



To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: Date Not Specified

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **9.30 am** on **THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2012** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items 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 (Pages 1 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19th January 2012.

5 ETAPE CYMRU CYCLING EVENT (Pages 11 - 16)

To consider a report (copy enclosed) by the Principal Regeneration & Investment Strategy Officer which provides details of the arrangements for the 2011 Etape Cymru event and the impact that it had on the local community, and asks for the Committee's observations to assist in improving planning and communication strategies for any similar future event.

6 FORYD HARBOUR MOORING FEES AND CHARGES (Pages 17 - 24)

To consider a report from the Rhyl Going Forward Project Manager and the Maritime Regeneration and Development Manager (copy enclosed) which seeks the Committee's observations and support for the proposed management arrangements and charges for moorings in the Foryd Harbour.

7 CHANGES TO THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY FOR 2012 TO 2014 AND THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2012/13 (Pages 25 - 52)

To consider a report (copy enclosed) by the Supporting People Manager which seeks the Committee's views on the Supporting People Strategy for 2012 to 2014 and the associated Operational Plan for 2012/13.

8 DENBIGHSHIRE RESIDENTS' SURVEY (Pages 53 - 56)

To consider a report (copy enclosed) by the Corporate Improvement Officer which delivers the findings of the Residents' Survey and seeks the views of the Committee regarding how the recommendations stemming from the survey should be implemented and subsequently monitored.

9 COMMUNITY FUNDING (Pages 57 - 70)

To consider a report (copy enclosed) by the Corporate Director: Learning and Communities which provides Members with an overview of the system for allocating funds to Member Area Groups and details of potential future community funding. The report also outlines proposals to develop a Denbighshire Community Endowment Fund and seeks the Committee's views on the effectiveness of the funding allocated to the Member Area Groups and on the proposals for creating an Endowment Fund.

10 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 71 - 86)

To consider a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator (copy enclosed) seeking a review of the committee's forward work programme and updating members on relevant issues.

11 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

To receive any updates from Committee representatives on various Council Boards and Groups

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It is recommended in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that exempt information (as defined in Paragraph "[Insert Paragraph Number]" of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act) would be disclosed.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Ian Armstrong
Brian Blakeley
June Cahill
James Davies
Diana Hannam
Rhys Hughes

Richard Jones
Peter Owen
David Smith
Selwyn Thomas
Cefyn Williams

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Agenda Item No. 4

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, Russell House, Rhyl on Thursday, 19th January, 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors D.I. Smith (Chair), I.W. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, J. Cahill, J.M. Davies, D. Hannam, R.T. Hughes, P.W. Owen and C.H. Williams

Councillors M.L. Davies, R.L. Feeley and D. Owens attended as Observers and Councillor I. Gunning was in attendance as the Council's representative on the North Wales Police Authority.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Learning and Communities (HW), Chief Constable: North Wales Police (MP), Chief Inspector for Denbighshire: North Wales Police (IJ), Director of Finance & Resources: North Wales Police (MP), Head of Facilities Management: North Wales Police (SR), Chief Executive: North Wales Police Authority (TM), Police Authority Member (DW), Project Manager: Business, Planning & Performance (SLP), Maritime Regeneration and Development Manager (MB), Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager (TB), Housing Strategy Manager (SK), Housing Strategy Officer (SL), Head of Operations: Highways & Infrastructure (MH), Section Manager: Network Management (TT), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Democratic Services Officer (RAH).

POINTS OF NOTICE

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the representatives of North Wales Police and the North Wales Police Authority in attendance.

The Committee was notified that the order of business would be amended slightly, and the Chair proposed that the Committee consider the North Wales Police's Estate Review before receiving the minutes of the last meeting. It had also been requested that the item on the Local Housing Strategy be considered before the item on Highway Verge Grass Cutting to enable Highways officers to travel from another meeting. This was accepted by members of the Committee.

The Chair congratulated the town of Rhyl on being named as a finalist in the Wales in Bloom competition.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors E.R. Jones and S. Thomas.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor I.W. Armstrong declared a personal and prejudicial interest in business item 6 as Chair of the Foryd Harbour forum and a member of Rhyl Yacht Club.

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. NORTH WALES POLICE ESTATE REVIEW

The Director of Finance & Resources: North Wales Police (DFR:NWP), Mr Mike Parkin, commenced by giving an overview of the financial pressures facing North Wales Police following the budgetary cuts made to public services, and the considerations that have prompted the review of the Police Estate.

The Committee was informed that the Police Service faced 20% cuts in funding and needed to make £16m worth of savings from their budget. To obtain these savings North Wales Police had earmarked the redundancy of 150 Police Officers, 150 Police Staff, and a reduction in the non-pay budget of circa £5m. The number of redundancies had since been revised to circa 130 police officers and circa 112 civilian staff. However this meant that the non-pay budget savings would increase considerably as pay costs accounted for the majority of the Police's budget expenditure. It was estimated that the between £1.2 - 1.4m of the non-pay budget savings could be found through the review of the Police Estate, which would account for 9% of total savings.

The DFR:NWP informed the Committee that the retention of aging and expensive buildings was less important than the retention of staff, and that maintaining under-used facilities would mean savings would have to be found elsewhere, potentially leading to further redundancies.

The Head of Facilities Management: North Wales Police (HFM:NWP), Mr Stephen Roberts, gave a presentation to the Committee of the key recommendations stemming from the Estate Review report completed by DTZ in October 2011. The report proposed:

- the consolidation of services at the Force HQ in Colwyn Bay and at the Local Policing Service HQ in St Asaph;
- the closure of the Administration of Justice Department offices in Prestatyn; and
- the consideration of vacating the Force Training Centre and Joint Communications Centre in St Asaph when the leases of these buildings expired in 2015.

The report recommended that the Force should operate from 9 Response Hubs, and that the provision of the 40 Police Stations be reviewed. Of the 40 stations, the report proposed that 9 should be retained, 12 be relocated, 4 be closed and the remaining 15 should be reviewed. The proposed relocation of Holywell police station was used as an example of the savings that could be made in moving to shared facilities.

The HFM:NWP explained the consultation procedure for the Estate Review, informing the Committee that public consultation on the proposals was taking place between 9th December 2011 and 31st January 2012 and that a draft statement analysis of the Estate Review was available to be viewed by the public on the Police Authority's website. The Committee was informed that the final Estate Strategy would be presented for approval at a meeting of the Police Authority on 17th February 2012. Should the final plan be approved at this meeting, the recommendations of the Review were to be implemented over 5 years, with a projected saving of £16.5m in this period.

Mr Douglas Wynne JP, a member of the North Wales Police Authority (NWPA) assured the Committee that the Police Authority was in support of the Strategy, and that the Authority was involved with the on-going consultation to ensure that the Estate Review will not inhibit the performance of North Wales Police.

The Chief Constable of North Wales Police (CC:NWP), Mr Mark Polin, added that following the review of North Wales Police's budget and finances, the emphasis was on preserving staffing levels and maintaining a Police presence. He added that the Police were continuing to recruit Police Officers but that the overall number of Officers will not be increasing.

The representatives from North Wales Police and the NWPA invited questions from the Members of the Committee about the Estate Review and its impact on Denbighshire County Council and the citizens of Denbighshire.

Councillor D. Hannam questioned how much effort was being made to ensure that a Police presence was sustained, adding that the Police should focus on guaranteeing community safety by providing a visible presence. Councillor Hannam conveyed her concern at an increase in cases of violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery between 2001 and 2009.

The CC:NWP conceded that overall crime rates had risen by 4% and that burglary was up 25% and that North Wales Police shared responsibility for this, along with its other local partners who were also facing budget cuts. He added that North Wales Police used to respond to every crime that was reported, but that this was not seen as an efficient use of Officers' time. North Wales Police had had to accommodate the loss in funding, and the Estate Review was one way of sustaining current services without sacrificing a disproportionate number of staff.

Councillor R.T. Hughes questioned the plans for his ward of Llangollen, observing that the police station in Llangollen was rarely staffed and that even though Llangollen was a small town, when it hosted large events it became very populous. Councillor Hughes expressed his disappointment that he had not been consulted on the plans for policing in the area.

The Chief Inspector for Denbighshire (CI:NWP) confirmed that NWP was exploring the possibilities of relocating Llangollen Police Station. However the policing of Llangollen would be supported by officers based at the Police Hub at Corwen and the Chief Inspector gave assurances that appropriate resources, such as additional Police Officers and Special Constables, would be allocated at busy times. He also told Councillor Hughes that he would be consulted on future policing provision in Llangollen in future, as would all councillors in their local areas.

The CC:NWP added that whilst he understands the desire for the public to have a local police station to use as a contact point, for the Police to continue to provide services that are underused is not an efficient use of resources. This would mean having to find savings elsewhere and could potentially result in further staff redundancies.

The Chief Executive of the NWPA, Mr Tal Michael, added that the Police were available by contacting '999' or '101' in non-emergency cases, and that it was more efficient for the public to call for help when they needed it than maintaining an inefficient service. Mr Michael cited the project that Flintshire County Council was leading on that would bring public services together in a shared facility, with the benefit of a general reception for enquiries such as non-emergency Police assistance, as an opportunity to explore.

Councillor B. Blakely asked if the budgetary restraints on the Police would mean a move away from community policing meetings. The CC:NWP stated that these meetings would continue and that there was no desire to reduce the level of interaction with local communities. It was reasserted that the review of the Police estate would assist to allow this type of community engagement to continue.

The Chair cautioned that the closure of police stations could lead to a negative public perception of North Wales Police's approach to community policing, and that this could be mitigated against by an increase in Police Officer patrols. Police visibility would be key in order to reassure residents.

The DFR:NWP responded by saying that the closure of facilities would not necessarily equate to a reduced presence. He cited the example of the Administration of Justice Department moving from Prestatyn police station to a shared facility in the town as a way that building costs can be reduced whilst retaining a local presence.

Councillor J.M. Davies queried how the building would be used after this move. The HFM:NWP said that full savings could only be realised with the sale of the building, but that vacating the building alone would account for 60% of this saving. However, discussions with other occupants would have to take place before the building itself could be sold.

Councillor R.L. Feeley praised the use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in dealing with petty crime, but said that she believed that the draft review of police estates had not taken this into account in proposing the closure of smaller

police stations. Councillor Feeley also asserted that there did not seem to be a plan to deal with the impact that the review would have on community policing.

The Chief Executive of the NWPA responded by saying that detailed planning could not be done before consultation on the proposed strategy had been carried out. The Council's input would be sought when the detailed plans for individual stations were developed.

Councillor M.L. Davies asked why Special Constables were undertaking work that should be done by full Police Officers, rather than concentrating on supporting community functions. The CI:NWP explained that although the role of Special Constables was primarily to support community policing, allowing Special Constables to gain experience in other aspects of policing helped develop their overall skills which could be reapplied in community policing.

Councillor M.L. Davies also observed that police stations such as the Divisional HQ at St Asaph and the station in Denbigh were not open around the clock, and members of the public had difficulty accessing the help of Officers. The HFM:NWP explained that North Wales Police did not own the building in St Asaph, and so extending its opening hours would incur costs as it was a Public Finance Initiative (PFI) building, as well as increasing staffing costs, again impacting on other service provision.

Councillor D. Owens stated that there was no reference to the 'Carbon footprint' in the Estates Review, which has been a priority for Denbighshire County Council. The HFM:NWP replied that North Wales Police do adhere to carbon reduction obligations and had been meeting their targets successfully. Members were advised that further information on this was available on North Wales Police's website.

Councillor I. Gunning, who served as the Council's representative on the NWPA informed the Committee that he had initially resolved to defend the community police stations from threat of closure, but having considered the proposals that had emanated from the review he was firmly of the view that they represented a positive way forward and would deliver a better quality of service to residents. He was now in full support of the plans contained in the Estate Review.

The Chair thanked the representatives of North Wales Police for attending the meeting and agreed to form a response on behalf of Denbighshire County Council to the proposals put forward under the Estate Review. It was:

RESOLVED – that,

- a) the Committee receive the presentation and note the factors that had motivated the Estate Review; and
- b) an official response be drafted and submitted to North Wales Police Authority, formally noting the Committee's comments and recommendations

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 8th December, 2011 were submitted.

The progress to date in implementing the Committee's resolutions from the meeting were reported in Appendix 3 of the Work Programme report and in the Information Brief circulated to Committee members

Business item 6: Denbighshire Adult Community Education Estyn Inspection – The Scrutiny Coordinator informed the Committee that a response from School Effectiveness Performance Officer: Secondary had not yet been received, and that this would be followed up.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above, the Minutes be received and approved as a true and correct record.*

6. FORYD HARBOUR MOORING FEES AND CHARGES

The Rhyl Going Forward Project Manager and the Maritime Regeneration and Development Manager had prepared a report for the Committee to consider regarding the proposed management arrangements for the Foryd Harbour.

Prior to presentation of the report Councillor Brian Blakely proposed that, as the Foryd Harbour Forum had not yet been consulted on the proposed fees and charges and management arrangements as set out in the report, the item should be deferred until full consultation on the plans had been carried out.

The Project Manager: Business, Planning & Performance had no objection to the issue being deferred to a later meeting, but emphasised that the plans needed to be approved as soon as possible, preferably before the summer season.

The Chair, supported by the Committee, accepted that consultation with the Foryd Harbour Forum was necessary and agreed that discussion on this item be deferred until the Committee's next meeting on 1st March, 2012. This would allow time for the Foryd Harbour Forum to meet and relay any concerns to the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – *that the scheduled item on the Foryd Harbour Mooring Fees and Charges be deferred to next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on 1st March, 2012.*

7. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Housing Strategy Officer (HSO) introduced her report, circulated prior to the meeting, which gave an update on the progress made in relation to the Local Housing Strategy action plan for 2011/12, detailing the number of new affordable homes that had been developed and the funding streams that had been secured.

The Committee was informed that a full review of the Local Housing Strategy would be undertaken during 2012, which would include exploration of avenues for collaboration on housing issues with Conwy County Borough Council. The Council's affordable housing policy would also be reviewed as part of the emerging Local Development Plan.

Welsh Government funding had been secured to help redevelop an area of West Rhyl, targeting the reduction of the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and developing new family housing. It was anticipated that this would result in the resettlement of up to 120 residents. The regeneration of this area was identified as a key challenge and a policy to support displaced residents was under development.

It was further noted that due to a significant reduction in funding from the Welsh Government that alternative funding mechanisms were being explored and that the Department would seize any opportunity for funding.

The Housing Strategy Manager (HSM) and HSO then invited questions and comments from the members of the Committee on how the Strategy could be improved.

Councillor R.L. Feeley questioned the policy requirement for all newly built housing initiatives to consist of at least 30% of homes classified as affordable housing, suggesting that some housing projects had been cancelled due to this policy and that, while the principle was commendable, in practice it could be counter-productive. The HSM stated that there had been less affordable housing becoming available because the economic downturn has caused an overall reduction in newly built housing. He also added that where it was not economically viable for developers to guarantee that 30% of homes in a prospective building project to be classed as 'affordable', the policy did allow some flexibility in meeting the requirement. It was recognised that where the 30% guarantee of affordable housing posed problems that risked an overall project, it was better to have some affordable housing at a lower proportion than none at all. It was also stressed that the policy had worked particularly well in rural areas, where house prices were at a premium and well out of the reach of first time buyers.

Members of the Committee registered concern about the displacement of people resulting from the redevelopment in West Rhyl. The HSM explained that they were working closely with displaced families to ensure that their resettlement would be a smooth and satisfactory process. Most families had indicated that they wished to remain in the area.

Concern was also raised about the level of deprivation in areas such as West Rhyl and that migration from other areas compounded the deep social problems that such areas were already experiencing. The HSM assured the Committee that there was no concerted policy for bringing people to Denbighshire and attributed Rhyl's popularity to the availability of relatively cheap accommodation. It was noted that West Rhyl would need large scale private investment if it were to change the social demographics of the area, but that effective community engagement would go some way to helping this process.

Councillors queried how many of the properties that fell in to the 'affordable homes' category were currently unoccupied in Denbighshire, and also how many potential homes in general were not occupied. The HSM stated that any empty 'affordable homes' were usually due to transition, and were not empty for long. The total of empty homes across the County was placed at approximately 800, most of which were privately owned. Many of these empty properties required maintenance work to make them habitable and Denbighshire County Council's Empty Homes Team were working to facilitate renovation works.

The Chair was of the view that the strategy for West Rhyl would merit further scrutiny and thanked the Housing Strategy Manager and Housing Strategy Officer for attending the meeting. It was:

RESOLVED – *that the Committee*

- a) notes the progress made against the Local Housing Strategy action plan 2011/12 and the challenges encountered in achieving the key actions;*
- b) recommends the key headline projects listed in the report for inclusion in the revised Local Housing Strategy 2012/17 and that significant emphasis should be included in the revised Strategy on the need to bring empty homes back into occupation; and*
- c) recommends that the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group considers the most appropriate Committee to scrutinise the Strategy for West Rhyl;*

8. HIGHWAY VERGE GRASS CUTTING

The Head of Operations: Highways & Infrastructure (HO:HI) and the Section Manager: Network Management (SM:NM) presented a report to the Committee detailing the options available for the Council's grass verge cutting programme. The report proposed two options;

- 1) an option to undertake an initial cut of internal bends and junctions only (Biodiversity cut) followed by a full cut later in the season, as happened last year; and
- 2) the option of reverting to two full cuts per year as in previous years.

It was explained that the 'Biodiversity cut' allows one side of verges to grow which limits the negative ecological consequences of a full cut, but that this will have the effect of 'narrowing' carriageways at some points and will look less tidy than the full cut.

Last year, as part of a collaboration project with Conwy County Borough Council, external contactors were brought in to undertake grass cutting work along roads in Denbighshire at a cost of £92,000, compared with costs of £162,000 the previous year when a portion of the work was undertaken internally. With the tender valid until 2015, the report recommended the retention of the current contract.

Councillor R. T. Hughes suggested that leasing machines and undertaking some of the grass cutting programme internally could present an opportunity for savings. The SM:NM indicated that it could prove difficult to acquire leased machinery during the cutting season, and that the real savings had been found in outsourcing the work.

Councillor R. L. Feeley registered her support for the ecological consideration of the 'Biodiversity cut', but recognised that road safety was the priority.

The Corporate Director: Learning and Communities suggested that a plan for road cutting be published so that communities were aware of any potential disruptions. The roadworks timetable had been well received by the public and was cited as an effective example to follow. The SM:NM agreed that this could be implemented.

Following an in-depth debate the Chair proposed that a combination of the two options be implemented. This would include two full cuts per year across the County except for areas which lie within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which would firstly receive a 'Biodiversity cut' on all roads which are deemed to be safe for a 'Biodiversity Cut', followed by one full cut. The Committee supported this approach and it was:

RESOLVED – *that, having considered the proposals for the provision of grass verge cutting, the Committee recommends that*

- a) Option 1 is implemented in the AONB on all routes which are deemed safe for a Biodiversity cut, and that Option 2 is implemented across the remainder of the County's roads;*
- b) the current arrangement for outsourced work be retained subject to capacity and quality monitoring measures being taken ; and*
- c) a timetable of scheduled grass cutting plans be published and distributed to town and community councils and Member Area Groups.*

9. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator presented a report identifying scheduling considerations for the Committee's Forward Work Programme which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Committee members were reminded that a workshop had been arranged on the 'Supporting People Operational Strategy and Plan 2012-13' for 22 February ahead of the Committee's consideration of the report on 1st March.

The Committee was notified that the Corporate Director: Learning and Communities had requested that an additional element be included in the item already scheduled on the 'Monies Allocated to Member Area Groups and Future Community Funding' for 1 March on a proposed Community Endowment Fund. The Committee approved the request.

The Scrutiny Coordinator highlighted a number of items listed as 'future issues' with no scheduled date for consideration. The Committee was alerted to the prospect that these issues would need to be scoped prior to the inauguration of the new Council or

they may not be scrutinised. The Chair suggested that a Work Programme could be put in place for the successor Communities Scrutiny Committee following the election in May, and that although he would not wish to restrict what the Committee scrutinises in future, it may help ensure that pertinent issues were not missed.

The Committee was reminded of plans to help facilitate more convenient scheduling of education items which necessitated Co-opted Members to sit on Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) had decided at their meeting on 5th January that the item on the Provision of Music within Schools, scheduled for consideration at the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12th April, had been reassigned to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for consideration at their meeting 19th April. It was intended that this would be a more efficient use of the Co-opted Members' time.

A request from a member of the public for the scrutiny of the Council's policy for disposing of buildings had been received by the SCVCG and the issue had been allocated to the Communities Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that the Committee would not have time to consider this issue before the Election and that the item should be added to the 'future items' list, to be allocated accordingly when the new Council returns in May.

The Committee were also notified of the postponement of the special meeting to discuss the proposals emanating out of the NHS Service Reviews that had been scheduled for February. The outcome of the Reviews had been delayed therefore a special meeting had been provisionally scheduled to take place in July.

The minutes of a meeting of the Conwy and Denbighshire Caravan Site Working Group, attended by Councillor S. Thomas, were received by the Committee. An addendum note expressed Councillor Thomas's concerns regarding the problem of year-round occupation of caravans and the strain this placed on local services. This prompted the Chair to recognise the need for a list to be compiled of all Councillors' committee/working group memberships.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above amendments, the Forward Work Programme be approved as set out in Appendix 1 of the report*

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.

Agenda item: 5

Report to:	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 March 2012
Lead Officers:	Head of Highways & Infrastructure/Head of Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services
Report Author:	Principal Regeneration and Investment Strategy Officer
Title:	Etape Cymru Cycling Event

1. What is the report about?

To scrutinise the arrangements and the communication strategy for the 2011 event, the benefits realised by local communities/losses suffered by local businesses as a result of the 2011 event

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To consider a review by the Principal Regeneration & Investment Strategy Officer which provides details of the arrangements for the 2011 Etape Cymru event and the impact that it had on the local community, and asks for the Committee's observations to assist in improving planning and communication strategies for any similar future event.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers the report and provides observations on the improved procedures which are to be put in place for major closed road events such as Etape Cymru, including their communication strategies, to ensure that local communities realise maximum benefits and suffer the least amount of disruption/losses from such events.

4. Report details.

Denbighshire County Council was approached by K-Extreme, a cycling event organiser, and Wrexham County Borough Council, in relation to a 'closed road' cycling event taking place on Sunday 9 October 2011. The route started in Wrexham and 65 miles of its route ran through Denbighshire, showcasing the county's superb cycling country. The target audience for the event was a relatively untapped market. Using Welsh Government's methodology for assessing major events, the economic impact of this event on the Wrexham/Llangollen area was estimated to be worth £47,540 with just over 1000 participants, which is reasonable for an inaugural event.

Indirectly, further economic impact was gained, and may continue to be gained, from the regional and national media coverage generated by this event.

The Safety Advisory Group (joint Emergency Services/Highways/Police) is happy to endorse another event of the same nature taking same or similar route providing issues relating to traffic management and marshalling are addressed, as per the de-brief. An event management plan should be produced by the new organisers highlighting the plan for consultation, communications and traffic management with regular liaison with Wrexham and Denbighshire County Council officers and the wider Safety Advisory Group throughout.

Looking ahead - a request has been made to Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council from new organisers for Etape Cymru 2012 to be held in the same area on Sunday 9 September. Organisers have had one meeting with Highways, Regeneration and Cycling Centre of Excellence Project Manager, to review the 2011 event and they have taken on board the recommendations of the Safety Advisory Group. The first draft of a communications plan for Etape Cymru 2012 is attached (appendix 1) for observations.

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

Denbighshire is a quality destination for cycling, which as yet is fairly undiscovered, and has a great opportunity to benefit economically from the growth seen in the activity tourism sector. Regeneration is one of the council's corporate priorities.

Significant parts of Denbighshire have recently been designated the North Wales Cycling Centre of Excellence, with the aim of *creating an area acknowledged nationally as an outstanding all year round destination for road and off-road cycling and outdoor activity for all in outstanding and contrasting scenery.*

The Cycling Centre of Excellence project is part of Visit Wales' vision to create exemplar tourism areas through a significant investment programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Denbighshire County Council is the lead partner for the North Wales Cycling Centre of Excellence project, which is an innovative public/private sector partnership across Conwy and Denbighshire.

Denbighshire County Council is also committed to the principles of Destination Management, driven by the Tourism Strategy for North Wales, in which its Action Plan includes the development of major events and outdoor attractions and activity.

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

There was no financial contribution to the event from Denbighshire County Council.

Staff time provided by Highways, Regeneration and Cycling Centre of Excellence project to support the event planning by the organisers. Note: the DCC led Cycling Centre of Excellence project budget (European and other sources) funded costs of information letters to residents and businesses, just as it has supported other recent cycling events in the same way.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Consultation relating to the road closures were carried out by the event organiser directly, with guidance from DCC officers:

- Letters were sent out to households and businesses in the affected areas on 3 May 2011 and responses were duly received by K-Extreme, and subsequently addressed.
- Public Notices placed in the Wrexham Leader and Denbighshire Free Press
- Letters sent out by the organiser on 9 May to town and community councils and county councillors along the route – some by e-mail, some by post
- Press releases issued to local media
- Llantysilio Community clerk made contact on 18 July to say they had not received any consultation opportunity. The letter was re-sent, and the time period was then extended to allow for comments to be put forward. As a consequence of the extended consultation period a meeting was held between the organiser and Llantysilio CC Chair and clerk, Cllr Rhys Hughes and a local business; also in attendance were two DCC officers.
- Within DCC – there was consultation and engagement with the following departments: Highways, Public Transport, Public Protection, Health & Safety, Countryside, Cycling Centre of Excellence Project, Regeneration & Tourism, Chief Executive, Corporate Communications Legal team and the Lead Members for Regeneration and Highways.
- North Wales Police and other emergency services have been fully involved, and a joint Wrexham/Denbighshire Safety Advisory Group has met to oversee traffic, transport and pedestrian management procedures for this event
- Event organiser met with businesses in advance to try to engage them in the event. Local businesses along the stretches of road which were

being temporarily closed, were also advertised on the event web-site and in a local press advertisement.

As a result of feedback from consultation:

- several options for the route have been considered, with alternative routes being put in place where necessary.
- discussions with the Passenger Transport team resulted in slight diversion of the routes for buses, which ensures no disruption to the timetable
- The clerk of Llantysilio Community Council called a meeting with the event organiser at which concerns of local businesses and residents were addressed. Assurances were given that warning signs about the road closure times would be put out about a fortnight before the event and letters reminding residents and businesses of the road closures, along with indication of times would also be sent about a fortnight prior to the event.
- Carrog Community Hall actively engaged with the event by offering toilet and refreshment facilities and encouraging spectators. Very positive feedback has been received since the event.
- Llandegla and Bryneglwyns residents used the event to act as a fundraiser for the 2013 National Eisteddfod by selling refreshments to spectators
- The Ponderosa Café, on the Horseshoe Pass was used as a location for the media launch, and whilst we understand that parts of the business was negatively impacted on the day, the café appeared to be busier than they would have otherwise been on a wet Sunday in October.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The Council made no financial contribution to this event.

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

Reputation risk, from dissatisfied residents and businesses that were affected by temporary road closures on 9 October 2011. The risk will be managed by reminding residents and businesses about the finalised road closure plans to allow alternative travel plans to be made if necessary.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (for the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of a local authority area)

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution

Contact Officer:

Principal Regeneration & Investment Strategy Officer Tel: 01824 706707

Communication timeline for Etape Cymru 2012

February

- Participate to finalise route

March

- Confirm route and map (timings included)
- Participate to contact all parishes and community councils, end of month to advise on event and closures (assisted by Wrexham and Denbighshire with correct contact list)
- Participate to contact all businesses and churches affected by road closures

April

- Participate to follow up with community councils as required
- Notices to be placed in local press to advise people of event taking place (assisted by council contacts/press department)
- Draft residents letter to be sent to all houses on route (TBC)
- Participate to place information posters at key locations on the route

May

- Participate to follow up with all businesses and residents who have concerns
- Participate to contact all agencies who may be affected by closures (carers, doctors on call, nursing homes etc)

June

- Ongoing communication with relevant parties

July

- Ongoing communication with relevant parties

August

- Advanced warning signage to be placed around route by JT&M (2 weeks prior to event date)

September

- Advanced warning signage as above
- Cone placed on all driveways on route with notice to advise residents of closure (night of 8th Sept) TBC
- Diversion plans and signage put into place (morning of event)
- 9th Sept - Closures enforced (7am onwards)

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Agenda Item 6

Agenda item: 6

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2012

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Environment & Sustainable Development

Report Authors: Maritime Regeneration & Development Manager/Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager

Title: Foryd Harbour Mooring Fees and Charges

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report proposes a scale of charges at the Foryd Harbour relating to the mooring of boats by Harbour users. The proposed implementation date for the charges is 1st April 2012
- 1.2 It is considered that the implementation of the appropriate charges for the use of Foryd Harbour facilities is an important element in the development of a valid business case for the area providing for its future management and ability to contribute effectively to the required legacy of the Rhyl Going Forward Programme.
- 1.3 It is recognised that to achieve a sustainable harbour facility there is a need to generate an income to contribute at the maximum level practical towards both its operating and maintenance costs in the long term.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 It is appropriate that users who benefit from the Harbour facilities should contribute to the ongoing running costs of those facilities.
- 2.2 To seek Scrutiny's support for the implementation of a charging policy for the use of moorings and maritime facilities at the Foryd Harbour.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 It is recommended that:
 - 3.1.1 The proposed scale of charges contained in this report be supported for implementation on the 1st April 2012.

- 3.1.2 A 50% discount be applied to all charges for the coming year from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, to take account of programmed development works within the harbour.
- 3.1.3 Discount rate be reviewed annually taking into account market demand.
- 3.1.4 Local rates be applied to Kinmel Bay and Towyn (wards 12 & 13 in Conwy County Borough Council.)

4. Report details.

- 4.1 For many years moorings have been placed in the harbour without authorisation and with little regard to appropriate equipment specifications and Health and Safety requirements, thus resulting in substandard equipment being used in many instances.
- 4.2 In 2010 Denbighshire County Council undertook to replace approximately 50% (41) of the moorings with its own mooring stock as the first part of the mooring replacement programme, thus leaving approximately 50% of the old moorings still in situ.
- 4.3 To progress the management of the mooring facilities at Foryd, the mooring arrangements have been split into two sections:
 - 4.3.1 Denbighshire County Council owned moorings; these are moorings that replaced the westerly section of the old mooring stock in 2010. These moorings will be maintained by the Authority and licensed to users on an annual basis.
 - 4.3.2 Existing unauthorised moorings to the east, to be installed and maintained by the user under licence by the Authority.
- 4.4 Denbighshire Owned Moorings
 - 4.4.1 The first phase of the mooring replacement has now been completed and 41 moorings have been provided. These moorings have been provided to the point of the mooring buoy. The service, inspection and repair of this equipment will be the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council.
 - 4.4.2 The method of attaching the vessel to the buoy will be the responsibility of the vessel owner. The Authority will provide a specification for the attachment but the provision and maintenance of the strop will be the responsibility of the mooring user.
 - 4.4.3 The proposed charges for the use of these moorings are shown at section 5.2 of this report are proposed in consideration of charges levied at Conwy , which offers similar mooring facilities,

but are proposed at a lower level to reflect market considerations relative to the Foryd Harbour.

4.5 Existing unauthorised moorings

4.5.1 At the eastern part of the harbour, the existing unauthorised moorings are still provided by users themselves. As an interim measure, and until the proposed projects associated with the harbour are completed and funding is identified for further mooring replacement work to be undertaken, it is the intention to formalise the arrangements and introduce an appropriate management structure to ensure that the mooring equipment meets appropriate specifications for the vessels using them.

4.5.2 The interim arrangements being proposed will require all interested parties in this area to register their mooring with the County, ensure that their mooring equipment meets specifications provided by the Authority, undertake regular inspections of the mooring equipment by an authorised surveyor and ensure that their vessels and equipment are appropriately insured. The Maritime Office will issue the location at which the mooring is to be placed and grant an annual agreement for the mooring space.

4.5.3 The proposed charges for the use of these moorings are shown at section 5.3 of this report and are proposed in consideration of charges levied at Rhos-on Sea.

4.6 Harbour Dues

4.6.1 In addition to the proposed mooring charges shown in the report it is considered that all vessels using the Harbour should contribute to the costs associated with its overall management, and the maintenance of non mooring facilities such as quays, slipways, pontoons, landing stages and navigation lights, marks and beacons, by the payment of Harbour Dues. The proposed rates for these charges are shown at section 5.1 of this report.

4.7 Visitors

4.7.1 The use of the Harbour and its facilities by visiting vessels (non mooring holders) should be subject to a charge for such usage. The proposed charge for this category of user, which includes Harbour Dues are shown at section 5.4 of this report.

5. Fees and Charges (all fees & charges are inclusive of VAT)

5.1 Harbour Dues

All vessels (except vessels covered under the visitor tariff) operating out of Foryd Harbour must pay Harbour Dues. This will be in addition to the mooring fee.

Harbour Dues are to be based on a size band per mooring rather than a charge per metre. Therefore:

Vessels up to 8mtr	£40.00 per/annum
Vessels 8.01mtr to 10mtr	£60.00 per/annum
Vessels 10.01mtr to 12mtr	£80.00 per/annum
Vessels over 12mtrs	£100.00 per/annum

5.2 **Mooring Fees**

DCC provided moorings will be charged for per mooring therefore the proposed charges will be:

<i>DCC Resident</i>		<i>Non DCC Resident</i> <i>(DCC + 20%)</i>
8 metre mooring	£300 per annum	£360.00 per annum
10 metre mooring	£375 per annum	£450.00 per annum
12 metre mooring	£450 per annum	£540.00 per annum

Moorings seaward of the new Cycle/Pedestrian Bridge
All moorings to be at 12 metre rate

5.3 **Vessel Owner provided mooring** (fee payable for agreement to place mooring on DCC land)

DCC Resident
£18.75 per metre per annum

Non DCC Resident (*DCC + 20%*)
£22.50 per metre per annum

5.4 **Visitor Rates (Visitor rates include Harbour Dues)**

1 – 7 Days Inclusive

Per Night 8m and under LOA £10.00 per night
Add £1.50 per metre over 8m (max charge £20.50 per night)

8 Days and Over

Per Night 8m and under £7.00 per night
Add £1.05 per metre over 8m (max charge £14.35 per night)

6. **How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

- 6.1 The redevelopments within the Foryd Harbour area including the new quay, boat storage area, new slipway, safe haven, new pedestrian/cycle bridge, upgraded moorings stock and harbour units. These developments will contribute towards the corporate priority of regeneration and the regeneration of Rhyl.

- 6.2 The fees and charges being proposed will contribute towards ensuring that the harbour is sustainable and can be provided with the level of management and funding that will maintain a high quality of service in the future.
- 6.3 The developments and the management arrangements, of which the charging policy is a crucial part, will further contribute to the delivery plan for Rhyl Going Forward.

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

- 7.1 The implementation of this charging structure will reduce the negative financial impact of the harbour facility on the Council and contribute to the sustainability of the service and facilities.
- 7.2 If a charging structure is not accepted the ongoing management and maintenance cost will continue to fall on the Authority with little allocated resources to cover the expenditure.

8. Chief Finance Officer's Statement

The charging policy forms a key part of the business case to redevelop and improve the facilities at the harbour.

9. What consultations have been carried out?

- 9.1 At the Communities Scrutiny Committee on the 19th January 2012, the report was deferred with a request that officers carry out further consultation with the appropriate user groups and the Foryd Harbour Forum. The following consultations were subsequently undertaken.

9.2 Rhyl Member Area Group (28/09/11)

The charging proposals were discussed at the Rhyl Member Area Group on the 28/09/11. The members present understood the need to implement charges and were generally supportive of the proposal. Three members indicated that they were not supportive as their interpretation of previous discussions had given assurances to the harbour users that charging should not be implemented until all moorings at the harbour had been completed.

9.3 Rhyl Yacht Club (24/01/12)

- Charging levels accepted with following additions
- Fees & Charges include VAT
- Discount rates for existing mooring holders set at 40% on mooring fees and Harbour Dues
- Introductory discount of 30% on all charges for new users
- Discounts to be reviewed annually with user associations and Harbour Forum

- Do not believe that DCC can apply Harbour Dues without a Harbour Empowerment Order

9.4 Rhyl Fisherman's Association / Rhyl Charter Skippers Association (25/01/12)

One meeting held with representatives from both associations present.

- Approve two tier mooring arrangements - DCC owned and Owner provided moorings.
- All working boats should be charged at Local rate regardless of owners address as business operates from Rhyl
- Discount rate of 40% for existing users and 30% Introductory rate for new user
- All charging should be deferred until April 2013 due to development works scheduled for the coming year

9.5 Foryd Harbour Forum (06/02/12)

- Mooring Fees accepted as proposed with amendments as follows:
- 40% discount for existing users
- 30% Introductory discount for new users
- 100% deferred until 31/3/13
- Discounts to be reviewed annually
- Local discounts should cover Kinmel Bay and Towyn (CCBC wards 12 &13)
- Meeting minutes proposal:

'Proposal: charges should be deferred for 12 months, but levels of charges are acceptable subject to agreed discounts, which are to be reviewed annually'

Proposer: M Barker

Seconder: J Povah

9.6 Foryd Harbour Board (09/02/12)

- The general consensus of the users was for no charges for the next 12 months due to the work that will be taking place around the harbour, then 40% discount for current users and 30% discount for new users. The board do not agree with this and the recommendation from the board is that a 50% reduction for all harbour users would be reasonable given the current situation.

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

10.1 Adverse reaction from existing users of the Harbour. Existing users will be reluctant to pay for a facility that has to date been free, albeit unauthorised and unregulated.

10.2 To reduce the possibility of an adverse reaction from the existing users of the harbour, consultation has been carried out and further

information will be given to the users informing them of the need to implement the charges and the rationale behind the requirement to ensure that existing privately owned equipment meets required standards. This said, it may not be possible to completely eliminate this risk.

11. Power to make the Decision

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution

Contact Officer:
Maritime Regeneration & Development Manager
Tel: 01824 708407

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Agenda Item 7

Agenda item: 7

Report to:	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	1st March 2012
Lead Officer:	Corporate Director Demographics, Wellbeing and Planning
Report Author:	Supporting People Manager
Title:	Changes to the Supporting People Strategy for 2012 to 2014 and Supporting People Operational Plan for 2012/13.

1. What is the report about?

The Welsh Government requires the Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) on an annual basis. A three year Supporting People (SP) strategy was agreed in Denbighshire for 2011/14 setting out the strategic priorities for the Supporting People programme in the county as a framework for revenue resource allocation. The SPOP considers the housing-related support services required to meet the needs of vulnerable people for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Changes to the SPOP for 12/13 & SP Strategy will be submitted to Cabinet on 20th March 2012 for agreement. This report sets out the changes proposed as part of the consultation process.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To support the changes to the Supporting People Strategy for 2012 to 2014 and Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) for 2012/13.

4. Report details.

The Supporting People (SP) strategy for 2011-14, which outlined the SPOP for 2012/13, was originally agreed in 2010. Planned actions for 2012 -4 have changed over time and in response to consultation. A summary of changes proposed are set out in appendix 1. The updated Plan is included in appendix 2. (Actions for 2012 to 2014 are set out in full in appendix 2 page 11 onwards).

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

Supporting People funded services underpin cross cutting multi-agency priorities as well as contributing directly to Denbighshire's priorities.

Education

The provision of accommodation and appropriate support helps vulnerable people to sustain their accommodation and independence by developing life skills to maintain a home. Vulnerable families are supported in developing skills to support their families, crucial to ensuring school attendance and attainment for their children. Support is also provided to vulnerable adults and young people (16+) to develop the skills and confidence to access education and training and engage with community activities to enable social inclusion.

Regeneration

Projects support service users in addressing issues of multiple deprivation including housing deprivation and needs. This is essential if Community Regeneration is to be achieved. Supported housing services enable tenancies and independent living to be sustained for many of our most vulnerable people within our communities.

New supported housing development will be outside of the West Rhyl Area and a supported accommodation strategy will be developed to support the Rhyl Going Forward strategy.

Demographic Change

Support is provided to children and families in need and people who need housing and contributes towards tackling the issues of transience and poverty. Support promotes independence, enablement and prevention through early intervention. This contributes to countering dependency and a culture of reliance on statutory services, necessary in addressing future demographic challenges faced by Denbighshire with a growing older population.

The employment of an occupational therapist will expand the adoption of a reablement approach into housing services. Investment in alarm services will further support independent living.

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

The projects and changes identified will be managed within the existing Supporting People budget allocated to Denbighshire by the Welsh Government.

Supporting People Grant will continue as a single programme grant in 2013/14 however, the grant available will be reduced going forward with a cap on reduction of 5% per annum. Services identified can be managed within the grant available and projected cuts. Further consideration would be required for 2013/14 onwards once final grant allocations are known. There is an action within the strategy to consider the strategic priority to fund services in 2013/14 in response to funding reductions.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) held 6 meetings during the development of this report and considered “Strategic Priority to Fund” commissioning tools, Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) data, outcomes reports, supply map information and feedback from stakeholders and consultation meetings.

A consultation event for current support providers was held in July 2011 and feedback reported to the SPPG to inform the development of this plan.

Further consultation with providers & stakeholders was conducted during July and August. A final consultation event is scheduled in February involving service users. A draft document was circulated to all existing planning groups and forums linked to Supporting People.

The final document will be submitted to the Supporting People Planning Group on 7th March and to Cabinet for approval on 20th March 2012.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The cost of delivering the plan must be contained within the funding available. The reductions in grant funding and the implications on the Supporting People programme - and the wider impact on other budgets will have to be carefully managed. The council has been prudent and made some financial provision to dampen the impact of funding reductions but the programme and the services it funds will have to be kept under review to ensure expenditure does not exceed the allocated funding.

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

Reduced funding is being managed by using under spend to cushion cuts in year 1 and by managing additional commitments with short term funding allocations.

10. Power to make the Decision

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

Contact Officer:
Supporting People Team Manager
(01824) 712300

2012/13 Summary of Proposed Changes

All services

- *Implement Outcomes reporting for all SP services in 12/13*
- The development of a strategy to address any identified over-concentration of services (e.g. in West Rhyl) alongside Denbighshire's Housing Strategy to support Rhyl Going Forward.
- To ensure information about incidences of hate crime and harassment are consistently and accurately recorded, reported and is acted upon

Domestic Abuse

- To work with providers and stakeholders on implementing "The Flexible Service Proposal for Domestic Abuse services in Denbighshire".

Mental Health

- New supported housing provision to be commissioned outside of West Rhyl (eg mental health homeless supported accommodation)
- Consider incorporating the findings of a review of Swansea City Council's "OASIS" (Opportunities for Accommodation and Support in Swansea) to address identified for Denbighshire in the Wales Audit Office report on Housing Services for Adults with Mental Health Needs.

Young People

- To reconfigure an existing 5 unit young persons support services managed Tai Clwyd, into a tenure neutral floating support service which will be linked to a 24 hour staffed young persons supported housing scheme in Denbigh, due open in 2013-14
- To consider and where possible jointly commission with housing and children's services:-
 - a Nightstop or Crashpad facility.
 - Ring fencing of beds within existing Supporting People provision
 - a small assessment centre for young people
 - Reconfigure Young People's services to ensure high intensity floating support will be provided to young people placed in any of the above provision
- Recruit two full-time support workers for one year to support vulnerable people with high level and complex needs.

Homelessness services

- Allocate additional resources to Seashells' Homeless Project to increase support staff numbers and enhance outcomes

- Consider the findings and recommendations of a Housing Services review of the accommodation requirements of Gypsies & travellers to ensure that the needs are assessed in a strategic way and addressed through the promotion of inclusive service responses.
- Monitor and review the impact of welfare reforms on Homelessness in Denbighshire. To identify the implications for housing related support services and respond to changes as appropriate within available resources.
- Fund the recruitment of a full-time support worker for one year to be based with Housing Options in the Homelessness and Allocations team in DCC Housing Services
- Contributing to a pilot project for aids and HIV

The Big Plan

- Provide evidence to demonstrate the Supporting People programmes substantial contribution to successfully delivering the outcomes identified in Denbighshire's Big Plan.
- To contribute to *“provide effective preventative support services to vulnerable individuals and families, including those with mental health problems, to ensure their housing needs are met. People with mental health needs will be more effectively supported to live independently, in their own homes.”*

Community Care Services

- Investigate housing support need within adult services reablement service. Evidence & financial resources permitting, consider a joint funding contribution to this service.
- Make a contribution to funding the maintenance and monitoring of Telecare alarm services for eligible service users.

Older People Services

- To fund a full-time occupational therapist for one year to be based in DCC Sheltered Housing Services with the aim of consolidating and expanding the adoption and implementation of a reablement approach to sheltered housing.

2013/14 Proposed Changes

Redistribution

- Determine the long term Strategic Priority to Fund of all services in the light of a likely reduction in funding for Denbighshire resulting from the geographical redistribution of Supporting People funding across Wales.

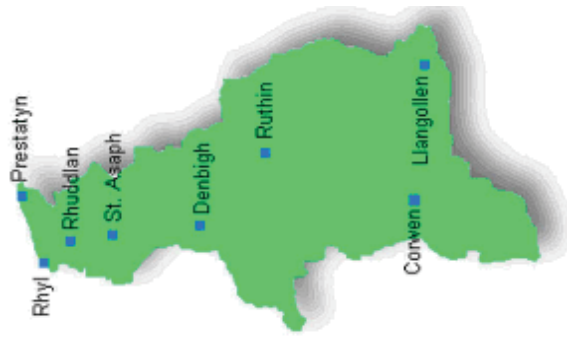
Families

- Establish robust systemic links between Supporting People services for Families and Integrated Family Support Services at both strategic and operational levels.

Young People

- In anticipation of the end of temporary funding for the Nacro Symud Ymlaen 24Hour provision, to determine future service specification and revenue funding for the property formerly used by Y Dyfodol Phase 1 in partnership with the owners, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. & manage the transition to a new service model.(eg a jointly commissioned small assessment centre

Denbighshire County Council
Supporting People Strategy 2011-2014
Update & Operational Plan 2012-13



Report status: **EIGHTH DRAFT**

Date: **27TH JANUARY 2012**

Section 1: Introduction

2.1 General Overview

Denbighshire Supporting People vision statement:

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

This is the tenth Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) produced by Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and considers the housing-related support services required to meet the needs of vulnerable people residing within the county for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 as well as providing an update to Supporting People Strategy 2011-2014.

2.1 An Overview of Establishing this Report

Denbighshire Supporting People funding is split between three portfolios: Community Safety; Homelessness Prevention; Community Care & Older People. Supporting People projects are organized into a number of service delivery groups:

Community Safety and Homelessness Prevention

- Families (people with dependent children)
- Over 25s
- Young People
- Targeted and Specific projects (non-generic services)

Community Care

- Learning Difficulties
- Mental Health
- Physical Disability
- Older People services

This pattern of services has been compared with information collated from Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) forms to identify any gaps and shortfalls in the supply of support services.

1.3 Consultation

The Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) will hold 6 meetings during the development of this report and considered “Strategic Priority to Fund” commissioning tools, Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) data, outcomes reports, supply map information and feedback from stakeholders and consultation meetings.

A consultation event for current support providers was held in July 2011 and feedback reported to the SPPG to inform the development of this plan.

Further consultation with providers, stakeholders and service users was conducted during July and August. A draft document was circulated to all existing planning groups and forums linked to Supporting People.

The final document will be submitted to the Supporting People Planning Group, the Communities Scrutiny Committee and to Cabinet for approval in March 2012.

Section 2: Data Analysis Update 2010-2011

2.1 Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) Analysis

The previous three year analysis of information for 2007-8, 2008-9 and 2009-10 has been updated with information from 2010-11. The overall pattern is very similar to that of 2009-10, with levels remaining stable rather than continuing previously observed trends.

Proportions of NME forms by service delivery group have continued to fluctuate along with the total number of forms received.

The steady increase in the proportion of forms submitted by young people from 2007-8 to 2009-10 has not continued into 2010-11. Analysis of forms by age group, to include young people with dependant children, indicates that numbers are levelling off. In general, there was an increase in forms submitted by Families in 2010-11 (from 447 to 606), though no pattern is discernable over the last four years.

Data continues to indicate a broadly stable breakdown of age and ethnicity over time. However, there has been a shift in the gender balance in 2010-11, with an increase in the number of females from the previous year's 841 (51.8%) to 1054 (57.5%). These proportions are similar to those in 2007-8.

In 2010-11, NME forms were submitted by a number of older peoples' services for the first time, leading to a corresponding marked increase in the number of forms from those aged 61+. This does not appear to reflect changes in patterns of need, but rather improved reporting.

2.1.1 Lead Needs

The largest lead need group is still Homeless or Potentially Homeless and the second largest is still Domestic Abuse. Indeed, reported needs in both these areas increased last year.

Other numerically significant areas of need continue to include Substance Misuse (Alcohol issues and Drug Use), Mental Health and Offending Issues.

Increased numbers reporting a lead need of mental health broadly stabilised with numbers among rising from 71 in 2007-8, to 76 in 2008-9, then to 119 in 2009-10 and then to 111 in 2010-11. Similarly, the previous year's increase in the number reporting Alcohol Issues as lead need has levelled off from 131 to 125. Proportions reporting a Drug Use related lead need remain broadly static.

2.1.2 All Reported Needs

Indications from patterns of lead need are again supported by the overall pattern of all reported needs (where all high, low and medium level needs are recorded). The proportion of forms indicating other needs associated with domestic abuse has increased after falling over the previous three years. The most consistent increase in total numbers over four years has been in the Mental Health category. Numbers of those reporting Offending Issues and Drug Use have remained fairly stable.

There have been sharp increases in those reporting needs as Vulnerable Older People (from 65 in 2009-10 to 129 in 2008-8), Physical Disability (from 94 to 137) and Chronic Illness (from 59 to 80), though the extent to which this is attributable to changes in reporting is unclear.

The largest divergence from the lead needs picture is among those presenting as Young and Vulnerable, with overall numbers and high needs numbers increasing while lead needs numbers decreased. This possibly reflects the rather broad nature of this category, with more specific lead needs being reported in other areas.

2.1.3 Service Delivery Groups

The most significant area of lead need for those in the Families service delivery group is Domestic Abuse, with numbers rising to 277 in 2010-11, above the 2007-8 level of 272. Last year also saw a significant increase in families reporting a lead need of Homeless or Potentially Homeless to 193 following a previously consistent level averaging at around 123. Unsurprisingly, the other notable lead need area for this group is Vulnerable Single Parent, with numbers broadly stable over the last 4 years.

Numbers of Over 25s citing Domestic Abuse as lead need have also risen from 137 to 159, though not quite as dramatically as in the Families group. Increases in Mental Health and Alcohol Issues related lead needs from 2009-10 have been maintained at 83 and 103 respectively. Increases in the areas of Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Older Person are again evident as noted above. As expected, Homeless or Potentially Homeless accounts for the largest number of lead needs in this group by a very considerable margin at 282.

Domestic Abuse lead need among the Young People's group is significant though much lower than in the other groups, declining a little to 33 in 2010-11 from 40 in 2009-10. More numerous are the Young and Vulnerable lead needs, largely maintaining the previous years very sharp increase at 99. As among the Over 25s, Homeless or Potentially Homeless accounts for the largest number of Young People's lead needs in this group reaching its highest level over four years at 226.

Among Young People and Over 25s, most of 2010-11's Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) forms came from males, outnumbering females by 3 to 1. In the Families group, however, females were in the majority by 10 to 1. Around three quarters of people in the Families group were aged under 40, including a about a third aged between 16 and 25.

2.1.4 Accommodation

The numbers and proportion of NME forms completed by those living in Private Rented accommodation has continued rise steadily, while figures for social housing have remained stable since the previous year. There has been a very significant increase in Home Owners completing NME forms since 2008-9 from 60 to 94 to 131 (following a very large drop after 2007-8). The pattern of accommodation among those in Fixed Abode has otherwise remained broadly consistent.

The pattern of responses among those reporting No Fixed Abode has also remained broadly consistent. Numbers recorded as Rough Sleeping may have stabilised with little change from 2009-10.

2.1.5 Supported Accommodation

Numbers stating a preference to receive support in Ordinary Accommodation have again increased from 1130 to 1272. Numbers of NME forms indicating a preference for Refuge have also risen markedly from 110 to 146 following a previously consistent three year pattern of decline. Numbers preferring Self-Contained Accommodation have also increased.

When viewed by service delivery group, it is evident that while Ordinary Accommodation is the preferred option among Families, Over 25s and Young People, this preference is less marked among the latter group with much larger proportions of Young People requesting both a Shared House and Self Contained Accommodation. A significant number (25) stated a preference for a Short Term hostel. For comparison, 19 Young People requested Refuge accommodation. Demand for Refuge was highest in the Families Group at 73.

2.2 Supply Analysis

2.2.1 Supply Map

Overall maximum capacity has steadily increased from 873 in 2008-9 to a projected 1023 in 2011-12, representing a 17% increase. Generic provision for Young People and the Over 25's is proposed to increase significantly in 2011-12 while provision for Families will be maintained at 2010-11 levels.

Community Care services relating to Mental Health will reduce, though this will be balanced by an increase in Targeted and Specific mental health homeless provision.

An apparent reduction in Community Care Physical Disability provision is in fact a reflection of the change in the structure of Denbighshire county Council (DCC) Adult Services; with the Specialist Adult Team (SAT) absorbed into locality based services and the associated support project incorporated into generic provision – though with clearly specified referral routes from locality social work teams.

2.2.2 Outcomes

Data from outcomes exit questionnaires has been collated by strategic service delivery group (Families, Over 25s, Young people, Targeted & specific etc) and compared with funding levels. The pattern of outcomes delivery (per £10,000 funding) is very similar for generic and targeted service delivery groups, with the largest number of outcomes delivered in the areas of Feeling Safe, Managing Accommodation, Managing Money and Physical Health. Outcomes around Education/Learning and Employment/Volunteering are the least effectively achieved.

It is interesting that the Targeted and Specific group of projects appears to deliver outcomes more effectively than generic groups in all areas except Education/Learning and Employment/Volunteering, where services for Young People are most effective.

However, detailed analysis of figures for both headline outcomes and recorded milestones achieved by individual projects in these areas reveal no clear pattern to account for this.

Further analysis is required.

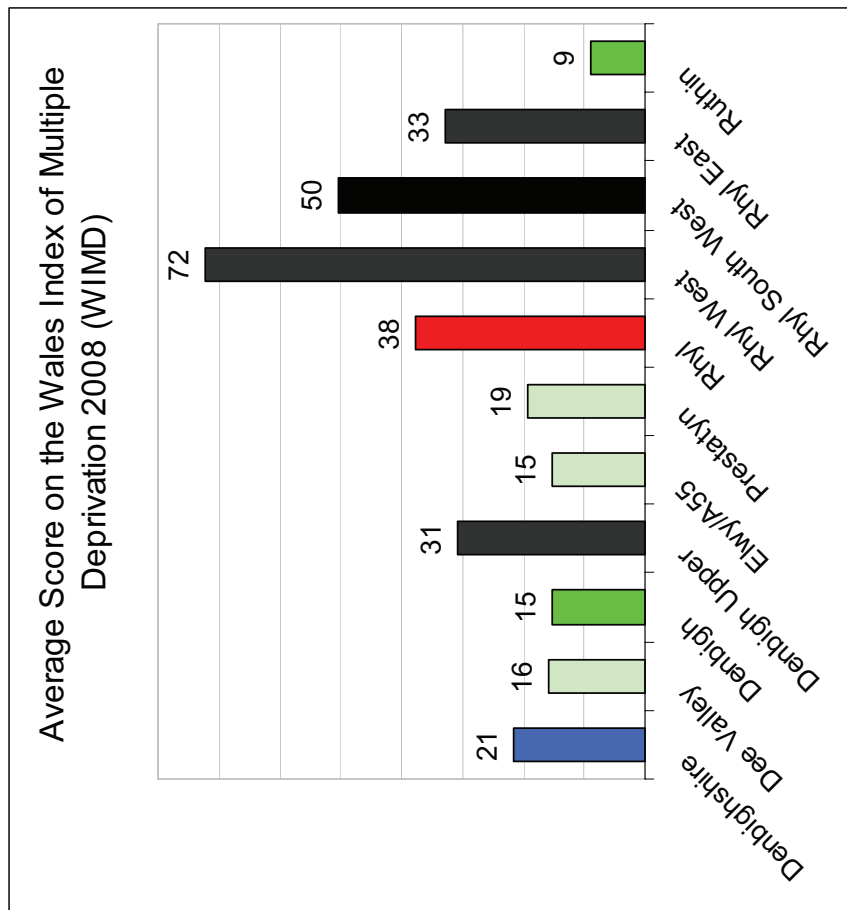
Among Community Care type projects (Learning difficulties, Mental health' Physical disability etc.) the pattern of outcomes delivery is less consistent, probably reflecting less consistent reporting. For example, only the Beginnings SAT project reports on the area of Physical disability. This is very much a homelessness type service delivered in a similar way to generic services. The pattern of outcomes achieved in comparison to funding level is very similar to that of the generic projects. The outcomes rates for Learning difficulties and Mental health however are generally much lower but more evenly distributed.

2.2.3 Geographic Distribution of Supported Housing

The table below appears to indicate an over concentration of supported housing units in Rhyl and particularly in West Rhyl.

	Population	Supported Housing
Denbighshire Total	97,009	188 units
Dee Valley	7,754	8%
Denbigh	14,051	14%
<i>Denbigh Upper</i>	3,167	3%
Elwy/A55	16,883	17%
Prestatyn	19,622	20%
Rhyl	25,569	26%
<i>Rhyl West</i>	4,321	4%
Ruthin	13,130	14%

However, these figures are based solely on population distribution and take no account of the widely varying levels of deprivation across the county.



The above chart shows the average scores given to the LSOAs (Lower level Super Output Areas) within each of the six Areas within Denbighshire, as well for some of the county's most deprived wards and an average for Denbighshire as a whole. On this basis, the concentration of supported housing in West Rhyl appears appropriate and there is evidence of an under-supply in Upper Denbigh.

NB: Data to support this section is available on request.

Section 3: Actions 2011 – 2012

NB: All actions will be reviewed once details of reductions in Supporting People funding for Denbighshire are known e.g. reductions in Supporting People grant levels and the redistribution of Supporting People funds by the Welsh Assembly Government.

3.1 Actions for the Community Safety & Homelessness funding portfolios 2011 – 2012

3.1.1 Regeneration	
Action 2011 - 2012	Update
3.1.1.1 Review the geographical distribution of supported housing projects to establish whether there is an over-concentration of such services in the West Rhyl Strategic Regeneration Area.	The Supporting People team will conduct a “snapshot” survey of support services.
3.1.1.2 Review the potential need for additional capacity for existing floating support services when the West Rhyl Housing Regeneration Plan for the Strategic Regeneration Area is implemented to ensure that any vulnerable people affected are able to access housing related support to meet their needs.	This action is to be reviewed in the light of changes to the regeneration agenda and may be carried forward to 2012-13.
3.1.2 Domestic Abuse	
Action 2011 - 2012	Update
3.1.2.1 Implement the findings of the review of the Black Association of Women Step out (BAWSO) cross-boundary pilot service for people from black and minority ethnic groups experiencing domestic abuse	The BAWSO project was reviewed in November 2010. The project ended in February 2011.
3.1.2.2 Agree a longer term vision of refuge provision in both North and South Denbighshire by September 2011 as part of an integrated domestic abuse service to include elements of dispersed refuge accommodation and self contained refuge accommodation.	A vision statement is to be proposed and considered by the Supporting People Planning Group meeting scheduled for 30 th September 2011.
3.1.2.3 Specify the low level Glyndwr Women’s Aid (GWA) SH supported housing unit as a self-contained dispersed Refuge unit for South Denbighshire and designate one unit of the current GWA Refuge as low level supported accommodation.	This action will be reviewed with reference to action 3.1.2.2 above.
3.1.2.4 Work with Glyndwr Women’s Aid and Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd on the potential for remodelling of the GWA Refuge into self-contained accommodation.	This action will be reviewed with reference to action 3.1.2.2 above.

3.1.2.5 Fund the North Denbighshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDDAS) Additional Refuge Units until March 2012 to retain self-contained dispersed refuge accommodation in North Denbighshire.	Funding for this project will be reviewed with reference to action 3.1.2.2 above.
3.1.3 Mental Health (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.1.3.1 Develop Mental Health homelessness floating support to complement the Making Space Mental Health Homelessness supported housing project for two years	Update Following an open tender, the contract for this service was awarded to Hafal and commenced in July 2011
3.1.3.2 Roll out the Supporting People (SP) Access and Move-on Framework for all Supporting People Mental Health services to support the National Service Framework	This action will be considered alongside actions 4.2.2.1 & 4.2.2.2 below re the development of an integrated framework for Supporting People mental health services.
3.1.4 Ex Offenders	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.1.4.1 Monitor refused referrals and repeat presentations to supported housing schemes via the Housing Support Coordinator to ensure Persistent and Priority Offenders (PPO) are able to get the support they need.	Update Monitoring is ongoing through referrals processes and multi agency meetings. The findings will be reported through case studies to inform strategic and operational planning.
3.1.5 Young People	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.1.5.1 Develop a two year pilot Crisis Intervention service to support young people sharing accommodation	Update The specification for this service is in development and the contract will be tendered shortly.
3.1.5.2 Reconfigure the remodelled Nacro Symud Ymlaen supported housing project for two years to facilitate the continued operation of the accommodation previously used for Y Dyfodol Phase 1.	Remodelled provision commenced in May 2011.
3.1.5.3 Monitor acceptance of referrals for young people with Substance Misuse (SM) needs into services via the SP Coordinator.	Monitoring is ongoing through referrals processes and multi agency meetings. The findings will be reported through case studies to inform strategic and operational planning.
3.1.5.4 Review Young People's floating support services to establish the impact of the potential non-renewal of Cymorth funding for the Denbighshire Support & Accommodation Development Worker role and to ensure continued accessibility.	Funding has been secured for the post until March 2012. Ongoing funding will be applied for through the Families First initiative.

3.1.6 Homelessness	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.1.6.1 Review accessibility of Supporting People (SP) Services for ex service personnel	Update The Supporting People team will conduct a “snapshot” survey of support services.
3.1.6.2 Commission a replacement for the decommissioned Cae Dai supported housing scheme (to be delivered as floating support until accommodation can be secured)	Cae Dai funding has been recycled to contribute towards funding the expanded Mental Health homeless provision outlined in action 3.1.3.1 above.
3.1.6.3 Implement & Review the “access & move-on” framework	*NEW* The implementation and review of the framework are ongoing and have identified a need to implement a single referral pathway and point of access for all Supporting People services in Denbighshire. The Access and Move On Group will aim to agree proposals to implement this by September 2011.

3.1.7 Repeat Presentations	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.1.7.1 Develop a person centred pilot project to test innovative and creative solutions to address barriers to achieving sustainable outcomes for these service users. This will continue into 2012-13 and 2013-14.	Update Options for the specification and implementation of this provision will be developed in due course.

3.2 Actions for the Community Care & Older People funding portfolio 2011 - 2012

3.2.1 Older People	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.2.1.1 Deliver a 2 tier housing support service in Denbighshire County Council sheltered housing provision (Tier 1 – Careline; Tier 2 – Warden Service). Implement the SP strategic review recommendations once finalised.	Update A specification for a two tier service has been developed with colleagues in Housing Services.
3.2.1.2 Deliver a tenure neutral floating support service utilising Denbighshire Housing Support assistants to extend to both urban and rural areas.	The Llaw yn Llaw - Hand in Hand tenure neutral floating support service commenced in February 2011.
3.2.1.3 Review all existing Denbighshire County Council service users’ support plans with the assistance of and alongside the Reablement service	The implementation of this action commenced in June 2011.

3.2.1.4 Evaluate the Value For Money of Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sheltered housing services and benchmark against Denbighshire County Council provision	This is work in progress and is currently ongoing.
3.2.1.5 Share learning re the reablement approach to sheltered housing with Registered Social Landlords' wardens and support workers.	This will follow the full implementation of actions 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.1.3 above.
3.2.1.6 Work with RSL providers who wish to deliver outreach services extending to both urban and rural areas. This will continue into 2012-13.	This will follow the full implementation of actions 3.2.1.2 and 3.2.1.3 above.
3.2.1.7 Complete the Supporting People review of the Rhyl Extracare scheme and integrate the findings into future Extracare specifications	The review of the Rhyl Extracare scheme was concluded in June 2011.
3.2.1.8 Reallocate funding from the decommissioned STEPS / Occupational Therapy service to contribute to new Extracare provision	Funding reallocation will be addressed as part of the implementations of the review of Rhyl Extracare as in action 3.2.1.7 above.
3.2.1.9 Roll out outcomes reporting to all SP funded older people services and all Community Care services.	Outcomes reporting questionnaires for these services have been developed and will be implemented
3.2.1.10 Reassess the strategic priority to fund Abbeyfield schemes given the development of Extracare	This will be considered along side housing services stock condition survey and review of housing strategy
3.2.1.11 Expand tenure neutral support services for Older People as opportunities arise.	This will be considered against the performance and capacity of the Llaw yn Llaw service in 2012-13.
3.2.2 Learning Disability (Community Care)	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.2.2.1 Develop a pilot preventive floating support service (temporarily funded for 2-3 years)	Update Following an open tender, the contract for this service was awarded to Cymryd Rhan and commenced in June 2011
3.2.3 Mental Health (Community Care)	
Action 2011 - 2012	
3.2.3.1 Complete the review of Tai Clwyd mental health provision and implement recommendations.	Update The review of Tai Clwyd's mental health provision was concluded in June 2011.
3.2.3.2 Expand the Acute Care tenancy Support (ACTS) project by two units for two years in response to the increase in reported Mental Health Needs.	The ACTS service expanded by two units in April 2011

Section 4: Proposed Actions 2012 – 2013

NB: Any requirements of the new Supporting People programme and any issues arising from the North Wales regional collaboration options appraisal conducted by Expanding futures will be incorporated into this plan for implementation

4.1 Actions for the Community Safety & Homelessness funding portfolios 2012 – 2013

4.1.1 Outcomes		
Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.1.1 *NEW* Compile outcomes reports for all services for 2012/13	N/A (within existing Supporting People (SP) Team resources)	N/A
4.1.2 Regeneration		
Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.2.1 *NEW* On completion of a geographical review of supported housing projects, develop a strategy to address any identified over-concentration of services (e.g. in West Rhyl) alongside Denbighshire's Housing Strategy.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)	N/A
4.1.3 All Services		
Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.3.1 *NEW* Ensure information about incidences of hate crime and harassment are consistently and accurately recorded and reported by all Supporting People services. Ensure that this information is monitored by the Supporting People Team, acted upon promptly and appropriately where necessary, and collated, analysed and reported to the Supporting People Planning Group and relevant officers in Denbighshire County Council. Ensure that this data informs planning and commissioning decisions and the development of policies and procedures.		
4.1.4 Domestic Abuse		
Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.4.1 Implement the North Wales SP Planning Group's	Existing Resources (see below)	•09/10 outcomes for

Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk	above services
GWA Refuge	DA	5	5	43.75	•09/10 supply map details
GWA SH	SH	1	1	2	•Voids
NDDAS Low Level	SH	1	1	2	•Refused referrals 09/10
NDDAS Refuge	DA	4	4	70	•Evictions 09/10
Hafan Cymru	SH	5	5	43.75	
Rhyl Cluster					
Totals		16	16	161.5	
Capacity permitting. Capacity permitting. (This may involve commissioning a new pilot service or reconfiguring existing provision.)					N/A
regional Domestic Abuse principles at a local level. The range of provision will include dispersed refuge units to support people with complex needs and men. Also ensure accommodation meets service users' needs and complies with agreed regional strategic aims regarding self contained refuge accommodation.					
4.1.4.2 Consider the possible development of a county wide floating support service (funded for an initial period of 30 months) to work with women who wish to remain in their own homes to prevent homelessness. Also those who wish return to or remain with the perpetrator. The service would work with the whole family unit & ensure target hardening & telecare are utilised to maximum benefit.					
4.1.4.3 In accordance with action 4.1.4.1 above, to work with providers and stakeholders on implementing The Flexible Service Proposal for Domestic Abuse services in Denbighshire.					
Existing Resources (see above)					•09/10 outcomes for above services •09/10 supply map details •Voids •Refused referrals 09/10 •Evictions 09/10

4.1.5 Mental Health (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)

Finance					Baseline Outcomes
Existing Resources (see below)					N/A
Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk	
MH Homeless (Making Space)	FS/SH	7	7	122.5	
MH Single Sex (Hafan Cymru)	FS/SH	4	4	35	
Totals		11	11	157.5	

4.1.6 Ex Offenders

Finance					Baseline Outcomes
Existing Resources (see below)					•09/10 outcomes
4.1.6.1 Review existing provision for ex offenders. Ensure					

that services are accessible to Persistent and Priority Offenders with support needs and have the capacity to provide appropriate and timely responses.	Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk	information for the above •No. of Units of provision •Voids •Refused Referrals •Evictions
	Rhyl Flats	SH	4	4	35	
	GIFT High	FS	8	10	87.5	
	Totals		12	14	122.5	

4.1.7 Families

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.7.1 Consider the development of e-learning resources for support workers in the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) and Child Protection (CP) if required to bridge any gaps in training provision.	Capacity permitting	N/A

4.1.8 Young People

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes			
4.1.8.1 Review all Young People's accommodation based services with a focus on outcomes and rent levels	N/A (within existing Supporting People (SP) Team resources)	N/A			
4.1.8.2 Review the Tai Clwyd 5 project to determine future funding & implement the recommendations of the review *ADDED* (i.e. to reconfigure into a tenure neutral floating support service linked to the possible 24 hour staffed Young People project for Denbigh and surrounding villages in 2013-14.)	Existing Resources (see below)	N/A			
	Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk
	Tai Clwyd 5 YP	FS	5	5	9

<p>4.1.8.3 *NEW* Following the revision and adoption of the Denbighshire County Council Young People's Housing and Support Action Plan in response to the "Southwark" judgement, jointly develop, commission and fund services with colleagues in Housing Services and Children and Family Services as required in the final version of the plan, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how to secure a Nightstop or Crashpad facility • Consider ring fencing of beds within existing Supporting People provision • Develop a joint project plan for a jointly commissioned small assessment centre for young people • Reconfigure Young People's services to ensure high intensity floating support will be provided to young people placed in any of the above provision 	Funded with Housing Services and Children and Family Services.	N/A
<p>4.1.8.4 *NEW* Re 3.1 Actions for the Community Safety & Homelessness funding portfolios 2011 – 2012, section 3.1.5 Young People (see above)</p> <p>Action 3.1.5.4 Review Young People's floating support services to establish the impact of the potential non-renewal of Cymorth funding for the Denbighshire Support & Accommodation Development Worker role and to ensure continued accessibility.</p> <p>In 2012-13, fund the recruitment of two full-time support workers for one year to be based in the Supporting People Team to support vulnerable people with high level and complex needs.</p>	Capacity permitting	N/A
<p>4.1.9 Homelessness Action 2012 - 2013</p>		
Finance	Baseline Outcomes	

4.1.9.1 Consider the prioritisation of ex service personnel for access to appropriate Supporting People services following a review of current access levels.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)	N/A
4.1.9.2 *NEW* Allocate additional resources to Seashells' Homeless High Level Supported Housing Project to increase support staff numbers, improve service flexibility and responsiveness and enhance outcomes delivery.	Capacity permitting.	N/A
4.1.9.3 *NEW* Consider the implications for housing related support services of the findings and recommendations reported following Housing Services review of the accommodation requirements of Gypsies & travellers to ensure that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are assessed in a strategic way and addressed through the promotion of inclusive service responses.	Capacity permitting	N/A
4.1.9.4 *NEW* Monitor and review the impact of welfare reforms and benefit cuts on Homelessness in Denbighshire, including changes to Housing Benefit and reductions in Supporting People funding. In particular, to liaise with Denbighshire County Council Housing Services' new collaborative project with Flintshire and Wrexham to mitigate the effects of these changes for residents in housing need. Also, to identify the implications for housing related support services and respond to changes as appropriate within available resources.	Capacity permitting	N/A
4.1.9.5 *NEW* Fund the recruitment of a full-time support worker for one year to be based with Housing Options in the Homelessness and Allocations team in DCC Housing Services	Capacity permitting	N/A

4.1.10 Physical Disabilities (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.10.1 Ensure services are accessible for a range of disabilities	N/A (within existing Supporting People Team resources). SP team to review, audit provision & publish availability	No. of accessible units 09/10

4.1.10.2	Incorporate disability access assessment into review process.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources).	No. of accessible units 09/10
4.1.10.3	Publish disability access details in SP directory	N/A (within existing SP Team resources).	No. of accessible units 09/10
4.1.10.4	Ensure existing service users with disabilities are appropriately supported through a Disabled Facilities Grant application where a need for this is identified.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources).	N/A

4.1.11 Chronic Illness (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.11.1 *NEW*	Consider contributing to the commissioning of a one year pilot specialist regional housing related support project for people with AIDS & HIV.	Capacity permitting. (Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) to consider funding through underspend on the basis of a regional business case).

4.1.12 Denbighshire's Big Plan

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.1.12.1 *NEW*	Provide evidence to the Local Services Board and others to demonstrate the Supporting People programmes substantial contribution to successfully delivering the outcomes identified in Denbighshire's Big Plan.	N/A (within existing Supporting People (SP) Team resources)

4.2 Actions for the Community Care & Older People funding portfolio 2012 – 2013

4.2.1 Outcomes

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
4.2.1.1 *NEW*	Compile outcomes reports for all services for 2012/13	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)

4.2.2 All Services

Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
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<p>4.2.2.1 *NEW* Ensure information about incidences of hate crime and harassment are consistently and accurately recorded and reported by all Supporting People services. Ensure that this information is monitored by the Supporting People Team, acted upon promptly and appropriately where necessary, and collated, analysed and reported to the Supporting People Planning Group and relevant officers in Denbighshire County Council. Ensure that this data informs planning and commissioning decisions and the development of policies and procedures.</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>4.2.2.2 *NEW* Investigate evidence of housing support need within adult services reablement service. Where evidence of HRS need is robust and financial resources permitting, consider a joint funding contribution to this service.</p>	Capacity permitting	N/A
<p>4.2.2.3 *NEW* Make a contribution to funding the maintenance and monitoring of Telecare alarm services for those service users who are eligible under Denbighshire County Council's charging policy.</p>	£12,603	N/A

4.2.3 Mental Health (Community Care)

<p>Action 2012 - 2013</p> <p>4.2.3.1 Develop a Step down Integrated Framework for SP Mental Health services including the roll-out of the Supporting People Access and Move-on Framework to support the National Service Framework. Utilise Telecare where possible and appropriate & tie the service into the "Move-on" Framework</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Existing Resources (see below), SP Team capacity permitting.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Project type</th> <th>Min SUs</th> <th>Max SUs</th> <th>Min hrs/wk</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACTS</td> <td>FS</td> <td>10</td> <td>18</td> <td>71.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Parade (CMHT)</td> <td>FS/SH</td> <td>10</td> <td>20</td> <td>140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MIND</td> <td>FS/SH</td> <td>24</td> <td>40</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poss 24hr MH SH</td> <td>SH</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> <td>84</td> <td>388.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk	ACTS	FS	10	18	71.5	East Parade (CMHT)	FS/SH	10	20	140	MIND	FS/SH	24	40	72	Poss 24hr MH SH	SH	6	6	105	Totals		50	84	388.5	<p>Baseline Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09/10 outcomes for the above services • No Units of provision • Voids • Refused Referrals • Evictions
Project	Project type	Min SUs	Max SUs	Min hrs/wk																												
ACTS	FS	10	18	71.5																												
East Parade (CMHT)	FS/SH	10	20	140																												
MIND	FS/SH	24	40	72																												
Poss 24hr MH SH	SH	6	6	105																												
Totals		50	84	388.5																												

<p>4.2.3.2 *NEW* Re 4.2.2.1 above, consider incorporating the findings of the Conwy & Denbighshire Accommodation Network (CADAN) review of Swansea City Council's "OASIS" (Opportunities for Accommodation and Support in Swansea) service. This acts as a central referral point for Swansea's Mental Health accommodation services and was identified as a positive example of effective joint working in the Wales Audit Office report on Housing Services for Adults with Mental Health Needs.</p>	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)	N/A
<p>4.2.3.3 *NEW* To contribute to achieving the outcome detailed in Denbighshire's Big Plan to: <i>"provide effective preventative support services to vulnerable individuals and families, including those with mental health problems, to ensure their housing needs are met. People with mental health needs will be more effectively supported to live independently, in their own homes."</i></p>	Existing Resources	N/A
<p>4.2.4 Older people</p>		
Action 2012 - 2013	Finance	Baseline Outcomes

<p>4.2.4.1 *NEW* Re 3.2 Actions for the Community Care & Older People funding portfolio 2011 – 2012, section 3.2.1 Older People (see above)</p> <p>Action 3.2.1.3: Review all existing Denbighshire County Council [sheltered housing] service users' support plans with the assistance of and alongside the Reablement service and</p> <p>Action 3.2.1.5: Share learning re the reablement approach to sheltered housing with Registered Social Landlords' wardens and support workers.</p> <p>In 2012-13, fund the recruitment of a full-time occupational therapist for one year to be based in DCC Sheltered Housing Services with the aim of consolidating and expanding the adoption and implementation of a reablement approach to sheltered housing.</p>	Capacity permitting	N/A
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Section 5: Proposed Actions 2013 – 2014

5.1 Actions for the Community Safety & Homelessness funding portfolios 2013 – 2014

5.1.1 Redistribution		
Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
5.1.1.1 *NEW* Determine the long term Strategic Priority to Fund of all services in the light of a likely reduction in funding for Denbighshire resulting from the geographical redistribution of Supporting People funding across Wales.	Review existing funding	N/A

5.1.2 Domestic Abuse		
Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
5.1.2.1 Review Domestic Abuse floating support services in the light of findings from the possible new county wide service (see c above) & Denbighshire's "move on" framework to inform future strategic priority to fund (SPTF)	N/A (within existing Supporting People (SP) Team resources)	N/A

5.1.3 Ex Offenders		
Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
5.1.3.1 Implement the findings of a North Wales Supporting People Planning Group regional review of ex-offender services at a local level. This will consider provision for women ex-offenders.	Review existing services if required	N/A

5.1.4 Families		
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
5.1.4.1 *NEW* Establish robust systemic links between Supporting People services for Families and Integrated Family Support Services at both strategic and operational levels.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)	N/A

5.1.5 Young People		
Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes

5.1.5.1 Continue to seek to develop a 24 hour staffed Young People project subject to securing appropriate accommodation.	Long term funding already allocated to secure a project for Denbigh and surrounding villages. Discussions are ongoing with a range of providers and this may be in a position to progress in the next 2-3 years.	N/A
5.1.5.2 Review the effectiveness of Y Dyfodol's new dispersed model of supported housing following embedding of the new service model.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)	N/A
5.1.5.3 *NEW* In anticipation of the end of temporary recycled funding for the Nacro Symud Ymlaen 24Hour provision, to determine future service specification and revenue funding for the property formerly used by Y Dyfodol Phase 1 in partnership with the owners, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. To manage and facilitate the transition to a new service and funding model e.g. as a jointly commissioned small assessment centre for young homeless people as described in the Denbighshire County Council Young People's Housing and Support Action Plan	Funded with Housing Services and Children and Family Services.	N/A

5.1.6 Substance Misuse (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)

Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
5.1.6.1 Implement the Regional SP Strategy for people with Substance Misuse needs when published.	Review existing services if required	N/A

5.2 Actions for the Community Care & Older People funding portfolio 2013 – 2014

5.2.1 Redistribution	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
Action 2013 - 2014	Review existing funding	N/A
5.2.1.1 *NEW* Determine the long term Strategic Priority to Fund of all services in the light of a likely reduction in funding for Denbighshire resulting from the geographical redistribution of Supporting People funding across Wales.		

5.2.2 Mental Health (Community Care)

Action 2013 - 2014	Finance	Baseline Outcomes
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<p>5.2.2.1 Continue to seek to develop a 24 hour staffed Mental Health project subject to securing appropriate accommodation. Utilise Telecare where possible and appropriate & tie service into the "Move-on" Framework</p>	Long term funding already allocated	N/A
<p>5.2.2.2 *NEW* To contribute to achieving the outcome detailed in Denbighshire's Big Plan to: <i>"provide effective preventative support services to vulnerable individuals and families, including those with mental health problems, to ensure their housing needs are met. People with mental health needs will be more effectively supported to live independently, in their own homes."</i></p>	Existing Resources	N/A

Agenda item: 8

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2012

Lead Officer: Head of Business Planning and Performance

Report Author: Corporate Improvement Officer

Title: Denbighshire Residents Survey 2011

1. What is the report about?

A second Denbighshire Residents Survey was carried out during the summer in 2011 to gauge the satisfaction and perceptions of Denbighshire residents on a range of issues from Council services to town centres and the development of new corporate priorities.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the 2011 Denbighshire Residents Survey, and to inform Members about how the Council is addressing the findings within service plans and the development of the new Corporate Plan 2012-16.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 considers the findings of the Residents Survey; and
- 3.2 determines whether any specific areas merit further scrutiny.

4. Report details.

The survey was sent out to 6,000 residents and there was a 38% (n=2,256) response rate, which is down on the 49% (n=3,071) response rate in the 2009 survey, but is still very high for a postal survey. The survey had increased in length by 9 questions, which included asking residents opinions about their local town centre and what areas they thought should become corporate priorities for the council.

The findings of the Residents Survey are currently being used by services to develop their Service Plans for 2012/13 where specific areas of need are identified. The views of residents are also being considered as part of the process for developing the new corporate priorities for the Corporate Plan 2012-16 and in the development of town plans.

The age profile of respondents has become more skewed towards the older population in the 2011 survey compared to 2009, with 41% of respondents being over 65 years old in 2011 compared to just 22% in 2009. The 2001 Census identified 21% of the population to be over 65 years old, and subsequent mid-year estimates have estimated an increase in the number of older people though only by a few percent, however more accurate and current data on Denbighshire's age profile will be provided when the 2011 Census data is released.

The survey provides satisfaction and perception information, therefore some of the service specific information may not be the result of a person's *direct experience* of a service. However, many people chose not to answer in these instances, and for those who do we should assume do so because they have an opinion based on some degree of information, and so the information provided by the survey should not be disregarded if it does not fit with what we assume. Rather, we should look at our own local data in closer detail, as well as talking to Councillors and communities to explore the issues which have been highlighted.

Residents' opinions about the Council on key issues such as whether it acts on the concern of residents, whether it is efficient and well run or provides good value for money have all improved in the 2011 survey, and by as much as 8% in the latter category.

Over two-thirds of residents felt their area had a strong sense of community except for Prestatyn (54%) and Rhyl (36%) and this pattern was repeated in the responses to whether people felt a part of their community.

There was a strong feeling of safety during the day, with Rhyl having the lowest agreement at (a still high) 93%. At night over 70% of residents across Denbighshire felt safe, this went as high as 92% in Ruthin and the Dee Valley, but dropped to 59% in Rhyl.

Perceptions of people using or dealing drugs highlighted this to be more of a problem in the Dee Valley (65%, up from 55% in 2009) than Rhyl (53%, up from 50% in 2009), and one that more people feel to be an issue in 2011 than 2009. This pattern was repeated in the responses to whether "people being drunk or rowdy" was an issue, with 62% agreeing in the Dee Valley, compared to 60% in Rhyl. These results do not necessarily mean that the Dee Valley *actually* has more of a problem than Rhyl, but they do highlight that people feel more aware of any issues, whether they are the result of a few isolated events or an increased occurrence in the number of incidents. This demonstrates how the survey flags up a 'hot spot', which with further investigation into the police and community safety statistics, will help us to identify and act on any actual issues.

Rubbish was considered to be a **small** problem by nearly half the residents across the county (40%-48%), which is consistent with the results in 2009. Dog fouling was considered to be slightly more of a problem (82%) than in 2009 (78%). Overall though, across the county virtually the same proportion of

people feel that their area had got better, stayed the same or got worse, as in 2009.

Satisfaction with services was generally improved from 2009, and areas of dissatisfaction are usually related to an issue we are already aware of, for example slightly higher levels of dissatisfaction with the manned recycling park and recycling service in the Dee Valley.

The survey asked several questions about residents' access to technology which we currently have little information about. The results indicate that an average of 78% of residents across the county have access to digital or satellite TV, 66% have access to a pc or laptop, 22% have access to a smartphone, 4% have access to a tablet device and 12% have no access to any of these technologies. This information will help us to communicate effectively with the public, as well as deciding how best to deliver some services.

An average of 10% of residents had had cause to make a complaint in the last 12 months, however over two thirds (70%) were dissatisfied with the way it was handled. People generally didn't feel very well informed in relation to specific services and local policy (i.e. LDP) but are generally happy with the information provided for carrying out day to day tasks such as how to pay a bill and registering to vote. People were generally satisfied with the friendliness of staff when contacting the council (92%) and being able to communicate in their preferred language (96%) though there was some dissatisfaction with the length of time taken to deal with an enquiry (21%), the information given (20%) and the final outcome of their enquiry (21%).

Residents considered the following to be the main priority areas for the next Corporate Plan (2012-16):

- Keeping communities clean and safe (74%)
- Support for the local economy and jobs (70%)
- Responding to the needs of an aging population whilst attracting and retaining younger people and families (69%)

Support for older people at home was felt to be the area which most needed protecting from efficiencies over the next 5 years.

At a cost of £22k it is still a very cost effective way of gathering a broad range of information about residents perceptions and satisfaction, however it has been recognised that there is a need for specialist services, e.g. Adults and Business Services, to collect service user data which would provide more reliable information about the service than that provided by the Residents Survey. The future frequency of the Survey is yet to be agreed. An action plan of activity being carried out by services to respond to issues identified in the survey is being developed. This will be used to demonstrate to the Wales Audit Office that the Council is committed to both engaging with local communities and responding to their concerns.

The Summary report is available on the councils website at www.denbighshire.gov.uk/residentsurvey. If any specific information or analysis is required, please contact Eva Walters, Corporate Improvement Officer at eva.walters@denbighshire.gov.uk or 01824 712676.

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

The Residents Survey contributes directly to the development of the next Corporate Priorities by asking residents which thematic areas they felt should be prioritised from a given list.

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

The Residents Survey was a one-off cost of £22k in 2011-12.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The Survey is a method of engaging with residents.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

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

N/A

10. Power to make the Decision

N/A

Contact Officer:

Corporate Improvement Officer

Tel: 01824 712676

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 1st March 2012

Lead Member/Officer: Corporate Director: Learning & Communities

Report Authors: Community Engagement Manager; Strategic Regeneration Manager; and Head of Finance and Assets

Title: Community Funding

1. What is the report about?

The funding allocated to enable Member Area Groups to them to support priority projects in their areas and funding for future community projects.

The report also updates members on proposals to manage a number of trust funds in a different manner

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Scrutiny has requested a report on the allocation of £50,000 to each of the six Member Area Groups (MAGs) and to specifically include information regarding,

i. the criteria under which the money was allocated and how the money was utilised for the benefit of the communities, and

ii. the financial streams available for future community funding (capital/revenue/town plan funding) including match funding opportunities via the Rural Development Plan for Wales (RDP), Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council's (DVSC) Community Chest and any other available monies

3. What are the Recommendations?

That a further report is presented following an analysis of the benefits to the community accrued from projects supported through the allocation to the MAGs

4. Report details

4.1 Background to the allocation

- 4.1.1 At the end of each financial year the final budget position is reported to Cabinet and then full Council who approve all allocations of under or over spends and transfers to/from reserves and provisions.
- 4.1.2 At the end of 2010/11 the Council had an underspend. An option was proposed of using £300k of this to support the Council's priority of getting closer to the community. This was supported at Cabinet on 21 June and approved at Council on 5 July. It was proposed that this could be done through the recently reconvened Member Area Groups (MAGs). This would allow the MAGs to have direct access to funds to address issues in their area and allow the Council to address local issues.
- 4.1.3 All Elected Members were notified of the MAG allocation with a guidance note explaining the principles behind the allocation, how the process will be managed and the likely timetable for its distribution. Accompanying the guidance was a project proposal form for use by Members. (Appendix 1)
- 4.1.4 Further guidance was given at each subsequent MAG meeting and it is has remained a standard agenda item.

4.2 Distribution of the funds

- 4.2.1 All six MAGs discussed how they would approach the distribution of funds and although Officers highlighted the guidelines stipulating a minimum expenditure of £10,000 per project some MAGs had difficulty agreeing large projects which would equally benefit all wards/geographic areas. The six MAGs subsequently decided their allocation in the following manner:

Dee Valley

The £50,000 would be distributed equally between Llangollen and Corwen (including Cynwyd/Llandrillo).

Denbigh

Allocated the funds on a ward basis.

Elwy

Allocated the funds on an individual Member basis

Prestatyn

Allocated the funds on several large projects which would benefit the town as a whole.

Rhyl

Allocated the funds on a ward basis

Ruthin

Allocation on one or two large projects which would benefit the town and its hinterland.

4.2.2 Members have used the Project Proposal Form which has been presented to CET for its approval with the appropriate costing and approval of Services.

4.2.3 Appendix 2 gives an overview of the projects submitted to date. It is anticipated all of the funds will have been committed before the end of this financial year. [This appendix is presently excluded from public disclosure by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972]

4.3 Review of the process

4.3.1 It is too early to give a comprehensive evaluation of the impact the projects have had on the community due largely to many of the projects only having received the funding over the past month or so. Although the benefits to some of the submitted schemes i.e. computers to schools is self explanatory others such as the reduced town centre car parking charges entails further analysis over a significant period. It is suggested therefore that a further report is submitted in June/July with a detailed analysis of the benefits accrued from each project.

4.3.2 From an administrative perspective the process has been time consuming for Officers particularly when several projects may have been submitted just in one ward.

4.3.3 Due to the geographic makeup of some of the MAG the guidance given to concentrating on two or three large projects has not been adopted resulting in smaller projects which will obviously have less impact on the community.

4.4 Financial streams for future community funding

Given the difficult financial situation that the Council faces it is unlikely that funds at this level will be available in future years. However the Council has begun to approve Town Plans and has allocated significant funds to support these. A report will be presented to a future Communities Scrutiny Committee to propose how these can best be co-ordinated with other funds such as community capital and revenue funds, regeneration and match funding budgets.

4.5 Match funding opportunities

- 4.5.1 Unlike the previous business plan for RDP funded projects serving rural Denbighshire, the current one makes no provision for capital grants to community projects because the application for a further Rural Key Fund was not supported by Welsh Government. The next plan would commence on 1st January 2014 and the proposed regulations as currently drafted would permit RDP funds to be used to support community projects. Whether this would mean that funds would be available for this purpose in Denbighshire would depend on the priorities agreed locally and their acceptability to the Welsh Government.
- 4.5.2 The ability of the DVSC Community Chest to support community projects is limited as it only provides small grants of up to £250.
- 4.5.3 With the completion of the facilities for the London Olympics, more Lottery funding should become available for projects elsewhere than has been the case in recent years.
- 4.5.4 The Welsh Government's Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP) provides grants for community projects and is only available to community organisations and local authorities are not able to make applications to this programme.
- 4.5.5 One of the growing sources of funding for community projects in Denbighshire is the wind industry with a consultation taking place currently about arrangements for disbursement of the community benefit funding of £750,000 per annum for 25 years from 2014 arising from the Gwynt y Mor off shore wind farm and a similar arrangement has been suggested for the proposed Clocaenog on shore wind farm.

5. Trust Funds

- 5.1 The Council is the trustee for a number of funds that have been placed either with it or with predecessor bodies. Some of these funds date back pre First World War. The funds were generally given for a specific purpose or to help residents of a particular area. Given the age of some funds, they are no longer of sufficient size to generate enough income to redistribute, or the original documents have been lost and the purpose of the fund is no longer clear.

There are about 55 different funds and the total value of the funds is around £268k and they generate a few thousand pounds income each year and relatively little of this is then spent. Some of the smaller funds have not been used for a number of years.

It is clear that this resource is under used and could potentially bring benefit to the residents of Denbighshire if managed differently. The draft report attached as Appendix 3 shows proposals on how a different model could be used to manage these funds that would enable greater income to be generated and an increased likelihood of match funding. [This appendix is presently excluded

from public disclosure by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972]

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

Allocating funds to enable the MAGs to implement projects which are a priority for their areas assists the County Council to achieve its strategic aim of “bringing the Council closer to the community”

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

The total cost of providing £50,000 to be allocated by each of the six MAGs was £300, 000.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Not applicable

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Not applicable

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

There is a risk of missing opportunities to secure the best use of the available match funding for the maximum benefit of the county’s communities without a strategic approach agreed by all the interested parties. The development of town and community plans will help to mitigate this risk.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council the power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Contact Officer:

Community Engagement Manager

Tel: 01824 70 6146

Allocation of Community Based Funding to Member Area Groups

Guidance for Proposals

The Council has allocated £50k to each of the Member Area Groups. The purpose of the funding is to support the Council's priority of 'Getting Closer to the Community'. This document provides members with guidance on the proper expenditure of those funds.

Principals

- Should support local projects
- Can be used to grant fund other bodies, spend directly on new projects, or to enhance or improve existing Council services
- Can be used for revenue or capital projects but cannot create an ongoing liability for expenditure by the Council
- Projects should be of sufficient size to make an impact in the local area – minimum expenditure of £10k per project
- Projects should be supported by evidence of their need and what benefit / outcome they will achieve for the local community
- Projects must be formally agreed by each Member Area Group. No individual member can commit expenditure. Where possible multiple projects per ward should be avoided

Process

- A Project Proposal must be completed for each proposal
- Any project must be agreed by the relevant Head of Service within the Council to ensure it is affordable and feasible
- Final approval for the projects will be given by CET to ensure the projects do not contravene any regulations etc or conflict with any other proposals. This brings an auditable independent check to ensure there are no issues with probity and that expenditure is authorised in line with the constitution.

Timetable

- The next round of Member Area Group meetings is in October and it is assumed that proposals will be put to these meetings with decisions taken either at these meetings or the following meeting early in the new year.

Member Area Group Project Proposal	
What is the name of the project?	
How much will it cost?	
Is there any match funding? If Yes state amount and source	
How long do you think it will take to deliver?	
Who will manage the project? (Council dept, external etc)	
What will the project do?	
Why do you think the project is required? What evidence do you have?	
How will this project bring the Council closer to the community?	
How will you know if it has been successful?	

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda item: 10

Report To: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2012

Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator

Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report presents the Communities 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 have regard to the following questions 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 The Committee's next meeting on 12 April is its last scheduled meeting of the current municipal year, and of the present Council's term of office. At present the Committee has three items of business listed for consideration at that meeting. The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any subject areas or topics which it feels would merit scrutiny prior to the conclusion of the municipal year and the current Council's term of office.
- 4.6 Members will see from the attached draft work programme that a number of items listed under 'Future Issues' require the Committee to scope the purpose of the reports and the desired outcomes to be achieved from scrutinising the topics. These topics/areas were identified at the training session held for Committee members ahead of the Committee's first meeting. To enable officers to start preparing the reports for presentation at future meetings the Committee is asked to determine why it wishes to receive reports on these subjects and what it expects to achieve from scrutinising them. The five questions listed in paragraph 4.3 should assist members with this task.
- 4.7 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.

4.8 **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. **Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group**

5.1 Under the new scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) has assumed the role of a coordinating committee. As per this Committee's request the SCVCG at its meeting on 16 February considered which Committee would be the most appropriate Committee to scrutinise the Strategy for West Rhyl. Following consideration of the request the Group concluded that the Strategy aligned itself with the remit of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

5.2 The Committee is therefore asked to consider including the item on its forward work programme and to determine which aspects it wishes to scrutinise and the objectives of its examination of them. The questions listed in paragraph 4.3 may assist the Committee with this task.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. **What consultations have been carried out?**

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

9. **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.

10. 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

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Note: Items entered in *italics* have not been approved for submission 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
12 April	1 'Closer to the Community' – Community Engagement Strategy	Presentation of the agreed Community Engagement Strategy and consideration of the action plan for its delivery	Monitoring the implementation of the strategy which will improve communication between the Council, stakeholders and the community should ensure the Authority delivers high quality services which residents desire	David Davies	September 2011
	2 Getting Closer to the Community – Action Plan	Monitor progress in implementing and achieving the actions set out in the action plan	Identification of slippages against the action plan or other actions which may need to be included in the action plan, will assist the Council to come closer to its communities	Hywyn Williams	October 2011
	3 Common Access Route to Housing [Communities initially, could eventually be Partnerships]	To present the findings of the feasibility study into the provision of a common access route to housing	Development of a common mechanism for accessing affordable housing, and allocation policies and procedures for a number of local authorities and Registered Social Landlords who work closely with the authorities	Simon Kaye	December 10 (rescheduled September 2011)
	4.				
24 May (provisionally)	1 Estyn Adult Community Education Inspection [Education]	To consider the findings of the Estyn Inspection of Adult Community Education Inspection	Monitoring the implementation of actions identified to address the regulator's recommendations and to improve outcomes for adult learners in the county	Julian Molloy	December 2011

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
July (date to be confirmed) Potential Special Joint Meeting with Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	1 NHS Service Reviews	To consider the proposals for the reconfiguration of the delivery of NHS Services in North Wales	Evaluation of the impact of the reviews on the residents of Denbighshire will assist the Council to commence its planning for future public service health and care provision in the county and identify future budgetary pressures	Sally Ellis/BCU	By SCVCG November 2011 (rescheduled January 2012)
July	1 Management of allocation of Section 106 Commuted Sums for open space provision and Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL)	To monitor the effectiveness of the management arrangements and funds received and committed (report to include the time limits applicable to each commuted sum)	Effective management of the commuted sums and CIL schemes will assist with the Council to deliver the regeneration priority and to bring the Council closer to the community	Graham Boase/Angela Loftus	July 2011
	2 Control of Caravan Sites	To present the proposed standard conditions and procedures developed by the Working Group for the purpose of controlling and monitoring caravan sites in both Denbighshire and Conwy as well as the feedback received at the Operators' Seminar	The development of a robust and collaborative approach to ensure that tourist sites contribute to the local economy and the delivery of the regeneration corporate priority	Graham Boase/Neil Jones (CCBC)	July 2011
	3 Allocation of Additional Resources to SEN in Primary Schools [Education]	To monitor the progress in developing a revised funding formula for one to one SEN support in primary schools	Effective targeting of financial SEN resources for primary schools to support and improve outcomes for individual pupils	Karen Evans/Carly Wilson	December 2011
	4 Day Services provision for Older People in the north of	Presentation of proposals to change service provision to	Development of effective and efficient services which meet	Helena Thomas/Phil	September 2011

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered (rescheduled from January)
	the county [Lead Member to attend]	vulnerable client group	service users/residents' needs and align to new methods of service delivery	Gilroy	

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Challenging Behaviour and its impact on Council services could possibly be an issue for Partnerships as joint working with BCU involved <i>(Committee to discuss whether this topic should be referred to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee)</i>	An analysis of the impact of children's challenging behaviour on the Council's education and social services' functions	Identification of measures, or other Council services, which may assist education and social services to address challenging behaviour and ease budget and resource pressures in the long-term	Leighton Rees/Karen I Evans	March 11
[education] <i>The Quality and Provision of Community Facilities</i>	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Hywyn Williams/Jamie Groves/Diane Hesketh	May 2011
<i>Rural Transport</i>	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Peter Daniels	May 2011
<i>Rural Community Sustainability</i>	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Hywyn Williams/Jamie Groves/Diane Hesketh?	May 2011
<i>Access to the Countryside</i>	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Mark Dixon/Huw Rees	May 2011

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Waste Management Provision	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Steve Parker/Ken Thompson	May 2011
Transfer of Services to Town Councils	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Hywyn Williams/Helen Burkhalter/Paul Mead	May 2011
The effectiveness of CCTV	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Graham Boase	May 2011
Wind Farms	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		Graham Boase/Paul Mead	May 2011
Review of Heritage and Arts Assets (post May 2012)	<i>The Committee to scope the purpose and expected outcomes following receipt of information report (see section below on information reports)</i>		Steve Parker	May 2011
Flood Risk Areas within Denbighshire (autumn 2012)	Information on all areas within the County which are at risk from any type of flooding incidents and the plans in place to address the identified risks	Assurances that action has been taken or plans are in place to mitigate the risk of flooding to the identified communities and development of robust contingency plans	Wayne Hope	June 2011
Disposal of Council Buildings, Property and Land	Consideration of the Council's asset management/disposal strategy and the procedures/guidelines in place for disposing of Council assets	Assurances that due consideration is given to alternative uses, including community use, in all asset disposals, and that all asset disposal transactions are open/transparent and are undertaken in the taxpayers' interest	Paul McGrady/Chris Davies	January 2012
Strategy for West Rhyl				SCVCG February 2012

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

For future years

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information Report (for circulation in 2012) [education]	Impact of cessation of free school transport for pupils living within Wrexham County Borough Council who attend Ysgol Dinas Bran, Liangollen	To outline the impact of Wrexham County Borough Council's decision to withdraw free school transport to pupils from the County attending Ysgol Dinas Bran, Liangollen on the number of pupils attending the school, future projected pupil numbers, its future viability and the consequential implications for the community in and around Liangollen	Jackie Walley/Karen Evans	June 2011 (rescheduled July 11 and Oct 11)
Information [February 2012]	Heritage and Arts Assets	To outline the heritage and arts assets owned/operated by the Council, their annual running costs, profits/losses, how they are funded and the level of community use made of the assets if applicable	Steve Parker/Paul McGrady	December 2011
Information (June 2012)	Review of Licensing Procedures	Progress report on the implementation of the proposals, as agreed by the Committee in July 2011, to strengthen the Council's licensing procedures	Graham Boase/Wyn Jones (CCBC)	July 2011 rescheduled September 2011 and February 2012

21/02/2012

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
12 April	30 March	24 May (provisional)	10 May		

Communities Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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
Scala Cinema & Arts Centre, Prestatyn	Cllr P.A. Dobb / P McGrady
Prestatyn Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Regional Collaboration on Economic Regeneration Purpose: Approval for the governance arrangements for priority collaborative activities	Councillor David Thomas / Mark Dixon
Regional Collaborative Committees. Purpose: Formal consideration of participation in shadow and finalised Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) for the Supporting People Programme. Awareness of financial implications of Supporting People programme changes.	Cllr P A Dobb / Sally Ellis / Jenny Elliot
Supporting People Strategy Update and Operational Plan 2012 – 13	Councillor P A Dobb Gary Major
Tender Exemption – Seashells Supported Housing Contract	Gary Major / Cllrs P A Dobb & J Thompson Hill
Approval for NEWTRA Partnership Agreement	Bethan Jones
The Honey Club Site, Rhyl – Developer Interest	Cllr P.J. Marfleet /Chris Davies
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
24 APRIL 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
ABBA Floating Support Project – Contract Award	Gary Major / Cllr P A Dobb
Mental Health Homeless Supported Housing – Contract Award	Gary Major / Cllr P A Dobb
The Proposed Denbighshire Community Endowment Fund. Purpose: To receive Cabinet approval for a new approach to deal with the dormant trust funds.	Councillor H H Evans / Hywyn Williams
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator

FUTURE ISSUES

JUNE 2012	
Regional CCTV	Councillor Sharon Frobisher / Graham Boase
DECEMBER 2012	
Welsh Housing Quality Standards	Councillor David Thomas / Peter McHugh

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
8 December 2011	6. Denbighshire Adult Community Education Estyn Inspection	<p>RESOLVED – that the Committee:-</p> <p>(a) note and understands the priorities and organisation of adult community education in Denbighshire and the partnership with Conwy Council as identified in the report;</p> <p>(b) subject to the inclusion of sufficient information on the availability of potential funding streams for adult education in rural areas in the document , endorses the Self Assessment Report developed jointly with partners and the Quality Improvement Plan;</p> <p>(c) is of the view that the 15% statistic of overall teaching across the partnership being adequate was not accepted, and therefore should be addressed; and</p> <p>(ch) receives a report summarising the outcome of the Estyn Inspection when available.</p>	Awaiting confirmation of inclusion
19 January 2012	4. North Wales Police Estate Review	<p>RESOLVED – that,</p> <p>a) the Committee receive the presentation and note</p>	Provisionally scheduled into the work programme for May/June's meeting

		<p><i>the factors that had motivated the Estate Review; and</i></p> <p><i>b) an official response be drafted and submitted to North Wales Police Authority, formally noting the Committee's comments and recommendations</i></p>	<p>Response sent by the required deadline (copy circulated to members in Information Brief)</p>
	<p>6. Foryd Harbour Mooring Fees and Charges</p>	<p>RESOLVED – that the scheduled item on the Foryd Harbour Mooring Fees and Charges be deferred to next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on 1st March, 2012.</p>	<p>Item on current meeting's agenda</p>
	<p>7. Local Housing Strategy</p>	<p>RESOLVED – that the Committee</p> <p>a) notes the progress made against the Local Housing Strategy action plan 2011/12 and the challenges encountered in achieving the key actions;</p> <p>b) recommends the key headline projects listed in the report for inclusion in the revised Local Housing Strategy 2012/17 and that significant emphasis should be included in the revised Strategy on the need to bring empty homes back into occupation; and</p> <p>c) recommends that the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group considers the most appropriate Committee to scrutinise the Strategy for West Rhyl;</p>	<p>Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group discussed this matter at its meeting on 16 February and recommended that Communities Scrutiny Committee take</p>

	<p>8. Highway Verges Grass Cutting</p>	<p>RESOLVED – that, having considered the proposals for the provision of grass verge cutting, the Committee recommends that</p> <p>a) Option 1 is implemented in the AONB on all routes which are deemed safe for a Biodiversity cut, and that Option 2 is implemented across the remainder of the County's roads;</p> <p>b) the current arrangement for outsourced work be retained subject to capacity and quality monitoring measures being taken ; and</p> <p>c) a timetable of scheduled grass cutting plans be published and distributed to town and community councils and Member Area Groups.</p>	<p>ownership of scrutinising the strategy</p> <p>Officers from the Highways Department will take these actions forward</p>
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