

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

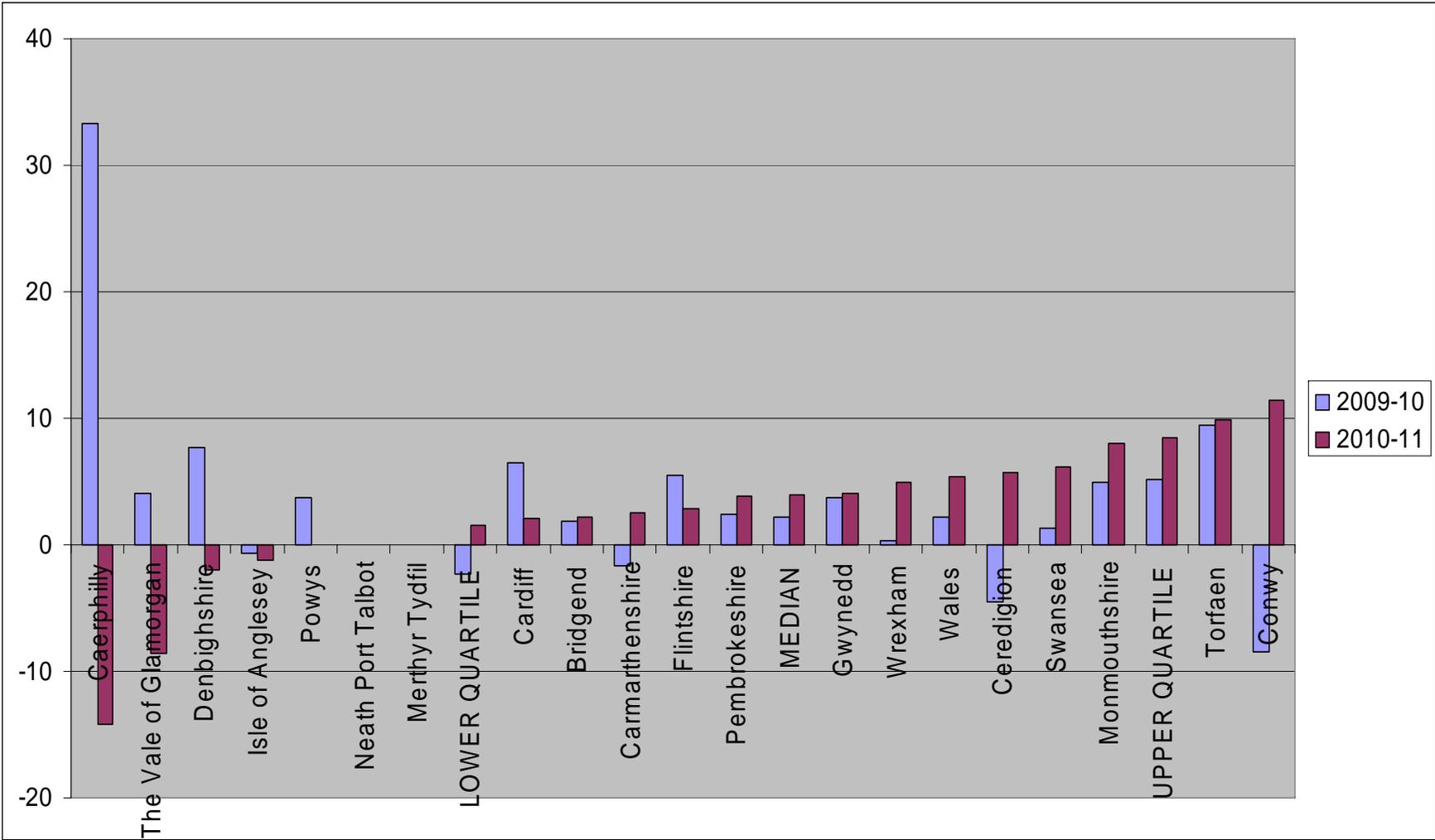
N/A.

Contact Officers:

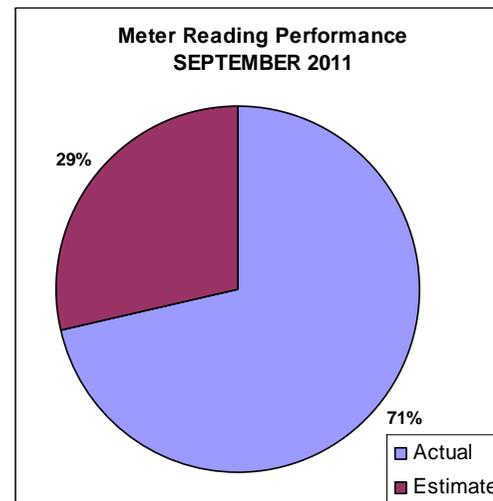
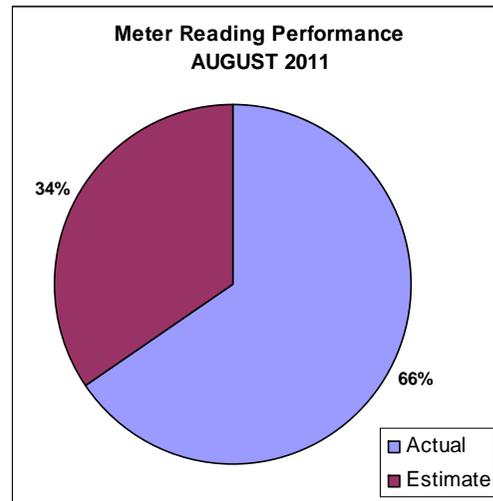
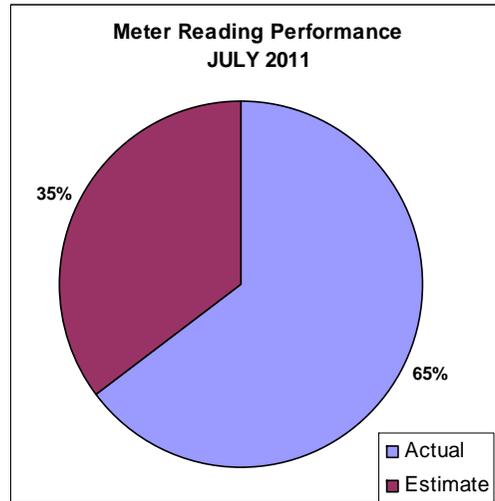
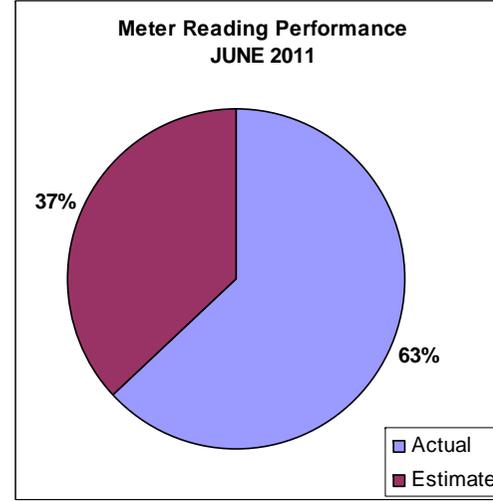
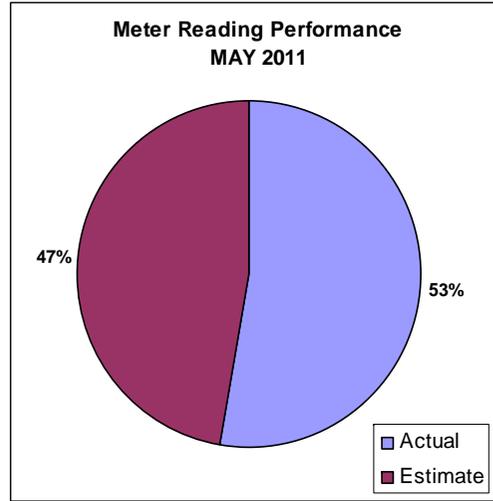
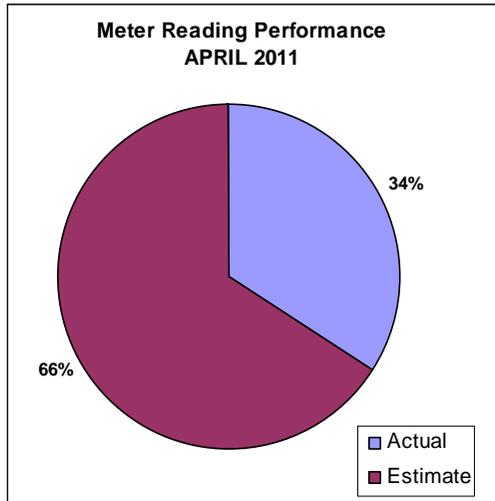
Principal Energy Manager
01824 706733

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

Appendix 3

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 – <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 <i>(a) the report be received;</i> <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> <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>RESOLVED – that the Committee:-</p> <p>(a) <i>receive the report;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>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>(c) <i>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> |