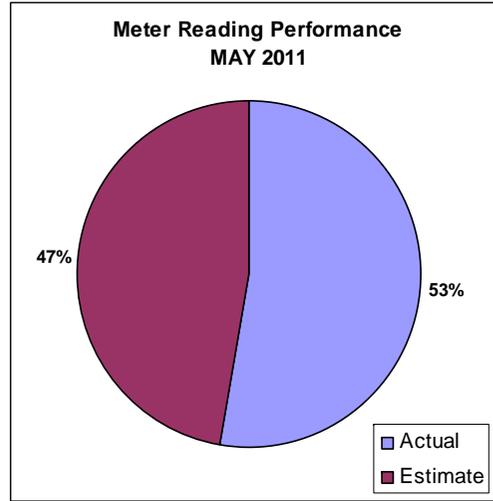
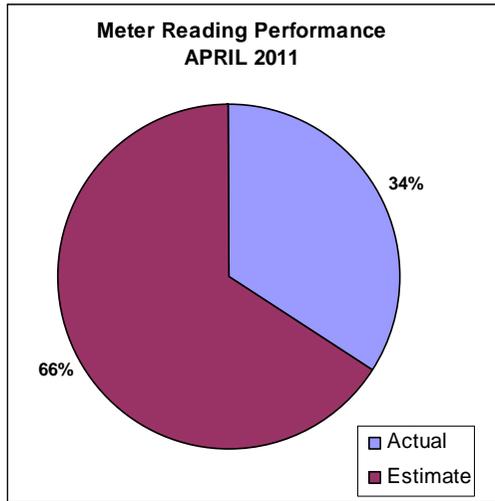
Principal Energy Manager
01824 706733

Head of Finance and Property
Tel: 01824 706140

APPENDIX 1 - National Performance Indicator EEF/002 - % change in CO2 emissions in non domestic public stock



APPENDIX 2 – Increase in Meter Readings Apr – Sept 2011



APPENDIX 3 – Energy Saving Projects

Sample of energy savings

Sites	Energy Consumption Kwh April - Sept 2010	Energy Consumption Kwh April - Sept 2011	% Saving	
Primary schools				
Bodnant Junior	78,512	66,563	-17.95	New heating controller and zoned the heating system
Ysgol Cae Drewyn	32,566	31,028	-4.96	New heating controller
Ysgol Y Castell	76,499	60,603	-26.23	New heating controller
High Schools				
Brynhyfryd school site	854,886	683,479	-25.08	Power perfector
Glan Clwyd site	365,801	343,403	-6.52	Oil to gas conversion
Rhyl High site	1,195,116	923,266	-29.44	Power perfector , new controls at leisure centre, pool cove
Offices				
County Hall	601,146	579,741	-3.69	New cooling system in server room
Russell Hse	127,377	109,140	-16.71	New heating controller
Trem Clwyd	118,799	77,412	-53.46	Closed
Tourism				
International Pavilion	227,308	193,567	-17.43	Good housekeeping
Libraries				
Ruthin	59,309	51,509	-15.14	Good housekeeping
St Asaph	21,794	13,226	-64.78	Heating controller reprogrammed
Total	3,759,114	3,132,937	-16.66	Average saving

APPENDIX 4 – Energy Saving Projects 2011/12

Date Installed	Project	Installed cost £	Savings up to Nov 2011 £	Predicted annual savings £
Aug 2011	Brynhyfryd insulation works	13,125	500	5,000
Jun 2011	Corwen Pool lighting controls	3,166	800	1,000
July 2011	Dinas Bran light sensors	1,500	200	500
Sept 2011	Denbigh Leisure centre, controls	5,550	500	1,500
May 2011	Russell House heating controls	605	300	800
July 2011	Dinas Bran light sensors	553	200	200
Oct 2011	Caledfryn BMS	1,242	250	500
Aug 2011	Dinas bran controls	1,600	550	1,000
Sept 2011	Prestatyn High Replace lamps	7,115	1,000	2,500
June 2011	Caledfryn 4 High driers	1,360	100	400
Sept 2011	Dolwen new lighting	6,800	800	3,500
16.06.11	Dinas bran, Aqualogic controls	2,685	600	1,000
06.7.2011	Dinas Bran insulation	1,327	300	500
01.08.11	Dinas Bran, new valves	5,000	1,000	2,000
Sept 2011	Bryn Collen, insulation	2,500	200	1,000
May 2011	Heulfre School Denbigh, controls	257	50	150
27.10.11	Ruthin Leisure centre, controls	6,500	1,000	2,500
Oct 2011	Rhyl large pool cover	16,986	400	5,000
04.01.2012	Rhyl small pool cover	6,000	0	2,000
Oct 2011	Rhyl Leisure heating controls	11,000	300	3,000
Dec 2011	Denbigh High new controls	6,378	0	2,000
Sept 2011	East parade LED lighting	6,430	200	2,000
12.12.11	Water controls Bodnant Jun	225	20	100
12.12.11	Heating Controls, Caledfryn	600	100	400
	TOTAL	108,503	9,370	38,550

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2012

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Finance and Efficiency/
Head of Finance and Property

Report Author: Head of Finance and Property

Title: Finance Report

1. What is the report about?

This report is the regular update received by the Committee on the progress of the Council's revenue budget and the efficiency savings programme.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update the committee on the position as at the end of November

3. What are the recommendations?

That Scrutiny Committee consider the report and make any recommendations to Cabinet.

4. Report details.

The monthly finance monitoring report gives an update on the movements on the year end forecasts for the Council's revenue budget along with a summary of the capital plan and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Appendix 1 is the report that was presented to Cabinet in December.

The report shows that the Council is likely to under spend by about £294k on its services excluding schools. A number of these savings have arisen as services begin to make preparations for savings in 2012/13 with staff leaving etc.

During the budget setting process an allowance of 5% for slippage against savings was made. With all services forecasting under spends or a balanced position it is likely this allowance will not be needed and will also generate an under spend.

Currently schools are forecasting an over spend of £446k which is similar to last month. One of the key risks of forecasting the year end is that the Welsh Government often make one-off grants available to Councils late in the financial year. This regularly happens with schools and can make a significant difference to the year-end position.

This has already begun to happen in 2011/12 as since the finance report was presented to Cabinet in December, the Council received notification from the Welsh Government that we would be receiving an additional £200k for Highways revenue works that must be spent in this financial year.

The external financial environment continues to be highly volatile and is both a short term risk for investments but also a longer term risk for the future financial settlements the Council may receive. The short term risks are managed through the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and overseen by the Corporate Governance Committee. The longer term risks are managed through the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The revenue budget underpins all of the Council's activities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no costs associated with the report.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

N/A

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Proper management of the revenue budget is key to the Council being able to deliver its services.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Shown in the Appendix 1

Report To: CABINET
Date of Meeting: 13th December 2011
Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill
Lead Officer: Paul McGrady, Head of Finance & Assets
Title: Finance Report

1 What is the report about?

The report gives a forecast position for the council's revenue budget and performance against the budget strategy for 2011/12 as at the end of November 2011. The report also gives a summary update of the Capital Plan, the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

The report advises members of the latest financial forecasts in order to deliver the agreed budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Capital Plan and the Housing Stock Business Plan.

3 What are the Recommendations?

Members note the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4 Report details

The latest revenue budget forecast is presented as **Appendix 1** and shows a net under spend of £294k on council services (£484k last month). A significant part of the movement between months relates to the approval to fund a capital scheme in Highways which removes £250k from the total under spend. There are also variances within some services compared to original forecasts but these are being managed within the services.

Schools are currently forecast to be over spent in total by £446k. Further details of departmental budget performance are shown below. The Housing Revenue Account summary is also included in Appendix 1 for information but this is a separate fund and not part of the council's revenue budget.

Appendix 2 to this report gives an update showing progress against the savings and pressures agreed as part of the 2011/12 budget setting process. In total, net savings of £6.359m were agreed and so far, £6.024m (95%) have been achieved with £0.275m (4%) still in progress. The net figure looks the same as last month but this is because both savings and pressures have

been confirmed as 'achieved' – meaning confirmed in the case of pressures. There remains £275k of savings in progress, some of which will not be confirmed until the end of the financial year, though confidence is high that all will be achieved. The £150k reduction in staff advertising costs has been achieved insofar as departmental budgets have been reduced on a pro-rata basis. However, expenditure to date would suggest that the total will be less than last year but not to the full amount of the saving. Savings in relation to the review of day care provision for older people (£60k) will not be achieved in the current financial year but should be achieved next year.

The Medium Term Financial Plan made a provision of 5% to cover slippage within the year against the savings proposed. The provision equates to £318k and currently £275k of the savings has yet to be confirmed as delivered. If the savings are delivered the provision will generate a cash surplus within the financial year.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective management of the council's revenue and capital budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities.

6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

This section of the report is used to highlight any key variances from budget or savings targets, risks or potential additional savings that may arise throughout the year and to give a more general update on the Capital Plan and the Housing Revenue Account.

Revenue Budget - The revenue budget for services to the end of November shows a projected under spend of £294k (£484k last month). Departmental details are highlighted below.

The under spend in **Business Planning & Performance** is primarily related to the budget for the administration of the Cymorth grant. It was agreed at the recent service challenge that this could be reviewed as a possible budget saving in future if the net departmental position continues to show an under spend.

The **Finance and Assets** budget is forecast to be balanced in total. However, within this, the **Property Services** budget continues to face a considerable pressure on fee income targets as a result of the reduction in the council's capital works budget but efforts are continuing to reduce this. The pressure has reduced since the last report due to new Design works being commissioned for the proposed new school extension at Ysgol Llys and some savings on the office accommodation budget due to a vacant caretaking post at Russell House Rhyl.

Highways & Infrastructure shows a forecast position of £162k under spent. As reported in detail previously, the department has achieved the departmental savings target of £150k and a further £100k in relation to procurement savings on school transport. The latest position allows for £250k of in-year cash surpluses accrued to be invested in a capital scheme to improve salt storage in Ruthin (as agreed by Cabinet last month). The budgets for road maintenance are currently forecasting an under spend in total but within this is the budget for winter maintenance which is subject to swings in demand depending on weather conditions.

The **Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection** Department has a budget savings target of £200k in 2011/12 and is well on course to achieve this in full. Added to this, the department is forecasting an under spend which has increased to £62k (£32k last month) due to the latest projection for Development Control income increasing by circa £25k for the year and some under spend on the Conservation budget as a result of staffing savings.

Adult Services budgets are shown as balanced but assume that £393k of Supporting People grant will be used to fund pressures within the year (£455k last month). This was part of the strategy agreed at the service challenge in 2010 to manage in-year cost pressures. However, the subsidy from Supporting People will be reducing and ultimately removed so underlying pressures will have to be addressed in the medium term. The impact of the Welsh Government's Fairer Charging initiative (capping non-residential charges at £50 per week) has seen an increase in demand on services and created a pressure of approximately £500k in the current year. Latest figures of people in long-term residential care indicate that there has been a reduction from the same point last year.

The **Environment Services Department** has a budget savings target of £541k in 2011/12 and is well on course to achieve this in full. The department is forecasting an under spend for the year. This has reduced to £58k (£88k last month) mainly as a result of an additional one-off spend on repairs to play area equipment following a direct response to Priority 1 repairs highlighted on recent external playground inspection reports.

The savings targets within **Customer Services** total £271k this year. Of this, £126k is in relation to procurement efficiencies and is on target. It can be assessed more effectively as actual expenditure on consumables is reviewed toward the end of the year.

Schools – The forecast on schools budgets remains unchanged with a net overspend £446k. The position includes eight schools in financial difficulty. Schools with a forecast deficit position are required to submit proposals to achieve a balanced budget. Schools with an over spend at year-end will carry the deficit balance forward.

Capital Plan – Expenditure to the end of October is £16.2m against a plan of £35.9m for the year. **Appendix 4** shows a summary of the plan and how it is financed and **Appendix 5** gives a brief update on the major capital projects.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – The latest HRA forecast shows a planned in-year deficit of £1.140m against an original budget of £1.025m. The forecast deficit is currently £115k higher than the original budget. Expenditure has increased this month to account for the full cost of external reviews of the HRA. The planned in-year deficit arises as £1.3m of revenue budget is to be used to fund capital expenditure as part of the agreed Housing Stock Business Plan for 2011/12. The Business Plan remains viable and based on the latest forecast, the HRA balance carried forward will be £869k (£901k reported last month).

The Housing Capital Plan is forecast expenditure remains almost the same as last month and is forecast to spend £5.197m (£5.196m last month) compared to the budgeted estimate of £5.969m for the year. This is due to the delay in the commencement of a contract for major improvement but this will not delay the achievement of Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the end of 2012. A summary of the latest HRA position is shown in the table below.

Housing Revenue Account & Capital Plan Summary:

<u>Housing Revenue Account Summary 2011/12</u>	
<u>November 2011</u>	
Expenditure	£'000
Housing Management & Maintenance	5,343
Capital Charges	2,632
Subsidy	3,079
Provision for Bad Debts	26
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,341
Total Expenditure	12,421
Income	
Rents	11,120
Garages	153
Interest	9
Total Income	11,282
In Year Deficit	1,139
HRA Balance Carried Forward	869

<u>Housing Capital Plan</u>	
<u>November 2011</u>	
	£,000
Planned Expenditure	5,197
Funded By:	
Major Repairs Allowance	2,400
Revenue Contribution	1,341
Capital Receipts	17
Borrowing	1,439
Total	5,197

7 What consultations have been carried out?

The revenue budget was recommended by cabinet and agreed formally by council after an extensive round of service challenges. The capital plan was approved by council following scrutiny by the Capital & Assets Strategy Group (now called the Strategic Investment Group) and recommendation by cabinet. The Housing Revenue Account has been approved following consultation with elected members and tenant federation representatives.

8 Chief Finance Officer Statement

It is a significant achievement to have already delivered most of the savings target for the year. Those savings that remain as in-progress will continue to be reviewed over the coming weeks to ensure all remain achievable. The recent service challenges have proved useful in both assessing savings and pressures in the current year.

It is likely that the overall position may improve because progress made in the delivery of some of next year's savings targets may begin to have an impact toward the end of the current year. Some corporately held budgets for specific provisions that are committed in future years may generate a cash surplus in the current year. It would be prudent to carry the budgeted provision for slippage against agreed savings forward to 2012/13. The use of any in-year surpluses must be carefully considered in relation to the council's Medium Term Financial Plan and in the context of continuing budget pressures.

Economic Commentary & Treasury Management Update

Financial markets continue to be very volatile and this is causing problems as the number of institutions with which the council can invest is very limited. Earlier in the year, the council decided to limit all investments to six months as a prudent measure. More recently, the ratings of a number of UK banks have been downgraded. This has a direct impact on the council's treasury management strategy and meant that amendments had to be agreed to the strategy for the current year to allow the council to place cash on deposit with its appointed bankers. Deposits with other UK banks have now been limited to between 1-3 months. The council is continually exploring all prudent options to ensure that investments are secure whilst also trying to achieve the most reasonable returns possible in the circumstances.

Total borrowing currently stands at £136m at an average rate of 5.73% and total investments are £23.0m at an average rate of 1.60%.

9 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver the agreed budget strategy will put further pressure on services in

the current and future financial years. Effective budget monitoring and control and early reporting of variances will help ensure that the financial strategy is achieved.

Specific risks are apparent when dealing with capital projects and can include expenditure or time overruns, funding issues and other non-financial considerations. A robust approval mechanism and close financial monitoring and reporting, along with effective project management procedures, help to minimise these risks.

The HRA is undertaking a considerable capital investment to improve the housing stock and using borrowing and grants to fund the works. Any borrowing must be affordable and the regular monitoring and annual approval and viability assessment of the Housing Stock Business Plan ensures that this is so.

10 Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2011/12

Forecast as at 30/11/2011	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance				Variance Previous Report £'000
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Net	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Business Planning & Performance	2,823	-1,867	956	2,783	-1,867	916	-40	0	-40	-4.18%	-40
Corporate Governance	2,089	-541	1,548	2,089	-541	1,548	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Finance & Assets	14,699	-7,433	7,266	14,715	-7,449	7,266	16	-16	0	0.00%	0
Highways & Infrastructure	20,214	-9,529	10,685	20,171	-9,648	10,523	-43	-119	-162	-1.52%	-371
Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection	5,608	-1,949	3,659	5,250	-1,653	3,597	-358	296	-62	-1.69%	-13
Adult & Business Services	44,861	-13,135	31,726	44,114	-12,388	31,726	-747	747	0	0.00%	0
Children & Family Services	9,504	-705	8,799	10,058	-1,259	8,799	554	-554	0	0.00%	0
Housing Services	2,150	-1,762	388	1,619	-1,203	416	-531	559	28	7.22%	25
Leisure, Libraries & Community Development	10,463	-4,713	5,750	10,788	-5,038	5,750	325	-325	0	0.00%	0
Strategic HR	1,668	-370	1,298	1,668	-370	1,298	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Customer Services	3,833	-862	2,971	3,833	-862	2,971	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Environment	19,713	-8,263	11,450	19,610	-8,218	11,392	-103	45	-58	-0.51%	-80
Modernising Education	1,326	0	1,326	1,326	0	1,326	0	0	0	0.00%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	11,258	-6,700	4,558	9,865	-5,307	4,558	-1,393	1,393	0	0.00%	-5
Total Services	150,209	-57,829	92,380	147,889	-55,803	92,086	-2,320	2,026	-294	-0.32%	-484
Corporate	42,823	-36,651	6,172	42,823	-36,651	6,172	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Precepts & Levies	4,549	0	4,549	4,549	0	4,549	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	12,104	0	12,104	12,104	0	12,104	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	59,476	-36,651	22,825	59,476	-36,651	22,825	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Council Services & Corporate Budget	209,685	-94,480	115,205	207,365	-92,454	114,911	-2,320	2,026	-294	-0.26%	-484
Schools	67,166	-7,226	59,940	67,612	-7,226	60,386	446	0	446	0.74%	446
Total Council Budget	276,851	-101,706	175,145	274,977	-99,680	175,297	-1,874	2,026	152	0.09%	-38
Housing Revenue Account	12,327	-11,302	1,025	12,421	-11,281	1,140	94	21	115	11.22%	83

* Note 1 - variances between income and expenditure include £455k of in year use of Supporting People grant to fund pressures.

* Note 2 - budget adjustments are required to account for new Families First Grant.

* Note 3 - budget adjustments required to account for changes in funding streams and costs.

**Appendix Medium Term Financial Plan Update 2011/12
Update to 31/11/2011**

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Saving £'000</u>	<u>Total £'000</u>	
General					
A1	Workforce Budget Reduction 1%	Achieved	125		Base budget reduction applied to staffing budgets.
A4	Reduce staff advertising	Achieved	150		Base budget reduction applied though actual expenditure has exceeded the total cut.
A5	Procurement savings	Achieved	200		Includes savings on e-tendering school transport contracts and new insurance contract.
A7	Costs of Democracy	Achieved	25		Reduction in cabinet membership etc.
A8	Review of Senior Management & Exec PAs	Achieved	365		Based on removal of 3 senior management posts and 2 PA posts.
A9	Reduce budget for Major Events	Achieved	40		Base budget reduction.
DS1	Reduction in School Roles	Achieved	340		Based on forecast reduction in pupil numbers.
DS2	Removal of Unused School Pay Budget Provision	Achieved	620		Removal of single status funding.
G1	Removal of one-off Budget 2010/11	Achieved	2,185	4,050	
Asset Review					
B1	Office accommodation	Achieved	80	80	Savings in relation to Trem Clwyd and Fronfaith.
Support Services Review					
C1	HR review	Achieved	50		Ongoing savings re HR Direct and impact of restructure, inc saving on 1 management post.
C12	Insurance Tender	Achieved	50		New contract has delivered savings. Part of the saving included in procurement target above.
C2	Property services - phase 1	Achieved	100		Savings through restructure - redundancy and reduction in use of agency staff.
C3	Legal services - phase 1	Achieved	42		Removal of a solicitor's post
C4	Democratic support	Achieved	52		Removal of a manager's post
C5	ICT/IM	Achieved	131		Four redundancies as part of reorganisation of the department
C5	ICT/IM	In Progress	14		Dependent upon wider use of Proactis to allow a further post to be declared redundant
C6	ICT/IM	In Progress	126		Procurement/consolidation of equipment - will be achieved but need to prove later in the year.
C7	Finance - Financial Management	Achieved	70	635	Removal of 2 posts in creditor payments
Service Challenges					
Leisure, Libraries & Community Development					
Da1	Leisure services- Management System	Achieved	40		New booking system and membership scheme
Da2	Back office co-location	Achieved	20		Savings in admin as sections move to one location
Da5	Remove subsidy by increasing income	Achieved	50		General increases in income from various sources
Dk2	Merger of N Wales Bibliographic Services	Achieved	20		Libraries
Dk3	Running Costs / Income	Achieved	27		Libraries - review of cleaning and caretaking costs
Dk4	Family Info and Archives review	Achieved	35		Libraries
Dk5	Review of housesbound service	In Progress	10	202	Libraries
Environmental Services					
Db11	Outsource Propogation	Achieved	30		Open spaces - included restricted use of nursery for bedding plants as well as outsourcing
Db13	Cemetaries charging -	Achieved	34		Increase charges over inflation
Db16	Countryside staff reduction	Achieved	24		Post reduction Senior Admin Officer
Db17	Tourism Service Redesign	Achieved	20		Saving of PA post.
Db18	Regeneration Service Redesign	Achieved	23		Savings from redefinition of roles, lower numbers and integrations with public realm and leisure.
Db2	Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Achieved	220		New recycling contract
Db5	Regional Waste Project Procurement Budget	Achieved	94		Reduction in project budget as it comes live
Db8	Reduce Overtime (Street Cleansing)	In Progress	20		Introduction of flat time for weekends and review of hours allocated to specific jobs
Db9	Fleet Efficiency	Achieved	50		Hired vehicles replaced by in-house
Db1/12	Other	Achieved	26		
Db14	WAG Waste Target Pressures	Confirmed	-247		Pressure is as originally forecast.
Db15	Free School Meals Cost Pressures	Confirmed	-130	164	Pressure is as originally forecast.
Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services					
Dc1	Review of Regeneration	Achieved	40		Staff reductions as a result of restructuring - includes elements of a management post
EC21	Review Pest Control	Achieved	30		Part of collaboration project - one post gone on EVR
EC22	Review Development Control	In Progress	20		Officer on long term sabbatical, not replaced.
EC25	Review of CCTV service	Achieved	20		Review of shift patterns and overtime.
EC26	Review of Pollution Control	Achieved	30		Part of the same project as noted against Pest Control (B Roberts)
EC27	Review of Trading Standards	Achieved	60	200	Part of collaboration - senior management posts shared with Conwy.

		Status	Saving £,000	Total £'000		
Highways & Infrastructure						
Dd1	Road Safety	Achieved	45		Various small savings due to use of traffic signals, anti-skid surfaces, etc. Based on work recharged to Conwy under collaborative structure. Savings based on work recharged to Conwy under collaborative structure. Part of the saving on collaborative parking arrangements brought forward from 12/13 Savings on admin/standardisation of policies etc Including fees for skips, increasing inspection/charges	
EC11	Street Lighting	Achieved	30			
	Public Transport	Replacement	30			
	Car Parking	Replacement	15			
EC14	Street Works	Achieved	20			
EC16	Winter Maintenance	In Progress	10	150		
Adult & Business Services						
Df1	Cefndy Healthcare	Achieved	60		Gradual removal of council subsidy Removal of one service manager post Reduction of administrative support as part of wider review Removal of long-term vacancies and introduction of new locality structure Changes to qualifying routes for social work trainees - more use of part-time OU courses plus Gd 8 post (60%) b Will be delivered in full next year (£120k) Investment in reablement packages (intensive home care) to avoid residential care. On target to be achieved. Saving is around the differential between residential care cost and extra care - up to £150 per week. Pressure reduced by £115k as PMDF grant has been paid in 2011/12 Includes savings through Telecare, re-ablement and reduction in contribution to Mental Health Partnership Loss of grant figure reduced by £115k as noted above. Impact being dampened in 2011/12 by use of Supporting People grant funding.	
Df10	Restructure part of service	Achieved	53			
Df16	Administration Rationalisation	Achieved	47			
Df17	Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	Achieved	40			
Df19	Workforce Development Review	Achieved	30			
Df6	Day care - review and rationalise	Deferred	60			
Df8	Impact of investment in reablement	In Progress	75			
Df9	Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	Achieved	60			
Df99	Compensating savings within the services	Achieved	451			
Df5,12-15	Other	Achieved	51			
P1/4/6	Loss of Grant	Confirmed	-179			
P2/3/5	Demographic Change	Confirmed	-272	476		
School Improvement & Inclusion						
Dh1	Service Restructure	Achieved	261	261		Includes the removal of 4.5 posts.
Children & Family Services						
Dj1	Management Changes	Achieved	105		Review of senior posts - includes removal of two senior manager level posts. CHC funding from the NHS has replaced the base budget for the team - long term funding. Includes £35k budget for projects that have now finished (inc merger etc), plus savings to therapy service Costs have been brought down but there is still a pressure hence marked as in progress. Deleted one vacant admin post and one further post will be redundant this year. Increased costs resulting from Southwark Judgement - more likely to be £20k. Pressure has reduced because of vacancies but offset by an increase in fostering pressure. Pressure has increased from the original estimate. Pressure is as expected.	
Dj10	TAPP Team change in funding	Achieved	93			
Dj3/6/9/13	Other Savings	Achieved	56			
Dj5	Re-shaping Supervised Contact Service	Achieved	33			
Dj2	Admin Rationalisation	Achieved	40			
Dj20	Legislative	Confirmed	-14			
Dj16/17	Social Worker & Staffing Pressures	Confirmed	-117			
Dj18	In-house Fostering	Confirmed	-62			
Dj19	Direct Payments	Confirmed	-24	110		
Housing Services						
Dz1	Various small savings	Achieved	31	31	Numerous small savings. Will be confirmed following review of total housing budget, including the HRA.	
Total Savings 2011/12				6,359		
Summary:			£'000	%		
Savings Achieved/Replaced or Pressures Confirmed			6,024	95		
Savings In Progress/Being Reviewed			275	4		
Savings Not Achieved/Deferred			60	1		
Total			6,359			

Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2011/12 - 2014/15

Position as at November 2011

APPENDIX 3

		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital Funding:					
1	General Funding:				
	Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing	6,262	6,596	3,674	3,490
	General Capital Grant	3,564	1,947	1,850	1,758
	General Capital Receipts	2,586			
	Earmarked Capital Receipts	276	32	0	0
		12,688	8,575	5,524	5,248
2	Prudential Borrowing	10,250	2,800	3	300
3	Reserves and Contributions	933	944	0	0
4	Specific Grants	13,067	7,897	2,659	549
	Total Finance	36,938	20,216	8,186	6,097
	Total Estimated Payments	-35,965	-13,885	-2,662	-849
	Contingency	-973	-1,500	-1,000	-1,000
	Earmarked Contingency				
	Unallocated Reserve	0	0	0	0
	Funding available	0	4,831	4,524	4,248

Appendix 4 Major Capital Projects Update

Rhyl Coastal Defence

Budget	£10.0m
Funding	WAG Grant
Expenditure to Date	£4.807m
Comments	<p>This 100% Welsh Government funded £10m coastal defence scheme will reduce the flood risk to some 2,000 properties and 500 businesses in West Rhyl. Approval for £7.04m of works for phases 1 & 2 has been given by the Welsh Government. These are the works to the inner harbour and river training wall.</p> <p>The works are underway and are anticipated to be complete by May 2012.</p> <p>Approval for phase 3 of the works, the proposed stepped revetment towards the drift park is still awaited. The Welsh Government has asked the Council to review the flood risk and calculate the most economic solution to reducing the flood risk. This is likely to be a rock revetment. This work is on-going.</p> <p>The Welsh Government have advised that should the Council decide to build a promenade, as originally proposed, the additional cost would need to be met by the Council.</p> <p>It looks increasingly likely that phase 3 will not be completed as part of the initial period of works, and the Welsh Government have asked for costs to complete phase 1 & 2 in isolation from phase 3. This will lead to an increase in cost and it is anticipated that the Welsh Government will fund these costs.</p> <p>The scheme is 100% funded by the Welsh Government until March 2012. Any costs incurred beyond this date will be eligible for a lesser grant contribution of approximately 87%. It is hoped to incur the majority of phase 1 & 2 costs before March 2012.</p> <p>It is likely that Phase 3 costs will require a 13% contribution from the Council.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£4.973m

Foryd Development

Budget	£9.940m (inc Revenue £413k)
Funding	WG, WEFO and Sustrans grants
Expenditure to Date	£0.657m
Comments	<p>Summary</p> <p>A preferred design for the project which supports the working harbour and provides a smaller timber modular building on the harbour square, was agreed further to meetings with the Project Board, Informal Cabinet, Welsh Government (WG) and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). This scheme has progressed and some value engineering undertaken.</p>

	<p>The cost report submitted for the project detailed that the forecast capital cost is over budget. A meeting with WG and WEFO has been held at which it was made clear that if the Council committed further funds to the project, then WEFO were prepared to commit a similar sum.</p> <p>Subsequently, Council on 15 November 2011 approved additional capital funding to this project with funding allocated to the capital contingency fund.</p> <p>Foryd Harbour Cycle & Pedestrian Bridge</p> <p>Detailed design is complete and detailed costs are being finalised.</p> <p>We await the Section 106 order to cross a navigable watercourse by the Minister. This should be received in early 2012.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a paper will be presented to Cabinet in January 2012 seeking permission to progress to the construction phase.</p> <p>It is anticipated off site prefabrication will commence in early 2012. Commencement of site works will complement the Public Square scheme to share site costs. This will likely be mid 2012 with completion by March 2013.</p> <p>Quayside Units, Public Square & Extended Quay Wall</p> <p>Public consultation for this element commenced on 12 November 2011. The Planning application was due to be submitted on 9 December 2011.</p> <p>The programme of works shows a start on site in June 2012 with the initial works being the construction of the quay walls. The programme of works for this element of works as mentioned above dovetails with that of the Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to enable the schemes to progress alongside each other. All aspects of the project are due to complete by March 2013.</p> <p>The monthly meetings with Foryd Harbour Users Forum are still taking place, where up to date information regarding the project is shared with members of the group. In addition further meetings have taken place separately with the Rhyl Chartered Skipper's Association, The Rhyl Fisherman's Association and Rhyl Yacht Club.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	A re profile of the project will be undertaken in December 2011.

Property Acquisition & Demolitions

Budget	£2.9m
Funding	£1.9m SRA Grant ; DCC Prudential Borrowing £1,025k
Expenditure to Date	£2.2m
Comments	<p>Council have previously approved the purchase of a number of properties in Rhyl with a view to demolition and the provision of public realm works:</p> <p>88 West Parade The Council has acquired the freehold of this property following Compulsory Purchase. It is anticipated that demolition of the property will take place during February 2012.</p> <p>24 West Parade Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of the freehold. Completion was due to be finalised during early December 2011.</p> <p>25 & 26 West Parade Discussions are taking place with the owner with a view to agreeing terms for the acquisition of the building.</p> <p>26 Abbey Street Transfer of ownership to the Authority proceeding.</p> <p>28 and 30 Abbey Street Both properties are now in the ownership of the Council. Preparatory survey work is underway with a view to demolitions taking place during February 2012.</p> <p>Costigans Exchange and completion of contracts was due to be finalised in early December. The intention is that following purchase; the property will be externally refurbished and offered for sale on the open market.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£1.2m

Highways Programme Works

Budget	£5.87m
Funding	£5.87m Prudential Borrowing
Expenditure to Date	£3.5m
Comments	<p>An allocation of £5.87M was made to progress highways capital works as part of the 2011/12 Capital Bid process.</p> <p>A regular update on progress achieved is produced by the Head of Highways and Infrastructure. The latest update (No 7) was sent out to all Councillors and SLT in early December 2011.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£5.87m

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2012

Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator

Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report presents the Performance Scrutiny Committee with its draft forward work programme for members' consideration.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

3. What are the recommendations?

That the Committee considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate.

4. Report details.

4.1 The Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.

4.2 The Committee is therefore requested to consider its draft work programme for future meetings, as detailed in appendix 1, and approve, revise or amend it as it deems appropriate taking into consideration:

- issues raised by members of the Committee
- matters referred to it by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group
- relevance to the Committee's/Council's/community priorities
- the Council's Corporate Plan and the Director of Social Services' Annual Report
- meeting workload
- timeliness
- outcomes
- key issues and information to be included in reports

- the scheduling of education related topics which require the attendance of the statutory education co-opted members
 - officers and/or lead Cabinet members who should be invited (having regard to whether their attendance is necessary or would add value)
 - questions to be put to officers/lead Cabinet members
- 4.3 When considering future items for inclusion on the forward work programme members may also find it helpful to bear the following questions in mind when determining a subject's suitability for inclusion on the work programme:
- what is the issue?
 - who are the stakeholders?
 - what is being looked at elsewhere
 - what does scrutiny need to know? and
 - who may be able to assist?
- 4.4 As mentioned in paragraph 4.1 above the Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on the Committee's business agenda they have to formally request the Committee to consider receiving a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested issues. No such proposal forms have been received for consideration at the current meeting.
- 4.5 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
A copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 2. The Committee may find this document useful when considering items for inclusion on its programme of future work.
- 4.6 Progress on Committee Resolutions
A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council in monitoring and reviewing policy issues.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

None required for this report. However, the report itself and the consideration of the forward work programme represents a consultation process with the Committee with respect to its programme of future work.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

9. Power to make the decision

Article 6.3.7 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work.

Contact Officer:

Scrutiny Coordinator

Tel No: (01824) 712554

Email: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Note: Any items entered in italics have not been approved for inclusion at the meeting shown by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
23 February	1 Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services [Lead Members to be invited] [report to highlight areas of poor or declining performance/major concern/capacity issues]	To consider performance in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Development Plan - Disabled Facilities Grants - Enforcement issues - North Wales Hospital (Financial / Reputation Risk) - Appeals (monitoring our performance) - Financial Plan for Rhyl Regeneration (including Financing Rhyl Going Forward) - Bringing empty homes back into occupation - The additional number of HMOs taken through the licensing scheme 	Identification of performance-related issues.	Graham Boase	June 2011
	2 Housing Services [report to highlight areas of poor or declining performance/major concern/capacity issues]	To consider performance in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Housing Quality Standards - Waiting Lists and Allocations - Tenancy Agreements - Rent Arrears 	Identification of performance-related issues.	Peter McHugh	June 2011

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
	3 Monitoring Performance Against the Corporate Plan (QPR 3) and Project Register [exceptions reporting on performance/project issues]	To scrutinise the Council's performance in delivering its Corporate Plan and <i>progress on the Council's major projects</i>	(i) Identification of trends or areas of poor performance leading to recommendations to address declining performance and realise the Council's ambition to become a high performing authority (ii) Identification of risks with respect to major projects not being delivered on time or within budget and the formulation of recommendations to address any problems identified	Tony Ward/Keith Amos	September 2011
	4 Welsh Public Library Authorities: Annual Return 2010/11 and Review of the Housebound Service	(i) to consider the findings of CyMAL's Annual Return on the performance of the Authority's Library Service (with particular emphasis on those areas which achieved the lowest 4 positions); and (ii) to consider the findings of the Review of the Housebound Service	The identification of measures to improve the Council's performance in those areas which attained the lowest performance positions and monitor the recommendations emanating from the Review of the Housebound Service	Jamie Groves/Arwyn Jones	By SCVCG November 2011
	5 Monitoring of the Capital Programme	To scrutinise and monitor the Council's Capital Programme and the recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group	Identification of potential areas of risk with respect to the capital plan and the formulation of measures and recommendations to address any risks identified	Paul McGrady/ Richard Humphreys	October 2011 [rescheduled December]
	6 Corporate Risk Register (tbc)	To bring the high level corporate risks for scrutiny	Part of the risk management monitoring and improvement	Alan Smith/Tony	June 2011 (rescheduled)

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			arrangements	Ward	November 2011)
5 April	1 Monitoring of the Capital Programme	To scrutinise and monitor the Council's Capital Programme	Identification of potential areas of risk with respect to the capital plan and the formulation of measures and recommendations to address any risks identified	Paul McGrady/ Richard Humphreys	October 2011
	2 Financial Report 2011/12 <i>(tbc)</i>	To monitor the Council's performance against its budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the MTFP	(i) identification of areas of potential overspend/underspend and budgetary pressures; and (ii) delivery of the Council's budget strategy and MTFP	Paul McGrady	September 2011
17 May <i>(provisionally)</i>	1 Your Voice' complaints performance (including Social Services and Education complaints)	To scrutinise performance on a quarterly basis through the Council's complaints process. <i>(to include exceptions reporting and narrative for performance areas registering red/amber)</i>	Identification of areas of poor performance and development of recommendations with a view to improving performance and service delivery	Steven Goodrum / Catherine Spencer	July 2011
	2 Monitoring Performance Against the Corporate Plan (QPR 4) and Project Register [exceptions reporting on performance/project issues]	To scrutinise the Council's performance in delivering its Corporate Plan and <i>progress on the Council's major projects</i>	(i) Identification of trends or areas of poor performance leading to recommendations to address declining performance and realise the Council's ambition to become a high performing authority (ii) Identification of risks with respect to major projects not being delivered on time or within budget and the	Tony Ward/Keith Amos	September 2011

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered	
			formulation of recommendations to address any problems identified			
	3	Financial Report 2011/12	To monitor the Council's performance against its budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the MTFP	(i) identification of areas of potential overspend/underspend and budgetary pressures; and (ii) delivery of the Council's budget strategy and MTFP	Paul McGrady	September 2011
	4	Review of Educational Support Services (building capacity in schools) [Education item]	To consider the findings of the review into Educational Support Services	The development of building capacity within schools to aid the effective use of their delegated budgets	Jackie Walley/Carly Wilson	By SCVCG November 2011
July	1	Monitoring of the Capital Programme	To scrutinise and monitor the Council's Capital Programme	Identification of potential areas of risk with respect to the capital plan and the formulation of measures and recommendations to address any risks identified	Paul McGrady/ Richard Humphreys	October 2011
	2	Transformation of Post 16 Education [Education]	To present the draft proposals for transforming the provision of post 16 education in Denbighshire	The development of a viable and robust policy for the delivery of post 16 education in the county	John Gambles	May 2011 rescheduled by SCVCG November 2011
	3	Post 16 School Transport [Education]	To consider the effectiveness of the delivery of post 16 education in the County and its associated costs	Development of an effective and efficient transport strategy that will contribute to improved achievements and outcomes for pupils and students	John Gambles/Carly Wilson	By SCVCG November 2011

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
September	1	Annual Report 2011/12	To report the Council's performance against the set PIs for 2010/12	Identification of trends or areas of poor performance leading to recommendations to address declining performance and realise the Council's ambition to be a high performing authority	Tony Ward	September 2011
	2	Financial Report 2012/13	To monitor the Council's performance against its budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the MTFP	(i) identification of areas of potential overspend/underspend and budgetary pressures; and (ii) delivery of the Council's budget strategy and MTFP	Paul McGrady	September 2011
<i>Sep/Oct [whole meeting]</i>	1	<i>CSSIW's Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance</i>	<i>To consider the CSSIW's annual report on Adult and Children's Services</i>	Identification of performance-related issues	Sally Ellis/Phil Gilroy/Leighton Rees	<i>Novemebr 2011</i>
October	1	Monitoring Performance Against the Annual Plan, Corporate Plan (QPR 1) and Project Register [exceptions reporting on performance/project issues]	To scrutinise the Council's performance in delivering its Corporate Plan and <i>progress on the Council's major projects</i>	(i) Identification of trends or areas of poor performance leading to recommendations to address declining performance and realise the Council's ambition to become a high performing authority (ii) Identification of risks with respect to major projects not being delivered on time or within budget and the formulation of recommendations to address any problems identified	Tony Ward/Keith Amos	September 2011

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
	2	Monitoring of the Capital Programme	To scrutinise and monitor the Council's Capital Programme	Identification of potential areas of risk with respect to the capital plan and the formulation of measures and recommendations to address any risks identified	Paul McGrady/ Richard Humphreys	October 2011
	3	Review of Foundation Phase Provision and outcomes of KS1 and KS3 assessments [Education]	To consider the findings of the Review of the Foundation Phase and the provisional exam and teacher assessment results	Identification of any shortfalls in performance and development of measures to improve performance and the delivery of education	Julian Molloy	By SCVCG November 2011
December	1	Financial Report 2012/13	To monitor the Council's performance against its budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the MTFP	(i) identification of areas of potential overspend/underspend and budgetary pressures; and (ii) delivery of the Council's budget strategy and MTFP	Paul McGrady	September 2011
January 2013	1	<i>External Examinations and Teacher Assessments 2010 – 2011</i> [Education]	<i>To review the performance of schools and that of looked after children</i>	<i>Scrutiny of performance leading to recommendations for improvement</i>	<i>Julian Molloy</i>	<i>By SCVCG November 2011</i>

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
No items listed				

Information/Consultation Reports

Date	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
October/November 2011	Provisional Exam Results for Rhyl Sixth	To provide information on the performance of Rhyl Sixth students in the 2011 external examinations and assess the effectiveness of the system to deliver educational/vocational qualifications to former pupils of Blessed Edward Jones and Rhyl High School	Julian Molloy/Karen I Evans	September 2011
January 2012/July 2012	Your Voice' complaints performance (including Social Services and Education complaints)	The provision of information on Services' performance in complying with the Council's complaints process and the identification of areas of poor performance with a view to the development of recommendations to address weaknesses. <i>(to include exceptions reporting and narrative for performance areas registering red/amber)</i>	Steven Goodrum / Catherine Spencer	October 2011
Information Report Early 2012	Corporate Parenting Group	To review the work of the Corporate Parenting Group.	Leighton Rees	October 2011

22/12/2011

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
23 February	9 February	5 April	22 March	17 May (prov)	3 May

Performance Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

Appendix 2

CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

24 JANUARY 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Prestatyn Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Budget Report	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Regional Commissioning Procurement and Monitoring Hub Project	Councillor P A Dobb / Councillor M M Jones Sally Ellis
New Work Connections: Training and Education – Procurement of accredited training courses across the project – up to 1620 people could be involved in the training e.g. a one day confidence building course or an NVQ Level 4 course	Councillor P A Dobb Gwynfor Griffiths / Melanie Evans / Carina Edwards 708307
Options for Prestatyn Library Relocation	Councillor P Marfleet / J Groves
Routine reporting on Personnel	Councillor P J Marfleet Linda Atkin
Ruthin Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Phase II Construction of the Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge	Councillor S Frobisher / Councillor D A J Thomas S Davies / Bob Humphreys
Care Home Fees Methodology	Councillor Pauline Dobb / Sally Ellis
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
21 FEBRUARY 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Rhuddlan Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
St Asaph Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas
Adoption of the Full Business Case for the North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service	Councillor E Williams / H Williams
Regional CCTV	Councillor Sharon Frobisher / Steve Parker (tbc)
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
20 MARCH 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Corwen Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Llangollen Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon

Monitoring Performance Against the Corporate Plan	Councillor H H Evans T Ward
Supporting People Strategy Update and Operational Plan 2012 – 13	Councillor P A Dobb Gary Major
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
24 APRIL 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator

FUTURE ISSUES

DECEMBER 2012	
Welsh Housing Quality Standards	Councillor David Thomas / Peter McHugh

Updated 13/12/2011

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
<p>Outstanding resolution from:</p> <p>8 September 2011</p>	<p>6 Evaluation of the Impact of the Use of the Additional Resources Given to Schools in 2010/11</p>	<p>RESOLVED that –</p> <p><i>(c) an information report on the performance of the Rhyl Sixth Partnership in this year’s external examinations be circulated in October.</i></p>	<p>This information is included in the report on ‘The Performance of School External Examinations Results at Key Stage 4 and Post 16’ on the current meeting’s business agenda</p>
<p>1 December 2011</p>	<p>5. Self Evaluation Report for Estyn</p>	<p>RESOLVED – that</p> <p><i>(a) the report be received;</i></p> <p><i>(b) pending the inclusion of the above areas and comments, as far as reasonably possible all aspects of the Authority’s education services for children and young people had been addressed, or were being addressed, and had been included in the SER document; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) the Chair and Scrutiny Coordinator liaise to agree the action points arising from the discussions prior to forwarding them to the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion</i></p>	<p>Action points agreed and a list forwarded to the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion and the Lead Member on 1 December</p>

	<p>6. Adult Services</p>	<p>RESOLVED – that:-</p> <p><i>(a) the report be received ; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) the Chair liaise with the Head of Adult and Business Services to identify areas which may merit further detailed scrutiny in future</i></p>	<p>A meeting is in the process of being arranged for mid January</p>
	<p>7. Monitoring Performance Against the Corporate Plan (QPR 2)</p>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p><i>(a) to support the approval of the proposed Action Plan to address issues identified within the report as per paragraph 28 of the report;</i></p> <p><i>(b) that the Empty Homes Officer be invited to provide a presentation to Informal Council in respect of the post’s role and objectives;</i></p> <p><i>(c) that representations be made to the Head of Leisure, Libraries and Community Development expressing the Committee’s concerns that the disability sports sessions indicator had been performing below target, and</i></p> <p><i>(ch) that, if appropriate, Heads of Service be requested to attend Performance Scrutiny Committee meetings to address any</i></p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Committee also made a similar request and the requests have been forwarded to the Democratic Services Manager for scheduling into the work programme for Informal Council</p> <p>Response received from the Head of Service. The full response can be seen in the Information Brief document circulated to members</p>

		<i>specific areas of continual underperformance</i>	The Corporate Improvement Manager will be in attendance to explain the practicalities of this request
	8. Corporate Project Register	<p><i>RESOLVED – that the Committee:-</i></p> <p><i>(a) receive the report;</i></p> <p><i>(b) endorse the bid to the Risk Management Fund to secure funding for a consultant to look at the structure and governance of information management; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) requests that the Scrutiny Coordinator contact the relevant officers with respect to the concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the problems experienced with both the TRENT and PARIS software systems.</i></p>	<p>The Committee's views have been forwarded to the Head of Finance and Property and the Head of Customer Services</p> <p>Comprehensive responses received with respect to both systems and have been included in the Information Brief document circulated to Committee members</p>