



To: Members of the County Council

Date: 2 July 2012

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2012** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN LL15 1YN**.

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 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 - 16)

To receive the minutes of –

- (a) the Annual meeting of County Council held on 15 May 2012 (copy enclosed), and
- (b) the ordinary meeting of County Council held on 22 May 2012 (copy enclosed).

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 of business because it is likely that exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed.

5 APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR: ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AMBITION

To interview candidates and consider making an appointment for the post of Corporate Director: Economic and Community Ambition. The number of candidates to be interviewed will be determined by the Special Appointments Panel on 9 July 2012.

PART 1 (OPEN SESSION)

6 UPDATE OF DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (Pages 17 - 28)

To consider a report by the Policy, Research and Information Manager (copy enclosed) updating members on the Local Development Plan and seeking authorisation for Group Leaders to oversee and monitor work undertaken in response to the Inspectors' Findings.

7 FINAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2011/12 (Pages 29 - 40)

To consider a report by the Head of Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Council's approval of the final revenue outturn position for 2011/12 and the treatment of reserves and balances as detailed in the report.

8 APPOINTMENT OF LAY MEMBER TO CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (Pages 41 - 42)

To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy enclosed) regarding the appointment of a lay member to the Corporate Governance Committee.

9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES - COUNCIL SIZE POLICY CONSULTATION PAPER (Pages 43 - 52)

To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (copy enclosed) seeking Council's approval of the submission of a draft consultation response to the Commission's policy proposals to introduce council size.

10 ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT: SOCIAL SERVICES 2011/2012 (Pages 53 - 84)

To consider a report by the Corporate Director: Modernisation and Wellbeing (copy enclosed) seeking Council's endorsement of the Director's assessment and improvement priorities for 2012/2013.

11 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 85 - 88)

To consider the Council's forward work programme (copy enclosed).

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Ian Armstrong
Raymond Bartley
Brian Blakeley
Joan Butterfield
Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones
William Cowie
Ann Davies
James Davies
Meirick Davies
Richard Davies
Stuart Davies
Peter Duffy
Hugh Evans
Peter Evans
Bobby Feeley
Carys Guy-Davies
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Martyn Holland
Colin Hughes
Rhys Hughes
Hugh Irving
Alice Jones
Huw Jones
Pat Jones

Gwyneth Kensler
Geraint Lloyd-Williams
Margaret McCarroll
Jason McLellan
Barry Mellor
Win Mullen-James
Bob Murray
Peter Owen
Dewi Owens
Merfyn Parry
Allan Pennington
Arwel Roberts
Gareth Sandilands
David Simmons
Barbara Smith
David Smith
Bill Tasker
Julian Thompson-Hill
Joe Welch
Cefyn Williams
Cheryl Williams
Eryl Williams
Huw Williams

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 15 May 2012 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Ian Armstrong, Raymond Bartley, Brian Blakeley, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, William Cowie, Ann Davies, James Davies, Meirick Davies, Richard Davies, Stuart Davies, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Carys Guy-Davies, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Holland, Colin Hughes, Rhys Hughes, Hugh Irving, Alice Jones, Huw Jones, Pat Jones, Gwyneth Kensler, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Margaret McCarroll, Jason McLellan, Win Mullen-James, Bob Murray, Peter Owen, Dewi Owens, Merfyn Parry, Allan Pennington, Arwel Roberts, Gareth Sandilands, David Simmons, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM); Corporate Directors: Learning and Communities (HW) and Demographics Wellbeing and Planning (SE); Head of Legal and Democratic Services (RGW) and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

1 APOLOGIES

Councillors Peter Duffy, Barry Mellor, Bill Tasker and Cefyn Williams

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest had been raised.

3 CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The retiring Chairman, Councillor William Cowie delivered a speech during which he reflected upon his time as Chairman and highlighted a number of events he had attended over the last twelve months. His proudest moment was when The Royal Welsh was granted freedom of the county of Denbighshire. The retiring Chairman also took the opportunity to thank fellow councillors for their support together with the Chief Executive and his staff. He paid tribute to the work of the former Leader, Councillor Hugh Evans and Cabinet on their achievements. Special thanks were extended to the Vice Chairman, Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain Jones, his Consort, Denise Hodgkinson and to Eleri Woolford, Member Support and Development Manager. Finally thanks were conveyed to the translation team for their hard work.

The retiring Chairman presented cheques from money raised during his time as Chairman to his chosen charities – St. Kenitgern Hospice, St. Asaph and North Wales Cancer Centre at Glan Clwyd Hospital. He also presented gifts to his Chaplain, Reverend Val Rowlands, his Consort and the Member Support and Development Manager in recognition of their support over the past twelve months.

At this point the retiring Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman of the County Council for 2012/13. Councillor Joan Butterfield proposed Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones be elected Chairman outlining the personal qualities and experience she would bring to the position. Councillor Raymond Bartley seconded the proposition adding that she would make an excellent ambassador for Denbighshire. There being no further nominations and following a secret ballot Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones was unanimously elected Chairman of the Council for the 2012/13 municipal year.

The retiring Chairman wished the incoming Chairman all the best for the future and invested her with the Chairman's Chain of Office following which she completed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The retiring Chairman's Consort invested the new Chairman's Consort with the Chain of Office. The incoming Chairman paid tribute to the work undertaken by the retiring Chairman and presented him with the Past Chairman's badge, plaque and a gift on behalf of the Council.

The incoming Chairman named Canon John Glover as her Chaplain for the year and advised of her chosen charities – St. Kentigern Hospice, St. Asaph; Vision Support, and Rhyl Lifeboat. Finally she congratulated both returning and new councillors on their success in the recent elections indicating that she was looking forward to working with them all during the forthcoming year.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman sought nominations for the appointment of Vice Chairman.

Councillor Hugh Evans proposed that Councillor Raymond Bartley be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2012/13 municipal year. He referred to Councillor Bartley's vast experience and his tireless work in the community. Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts seconded the nomination adding that he would make a great ambassador for Denbighshire. There being no further nominations and following a secret ballot, Councillor Raymond Bartley was unanimously elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2012/13 municipal year.

The Chairman invested Councillor Bartley with the Vice Chairman's Chain of Office following which he completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

At this juncture Group Leaders paid tribute to the work of the retiring Chairman over the last twelve months and congratulated Councillors Chamberlain-Jones and Bartley upon being elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

5 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

6 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman advised that one nomination had been received for the appointment of Leader of the Council. Councillor Stuart Davies proposed, seconded by

Councillor Eryl Williams that Councillor Hugh Evans be elected Leader of the Council. Both referred to Councillor Evans as an exceptional Leader highlighting his achievements during the previous administration and their confidence that he would lead the authority to further success.

Councillor Evans thanked his fellow councillors for proposing him as Leader advising that he would work to continue improvement and aspire to excellence through innovation and practical application of service delivery. He reflected upon the work of the authority over the last few years and highlighted its success in areas such as education, highways and recycling. In setting out his future vision for the authority, Councillor Evans indicated that whilst Denbighshire had enjoyed much success over recent years there was room for improvement and he elaborated upon three key areas of responsibility to focus on in the future together with a number of proposals to secure that improvement in terms of –

- (1) Regional and National Commitment and Understanding
- (2) Internal Ways of Working
- (3) Community Expectations – getting closer to our communities

Councillor Evans concluded his presentation by advising that the authority would be facing many challenges but was well placed to deal with those challenges and maintain the Council's position as a high performing authority. In closing his address Councillor Evans provided some personal background information highlighting his strong links to Denbighshire and sought members' support for his election as Leader.

In accordance with the Council's constitution a secret ballot was held and Councillor Hugh Evans was unanimously elected Leader of the Council. The Leader thanked members for their support advising that he would work very hard on their behalf.

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2012 were submitted.

Matters Arising –

Page 8 – Item No. 9 Notice of Motion – Members had previously requested that support be sought from Assembly Members for the Council's housing provision as detailed within the Local Development Plan and Councillor Eryl Williams expressed his concern regarding the delay in receiving a response to this important issue. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (H:L&DS) agreed to ascertain whether support had been forthcoming from Assembly Members and apologised for the delay in that regard. Councillor Williams requested a response by the end of the week.

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on 27 March 2012 were submitted.

Matters Arising –

Page 18 – Item No. 6 Review of the Coroner Service – Councillor Meirick Davies referred to reference in the resolution to agree an option set out within the report and felt that the information would not be easily available as it was contained within a separate document. The H:L&DS confirmed it was usual practice to reference documents which were readily available with the minutes on the Council’s website.

Page 19 – Item No. 7 Capital Plan 2011/12 – 2014/15 – With regard to his previous comments concerning property acquisition on Rhyl Promenade, Councillor Meirick Davies supported the need to demolish the building in question in view of its state of disrepair but cautioned that the Council needed to ensure that any replacement building was in keeping with the surrounding conservation area.

Page 15 – Item No. 5 Constitution Review – In response to a question from Councillor Bobby Feeley the H:L&DS confirmed that work would be undertaken to amplify the role descriptions of Champions within the Council’s constitution.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 28 February 2012 and 27 March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (H:L&DS) presented his report (previously circulated) relating to changes to the Council’s Constitution required by provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to include the establishment of an Audit Committee, a Democratic Services Committee and arrangements for the appointment of Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The H:L&DS explained that the report dealt with a number of mandatory provisions for members to consider and there was an expectation that they would be implemented at the Annual Council meeting. The draft statutory guidance had been taken into account where it was consistent with the Measure. However if the final guidance (due to be issued in June) differed significantly from the draft there may be a need for further review. The H:L&DS elaborated upon the relevant sections of the Measure and the implications for the Council in carrying out those mandatory requirements which needed to be reflected within the Council’s constitution.

During presentation of the report members took the opportunity to raise questions and clarify particular issues with the H:L&DS and the legalities surrounding implementation of the statutory provisions. Consideration was given to each of the following issues in turn –

Establishment of an Audit Committee

Council considered the name, size and composition of the committee and its terms of reference. Members noted that the functions of the existing Corporate Governance Committee closely mirrored those required by the Measure for an Audit Committee. In view of that, the effectiveness of the existing committee, and in the interest of efficiencies it was agreed that the Corporate Governance Committee continue (taking on the functions required by the Measure) and that it be designated as the Audit Committee for that purpose. In accordance with the

general rule in local government law the Council agreed with the recommendation that the committee be politically balanced. Consideration was also given to increasing the size of the committee which appeared small in comparison to full Council, perhaps up to eleven members in line with scrutiny committee membership. However, the consensus was that the current membership of six councillors would be sufficient to carry out the duties required within the Measure together with the mandatory independent lay member. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill supported exercising discretion to include the relevant Lead Cabinet Member as a member when considering the required functions set out in the Measure. Council considered the merits of that proposal but overall felt that in order to be fully independent the committee should not include any scrutiny or cabinet members within its membership. In response to questions the H:L&DS detailed the recruitment process of the lay member and confirmed that the lay member should be independent from the Council with no well known political allegiance and should not be a former Councillor or Officer of the Council. Members were supportive of an independent lay member on the committee and in view of the decision to designate the Corporate Governance Committee as the Audit Committee for the purpose of the Measure there was some discussion about whether the lay member should have voting rights on other functions carried out by the committee which fell outside those required by the Measure. Councillor Alice Jones was a particular advocate for full voting rights as she felt it would prove divisive if the lay member did not have equal status with other committee members. However, the majority view was that the lay member's voting rights should be restricted to those functions set out in the Measure and that other matters be reserved for those councillors elected to that position. The H:L&DS clarified the legal position in terms of voting rights advising that all members of the Audit Committee, including the lay member, may vote on any question that falls to be decided by the committee. Any abstention from voting on matters falling outside the remit of the functions set out in the Measure would require agreement from the lay member. In practical terms the committee's business could be managed to separate the functions of the Audit Committee as defined in the Measure from other corporate governance functions. He conceded that it may be defensible to limit the lay member's participation to Audit Committee functions only.

Establishment of a Democratic Services Committee

Council considered the establishment of the committee, its size, composition and its terms of reference. Members noted that the Measure had clearly set out the requirements for and functions of the Democratic Services Committee which must be politically balanced. The H:L&DS advised that it was unlikely that the committee would need to meet more than once a year. Following a proposition by Councillor Joan Butterfield, seconded by Councillor Barbara Smith members unanimously agreed that the committee be established with eleven members, politically balanced in line with scrutiny committees.

Appointment of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees

Council considered the allocation of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees as provided by the Measure in circumstances where there were two or more political groups and multiple scrutiny committees as in Denbighshire. In explaining the appointment

process, the H:L&DS added that the Council may adopt a different allocation system and outlined the procedures which would need to be followed. There was no reference to the appointment of Vice Chairs in the Measure and it was suggested that the appointment of Vice Chairs be a matter for those committees. The H:L&DS clarified the definition of an 'opposition group' as a group not represented on the Cabinet.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the Corporate Governance Committee be designated as the Audit Committee for the purpose of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Terms of Reference for that committee as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be adopted subject to (1) reference being made to reflect that where possible the committee's business be managed to separate the functions of the Audit Committee as set out in the Measure from other corporate governance functions, and (2) by agreement, the participation of the independent lay member be limited to Audit Committee functions;*
- (b) *members of the Audit Committee be appointed by the Council on a politically balanced basis;*
- (c) *a Democratic Services Committee be established comprising eleven members, politically balanced and the Terms of Reference for that committee as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be adopted;*
- (d) *the principles to be applied to the appointment of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees as set out in paragraphs 4.26 to 4.30 of the report be adopted, and*
- (e) *the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect the amendments required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as set out in (a) to (d) above.*

9 MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (H:L&DS) submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking members' approval of the level of members' remuneration for the financial year 2012/13 following the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the amounts to be paid by way of Basic Salary, Senior Salaries and Civic Salaries.

Members were advised that under S153 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 Council must implement the Panel's requirements. Accordingly Council must pay each member a Basic Salary and may pay Senior Salaries and Civic Salaries for the positions identified and the amounts set by the Panel. A maximum number of seventeen Senior Salaries had been prescribed for Denbighshire. Details of the Basic, Senior and Civic Salaries had been set out within the report together with fourteen posts which would be eligible for a Senior Salary. Whether any other posts were eligible for a Senior Salary would depend on the appointment of

members to the fourteen identified posts. In guiding members through the report the H:L&DS also highlighted the following –

- the fees Council must pay to co-opted members
- maximum payments payable for the care of children or dependants whilst members/cop-opted members were undertaking their duties
- travel and subsistence expenses payable, and
- the need to maintain and publish an annual schedule of member remuneration and to publish the total sum paid to each member/co-opted member.

During consideration of the report members sought clarification on a number of issues and the H:L&DS responded to members' questions as follows –

- S153 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 made it mandatory to implement the Panel's requirements
- if the Council did not implement the requirements of the Panel the Welsh Ministers had power to direct the Council to comply with the requirements and may enforce any such direction by applying for a mandatory order
- every councillor must receive a Basic Salary with the Council having discretion to award up to seventeen Senior Salaries and two Civic Salaries which must be allocated in accordance with the Panel's recommendations as detailed within the report
- the costs of implementing the Panel's recommendations could be met from within existing budgets
- confirmed that Council had previously paid Special Responsibility Allowances to eighteen posts but in light of the Panel's recommendations Senior Salaries could only be paid to seventeen posts.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill welcomed the Panel setting prescribed rates as he felt Council had been in a difficult position when determining their own allowances. Council noted the statutory requirement to adopt the Panel's recommendations and further considered the allocation of positions that would attract Senior Salaries in Denbighshire. Mixed views were expressed as to whether the full seventeen Senior Salaries should be payable with some members in favour of paying only the fourteen identified posts and others highlighting the extra work undertaken by particular members which may warrant further remuneration. During debate members agreed that Senior Salaries should be payable to the fourteen posts identified within the report together with the two Civic Salaries but felt that they did not have sufficient information at this time to make a fully informed decision as to whether the remaining three Senior Salaries at its disposal should be allocated. The need to provide an opportunity for members to consult within their groups and to raise awareness of the different posts with the newly elected councillors was also highlighted together with the need to consider the forthcoming report on Political Balance and Committee Membership prior to making a decision. The Chief Executive suggested that some options on how to deal with the remaining allocations be set out for members' consideration at a future meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the amounts to be paid by way of Basic Salary, Senior Salaries and Civic Salaries be adopted;*
- (b) *fourteen Senior Salaries for the posts set out in 4.23 of the report plus two Senior Salaries for the posts of Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head be agreed with consideration of the allocation of the remaining three Senior Salaries at the Council's disposal to be deferred to a future meeting of the Council;*
- (c) *the fee rates for co-opted members as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales be adopted, and*
- (d) *the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the payment of travel expenses, subsistence, and reimbursement of expenses incurred for the care of children or dependants be adopted.*

10 COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (H:L&DS) submitted the Council Forward Work Programme advising that items for consideration at next week's Council meeting included a review of political balance arrangements and the scrutiny committees' annual report. Councillor David Smith asked that the report on political balance be made available to Group Leaders in advance of the meeting.

In response to a question from Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill the H:L&DS advised that once the allocation of politically balanced committee seats had been confirmed the number of Scrutiny Chairs available to particular groups would be known. The Chairs could then be appointed by those particular groups.

Councillor Rhys Hughes referred to the item scheduled for Council on 10 July dealing with the joint supplementary planning guidance on the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. As a new member had been elected for the Llangollen ward Councillor Hughes requested that the item be deferred in order to provide the opportunity for new members to be fully briefed on the matter prior to formal consideration. Councillor Stuart Davies agreed advising that he had requested that consideration of the matter also be deferred from the Planning Committee agenda until members had been made fully aware of the situation.

Lastly Councillor Alice Jones submitted her apologies for next week's Council meeting due to her attendance at the Local Development Plan hearings and highlighted her disappointment at the clash of meetings which she felt may have been avoided by better planning. The Chairman sympathised agreeing that the clash of meetings was unfortunate.

RESOLVED *that, subject to members' comments above, the Council Forward Work Programme be received and noted.*

The meeting concluded at 1.05 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 22 May 2012 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Ian Armstrong, Raymond Bartley, Brian Blakeley, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, William Cowie, Ann Davies, James Davies, Meirick Davies, Richard Davies, Stuart Davies, Peter Duffy, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Carys Guy-Davies, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Holland, Colin Hughes, Rhys Hughes, Hugh Irving, Huw Jones, Pat Jones, Gwyneth Kensler, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Margaret McCarroll, Jason McLellan, Barry Mellor, Win Mullen-James, Bob Murray, Peter Owen, Merfyn Parry, Allan Pennington, Arwel Roberts, Gareth Sandilands, David Simmons, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Bill Tasker, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM), Corporate Directors: Business Transformation & Regeneration (BJ); and Learning & Communities (HW), Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (RGW), Democratic Services Manager (SP), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Committee Administrator (CIW).

PRAYERS

Prayers were offered by the Vice Chairman Councillor J.R. Bartley at the commencement of the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alice Jones, Dewi Owens and Cefyn Williams

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No personal or prejudicial interest were declared.

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 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

A copy of a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (HL&DS), which facilitates the statutory review of political balance and considers Committee membership requirements, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report which contained information to assist the Council and the political groups to allocate seats on various committees, in accordance with the statutory political balance provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations. The statutory obligation being to give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the four principles set out in the Act aimed at avoiding single party committees whilst allowing a majority party the majority of the seats on a committee.

Details of the Committees and Panels of the Council, and the total number of "available" seats which required distribution on a politically balanced basis, had been included in Appendix 2. The Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 required the establishing of 2 new committees; an Audit Committee and a Democratic Services Committee. The Measure also stipulated how the positions of Chairs of the Scrutiny Committee would be allocated, reflecting a position in favour of scrutiny chairs being, as far as possible, independent from the leadership of a Council and linked to political balance.

A summary of issues for the Groups to consider when appointing their Members to Committees had been outlined in the report and included:-

- Cabinet Members could not be Members of a Scrutiny Committee, the Corporate Governance Committee or the Democratic Services Committee.
- Membership of the new Democratic Services Committee to be 11 Councillors, not to include a Cabinet Member, with the Committee being politically balanced.
- The Corporate Governance Committee to be the new Audit Committee consisting of 6 elected Councillors, not to include a Cabinet Member, and a lay-member, all to be appointed by full Council. Membership to include the Vice Chairman of the Council and Corporate Governance Members should not be Members of a Scrutiny Committee.
- The Local Joint Consultative Committee to include 1 Cabinet Member, preferably the Cabinet Member with responsibility for HR matters.
- The Corporate Health, Safety and Well-being Committee to include 8 Councillors, appointed by the political groups, and 8 trade union representatives.
- A Member to be appointed to the Fostering Panel and the Joint Adoption Panel.
- The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) membership to include 8 Councillor Members and representatives from religious denominations, teacher associations and co-opted members.
- The Standards Committee membership to include 2 County Councillors.

Councillor J. Butterfield referred to the excellent work undertaken by Councillor J. Chamberlain-Jones as a member of the Fostering Panel and the Joint Adoption Panel and supported her appointment to the post. She challenged the allocation of seats on the Corporate Governance Committee and requested that the figures be reviewed and that the Labour Group be allocated 3 seats and the Independent Group 1 seat on the basis that the Labour Group were the largest Group on the Council.

In response to a question from Councillor D.I. Smith regarding the allocation of Chairs for Scrutiny Committees, the HL&DS explained that this matter had been

clarified with Welsh Government officials who had confirmed that the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 set out how to determine the number of Scrutiny Committee Chairs the Groups would be entitled to allocate, but did not specify a process for allocating Committees to Groups. This would be a matter for the respective political Groups to determine and not an issue for determination by Council.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (HL&DS) explained that prior to consideration of the recommendations in the report Members would be required to consider the proposal put forward by Councillor Butterfield, that the figures pertaining to the distribution of seats of the Corporate Governance Committee be reviewed, on being put to the vote the proposal was lost.

Nominations for the appointment of 2 Members to the Standards Committee included Councillors R.J. Davies, W.L. Cowie, M.L. Holland and C. Hughes. Each Member was invited to provide a brief presentation and at this point Councillor R.J. Davies withdrew his nomination. A secret ballot was held and Councillors W.L. Cowie and C. Hughes were appointed to the Standards Committee.

Council considered the recommendations in the report and following a full discussion, including consideration of nominations from Group Leaders, it was:-

RESOLVED – that Council agrees:-

(a) the allocation table used to achieve a politically balanced allocation of Committee seats as included in Appendix 1 to the report.

(b) the distribution of seats as set out in Appendix 2 and that the political groups notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of named Members to their allocated seats at the earliest opportunity, with the exception of Cabinet appointments.

(c) the following appointments:-

- (i) non-Cabinet Members Councillors W.L. Cowie, S.A. Davies, M.L. Holland, G.M. Kensler, W.M. Mullen-James, R.M. Murray, P.W. Owen, T.M. Parry, A. Roberts and G. Sandilands be appointed to the Democratic Services Committee with Councillor B. Mellor as Chair.*
- (ii) non-Cabinet Members Councillors J.R. Bartley, S.A. Davies, M.L. Holland, G.M. Kensler, J.M. McLellan and D. Simmons be appointed to the Corporate Governance Committee.*
- (iii) Councillor J. Chamberlain-Jones be appointed to the Fostering and Joint Adoption Panels, and.*
- (iv) Councillors W.L. Cowie and C. Hughes be appointed to the Standards Committee.*

to delegate to the Corporate Governance Committee the role of interviewing candidates for the position of lay-member on the Committee and to make recommendations on the appointment to full Council.

5 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

A copy of a joint report by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group and the Scrutiny Coordinator which, in accordance with the Denbighshire's Constitution, presented to Council the Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report on their activities during 2011/2012, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Scrutiny Coordinator explained that the Annual Report would assist in introducing the work of the Scrutiny Committees and the role to all elected Members. The report included the results of a self-evaluation exercise undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the scrutiny function. Last years self-evaluation exercise had identified some areas which required further work in order to strengthen them, these areas had again been appraised against the findings of this year's self-evaluation exercise and the conclusion drawn been included on pages 6 and 7 of the Annual Report.

The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group had expressed concern regarding the recurring problem of maintaining a quorum at Scrutiny Committee meetings. Whilst there had been no evidence that this had impaired scrutiny's effectiveness it was felt there was potential to undermine scrutiny and the democratic process in the long run. Consequently the Group had recommended that at the end of the 2012/13 municipal year the attendance record of each individual Member of the Council's Scrutiny Committees be published in the Annual Report. A meeting record would indicate apologies tendered, if submitted prior to the meeting being held.

The new Scrutiny Committee structure had been introduced in 2011/12 with four operational based Scrutiny Committees being replaced with three thematic Committees. Details of the review of the effectiveness of the new structure had been evaluated and included in the Report. The general conclusion being that, subject to a few minor modifications, the new structure was fit for purpose.

Details of the new powers and duties to be conferred on Local Authority Scrutiny Committees, following the enactment of the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, had been outlined in the report. Further information regarding the provisions, and the options they present, would be presented to Members following the publication of the final statutory guidance.

Councillor H.L. Jones referred to the appointment of new Members to the Council and the importance of noting the changes and work undertaken by scrutiny during the last year. The need to ensure Scrutiny Committee meetings were quorate was highlighted and it was confirmed that attendance records would be included in the Annual Report for 2012/13. A scrutiny information pamphlet had been published to generate residents' interest in scrutiny's work and this would be replicated to summarise scrutiny's work for 2011/12. Councillor Jones referred to paragraph 4.8 of the report which outlined 6 of the new powers and duties bestowed on Scrutiny Committees under the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, and to Annex 7, the Scrutiny Referral and Interface Chart, which outlined the role and status of scrutiny within the Council.

Councillor D.I. Smith explained that being a Member of a Scrutiny Committee provided an invaluable insight into the operational aspects of the Council. He referred to the number of issues examined by the Communities Scrutiny Committee and explained that he was proud of the work undertaken by the Committee and the subsequent outcomes.

Councillor R.L. Feeley referred to the effectiveness of scrutiny which had been endorsed by the Estyn Inspection Report, as highlighted on page 39 of the Annual Report. She explained that the Performance Scrutiny Committee had successfully linked Members to individual service efficiency challenges which had assisted in distributing workloads and responsibilities.

The Chief Executive thanked Members and officers for the comprehensive report and self evaluation in respect of the scrutiny process and highlighted the following issues which he felt required further work and debate during the coming year:-

- the importance of Member attendance at Scrutiny Committee meetings and the need to ensure that an objective is set that meetings are quorate on all occasions.
- consideration of Members views regarding the times and locations of meetings, particular reference being made to the possibility of holding evening meetings.
- communication between Cabinet and Scrutiny and the dissemination of information being crucial to the operational aspect of the Council. Cabinet having a specific agenda item for issues referred from Scrutiny, the effectiveness of the call in process and the inclusion of Group Leaders on Cabinet to improve accountability and communication.
- the importance of the issue of scrutinising designated persons and the provision of the opportunity to call to account and scrutinise both the public and private sectors.
- The role of the Programme Boards in providing Members of scrutiny with the opportunity to participate in the internal workings of the Authority.
- the role of Champions and the need for the provision of further guidance and assistance in ensuring their effectiveness. Councillor J. Butterfield suggested that in future reports be submitted by Champions outlining the work undertaken in respect of their individual roles.

In response to Councillor C. Hughes' reference to the power to co-opt non Council members as members of Local Authority Scrutiny Committees, Councillors R.L. Feeley and G.M. Kensler explained that they would welcome the appointment of persons with expert knowledge in specific areas. However, they felt that the Authority should be cautious in respect of appointing co-opted members as full members of the Committee, and Councillor Feeley referred to the democratic process of appointing Members of the Council. Councillor H. Hilditch Roberts referred to the importance of reporting the work carried out by the Council and the need for improved communication with the public.

A number of Members referred to the admirable work undertaken by Champions and a number of the Champions provided details of the work carried out within their respective roles. The Chair explained that the work undertaken by the Champions should be more widely publicised both within the Chamber and externally.

In reply to concerns expressed by Members regarding Member attendance at meetings, the HL&DS confirmed that details of Members' attendance records would be published on the website and would be monitored by the Corporate Governance Committee. However, the minimum number of meetings Members would be required to attend was stipulated and governed by law.

Members supported the view expressed by Councillor E.W. Williams that the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees should be presented to Council at the end of the municipal year to which the report related.

During the ensuing discussion a proposal by Councillor M.LI. Davies to accept the Annual Report was seconded by Councillor S.A. Davies, on being put to the vote the proposal was carried.

RESOLVED – *that Council receives the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees for 2011/12 and notes Members comments accordingly.*

6 MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

A copy of a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which detailed the options for the allocation of Senior Salaries in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for the financial year 2012/13, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

At its meeting on the 15th May, 2012 Council considered a report on Members' Remuneration which set out the provisions contained within the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' report. Council allocated 14 Senior Salaries and expressed a wish to consider options in respect of whether or how the remaining 3 possible Senior Salaries should be allocated.

The HL&DS provided a summary of the report which outlined details pertaining to the:-

- payment of Senior Salaries.
- payment of Civic Salaries to the Chair and Vice of Council.
- number of Senior Salaries the Council may allocate being limited to 17.
- positions prescribed by the Panel to which a Senior Salary may be allocated.

It was explained that Council may, but would not have to, allocate a further 3 Senior Salaries. Council had determined that the Chair of Democratic Services Committee would not attract a Senior Salary as the Committee was likely to only meet once a year. The remaining positions eligible for a Senior Salary were Band 3 - Leader of the Largest Opposition Group and Band 4 - Leaders of other political Groups. Members were reminded that there were 4 political Groups on the Council and only 3 Senior Salaries which may be allocated.

The HL&DS provided a summary of the 4 possible options for consideration by Council, which had been included in the report, together with the relevant costs and the possible affect on other services.

Councillor S.A. Davies expressed the need to retain the allowances and supported the principle incorporated in Option 3 and suggested that further options be examined, such as the possible inclusion of payments for Champions, for the remaining 2 senior salaries. The HD&LS provided details of the Measure which required the Council to implement the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales which set out the senior salaries which could be paid, as indicated in 4.5 of the report.

Reference was made by Councillors C. Hughes and G.M. Kensler to the appointment of Group Leaders to Cabinet, the timescales for reviewing Members' remunerations in respect of political balance and the monitoring of the performance of Group Leaders.

Councillor J. Thompson-Hill highlighted two issues which he felt should be considered, the element of justification for allocating salaries to Group Leaders and consideration being afforded to a situation where a Group Leader, who was also a Cabinet Member, forgoes the salary of Cabinet Member if they vacate the post. He explained that he felt that Option 1 would be the preferred Option and that the number of Senior Salaries be capped at 14.

Councillor T.R. Hughes supported Option 1 with the suggestion that the money saved be utilised to provide dog fouling collection bags, as an alternative to the provision of additional Member training. Councillor E.W. Williams referred to the costs involved in addressing the problem of dog fouling and suggested that this issue be examined separately.

It was explained by Councillor H.H. Evans that one of the main issues of the previous Council had been ineffective communication between the executive and Members. He felt that the appointment of Group Leaders on Cabinet would provide stronger political leadership and improve accountability. He referred to the Councils' Constitution which referred to the restriction of payments to Leaders of Groups with less than 5 Members, and suggested that Option 3 would assist in addressing the problem through the provision of Member development which could be defined following discussions between the respective Members and their Groups. Councillor J. Butterfield also expressed a preference for Option 3 and highlighted the importance of Member development.

During the ensuing discussion Option 3 was proposed by Councillor B. Blakeley and seconded by Councillor C. Hughes and on being put to the vote Option 3 was carried.

RESOLVED – *that Council agrees Option 3, to allocate a Senior Salary to the Leader of the Largest Opposition Group and cap the number of Senior Salaries at 15. The funds which would have been payable in respect of 2 Group Leaders could be used for Member Development.*

Meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.

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Report To: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 10th July 2012

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Eryl Williams

Lead Officer: Angela Loftus (Policy, Research & Information Manager)

Title: Update on Denbighshire Local Development Plan

1 What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report outlines progress on the Local Development Plan and Inspectors' initial findings with regard to housing need and supply, issued on 14th June 2012.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To provide information on progress on the Local Development Plan and feedback on the Inspectors' Findings, together with an outline of the next steps for the Local Development Plan, seeking Members' agreement to authorise Group Leaders to oversee and monitor work undertaken in response to the Inspectors' Findings.

3 What are the Recommendations?

- 1. That Members note the contents of this report.**
- 2. That Members authorise Group Leaders to oversee and monitor work undertaken in response to the Inspectors' Findings.**
- 3. That Members agree that the results of consultation on any additional sites for housing development will be reported back to full Council in November and for it to consider whether additional sites should be submitted to the Inspectors conducting the LDP Examination.**

4 Report details

- 4.1 The Council is charged with preparing a Local Development Plan to guide development in the County and to identify sufficient land for development to meet Denbighshire's needs over a 15 year period. Work began on the Local Development Plan in 2006. Extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout its development, ensuring that anyone with an interest in the Plan has had the opportunity to comment from the earliest stages of its conception.
- 4.2 Following agreement at full Council on 20th May 2011, the LDP was formally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public Examination. Two Inspectors were appointed to conduct the Examination, which is currently ongoing. Their role is to consider the LDP, together with all the evidence that has informed its development, including comments made as a result of public

consultation, and report back to the Council on whether they consider the LDP to be 'sound'. The Inspectors' report is binding on the Council and the Council must implement any changes proposed and adopt the Plan if it is found sound.

- 4.3 As part of the Examination, Public Hearing Sessions were held in January and February this year, and following consideration of the issues, the Inspectors issued a note outlining their preliminary findings on matters of housing need and supply (attached as Appendix 1). This set out the Inspectors' concerns regarding housing need within Denbighshire and whether the LDP housing target should be increased to reflect the most up to date Welsh Government population projections; housing supply; and the delivery of affordable housing. The Inspectors held an Exploratory Meeting on 9th February and following that meeting published a note setting out the next steps and requiring the Council to submit additional evidence to address the issues raised, together with a list of potential additional housing sites which could be included in the Plan if the Inspectors considered they were required. The Inspectors required this information, together with additional information on the viability and deliverability of the Key Strategic Site at Bodelwyddan to be consulted on. All the comments received were sent to the Inspectors. A number of additional Hearing Sessions were held in Rhyl on 22 - 24 May to enable this evidence and the comments received to be discussed.
- 4.4 Following consideration of all the evidence presented the Inspectors have issued a note informing the Council of their initial findings with regard to housing need and supply. This note has been published on the LDP Examination website and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.5 The Inspectors have made it clear that they now accept the Council's housing target of 7500 new houses to be provided by 2021 to meet housing needs and are **not** proposing that this should be altered, despite the fact that other parties argued strongly for a higher target at the Examination. This figure has been consistently promoted in the LDP over the last 4 years. However, the Inspectors are asking for further housing supply to be identified (ie additional sites) in order to meet Denbighshire's target of 7500 new homes by 2021. The Inspectors have not referred to Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site or other allocations proposed in the LDP and have not requested further information or expressed doubts regarding these. The only outstanding issue raised is housing supply.
- 4.6 The Inspectors do not consider that the housing supply identified in the LDP would deliver 7500 homes by 2021. They consider that about 6450 homes could be delivered and their view is that additional sites need to be allocated with capacity to accommodate about 1000 homes in order to meet the gap between need and supply.
- 4.7 As referred to above, in response to the Inspectors' request at the Exploratory Meeting in February, the Council submitted a list of 16 sites with the potential to accommodate approximately 600 homes and with no significant environmental constraints. These sites were subsequently subject to public consultation and discussed at the additional Hearing Sessions at the end of May. Subject to Council approval, therefore, these sites could be included in

the LDP. These sites have not been included in the supply figure of 6450 put forward by the Inspectors. In essence, there is need to identify capacity for an additional 400 new homes (in addition to the 600) in order to meet the Inspectors' identified shortfall of 1000 and satisfy the Inspectors. There may be scope to phase these sites to a later phase in the Plan, to be brought forward only when required. The LDP must be monitored annually and reviewed if monitoring raises significant issues and must be subject to a major review in 4 years.

- 4.8 The implications of the Inspectors note, together with potential options for the Council, have been discussed by Group Leaders and they unanimously agreed that the Council should proceed with additional work on the LDP (ie identification of additional sites which could accommodate around 400 homes, plus the required consultation on these sites). It is intended that all Members would be briefed through the process and all findings and results of the consultation (including consultation already undertaken on the 16 potential sites) would be reported back to Council in November for Members to consider whether additional sites should be put forward to the Inspectors or not. It was also proposed that a group of Members should oversee this additional work and this report seeks authorisation for Group Leaders to undertake that role.
- 4.9 An alternative option could be to do nothing and await the Inspectors Report. However, failing to address the Inspectors' findings and progress the LDP at this stage would mean the Inspectors finding the Plan 'unsound'. The Council would have to start the process again from scratch, which would take a further 3 – 4 years and involve significant costs. The risk is that development would then be market driven rather than planned strategically and subject to the democratic process. The Local Development Plan is the key vehicle for guiding future development within the County and there is risk of not having an up to date planning policy framework and not having a robust basis to refuse planning proposals, for example, if the Council is unable to demonstrate that it has a 5 year supply of land for housing development, there is a real risk of losing planning appeals for housing sites which are not supported by the Council.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The LDP is consistent with and will have a positive impact on all 4 of the Council's Corporate Priorities. In particular, the LDP will have a direct role to play in achieving the priorities of Regeneration and Responding to Demographic Change through the policies and proposals within it, influencing development on the ground.

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

There will be costs relating to public consultation on any additional sites identified, including printing and postage. Progressing the LDP is also likely to involve the need for an additional Hearing Session to be arranged already accrued from the public examination, including the Inspectorate's charges, legal fees and employing a programme officer. These costs have been met from the existing service budget.

Ultimately when adopted the LDP will of course have implications for several service areas and towns and villages across the County. However the County's population is likely to grow even without the LDP in place - the LDP simply provides a more effective and planned mechanism for delivering this growth and allows the Council to require contributions from developers to secure social and physical infrastructure and services to accompany any growth which will provide an overall benefit rather than a burden to both our communities and Council services.

7 What consultations have been carried out?

The LDP has been developed through extensive consultation and all representations received have been passed on the Inspectors and are being considered by them. The public Hearing Sessions held so far have enabled those invited to present their evidence verbally to the Inspectors.

8 Chief Finance Officer Statement

The costs associated with progressing the LDP should be contained within existing resources. The Council has a specific reserve within the accounts to contribute to the costs of producing the Plan.

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

Failure to provide the additional information required by the Inspector to progress the LDP at this stage would mean the Inspectors finding the whole LDP 'unsound' despite the fact that only housing supply has been raised as an issue. The Council would have to return to the start of the process, putting back adoption of the Plan by at least 3 - 4 years. This would necessitate additional consultation and research, and a further public Examination, entailing significant staff time and costs for the Council.

The LDP is the key vehicle for guiding future development within the County and there is risk of not having an up to date planning policy framework and not having a robust basis to refuse planning proposals, and losing planning appeals for development which is not supported by the Council.

National policy requires that local authorities must have sufficient land available to provide a 5 year supply of land for housing. Without progressing the LDP there is a significant risk that the Council will be unable to deliver sufficient land to meet the County's needs for new homes, particularly affordable homes.

It is a statutory requirement for Councils in Wales to produce a local development plan and the Council would be failing to meet this requirement if the Plan is not progressed.

10 Power to make the Decision

Local Government Act 2000, Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), and associated regulations and guidance.

Denbighshire Local Development Plan **EXAMINATION**

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/ldpexam

Housing: Need and Supply, Inspectors' preliminary findings

Introduction

1. This report sets out the Inspectors' preliminary findings on matters of housing need and supply. Policy BSC 1 of the Local Development Plan (LDP) makes provision for 7,500 homes to 2021. For the reasons given below the Inspectors do not consider that the LDP makes sufficient provision for housing. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectors have taken into account duly made representations and the evidence submitted to the hearings on 10, 11 and 17 January 2012.

Policy

2. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) states that the latest Welsh Government local authority level Household Projections for Wales should form the starting point for assessing housing requirements. PPW goes on to say that; '*Local planning authorities should consider the appropriateness of the projections for their area, based on all sources of local evidence, including the need for affordable housing identified by their Local Housing Market Assessment*'. And; '*Where local planning authorities seek to deviate from the Assembly Government projections, they must justify their own preferred policy based projections by explaining the rationale behind them*¹.
3. Paragraph 9.2.1 of PPW sets out the matters which local authorities should take into account and which may justify deviating from the Welsh Government projections. These matters include, amongst other things, the environmental capacity of an area. PPW and Technical Advice Note 1; Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, also state that local planning authorities must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available to provide a 5 year supply of land for housing.

Need

4. Denbighshire County Council accepts that the 2008 projections are a reasonable starting point for determining need. It is argued by some that regard should be given to the 2006 household projections but national policy is clear and the starting point in this examination is the 2008 projections (although, given that the LDP has a base date of 2006, those projections have some bearing on the provision of dwellings pre 2008).

¹ PPW, paragraph 9.2.2

5. The 2008 projections indicate the need for 8,400 new units between 2008 and 2023²; a requirement of 560 units per annum compared to the 500 per annum proposed in the LDP. 560 units per annum over the 13 years between 2008 and 2021 equates to 7,280 units. Using this rate for the 15 years of the plan period, leads to a requirement of 8,400. If one uses the rate per annum derived from the 2006³ projections of 653⁴ for 2006 and 2007 this would result in a requirement of 8,586 over the plan period (2 x 653 + 13 x 560).
6. Consequently, based on the Welsh Government's projections, the LDP should make provision for at least 8,400 units. Denbighshire County Council is not bound to these projections but, as stated above, it must justify deviating from them.
7. The Council commissioned its own report on population and household projections⁵ but that was in 2005 and has been superseded by the later Welsh Government projections. In IP002⁶ the Council argue that the lower build rate proposed in the LDP takes account of the environmental capacity of the county and the ability of the construction industry to build at a higher rate. However, the Council have not produced any evidence to counter the assertion made by the HBF and others in the sector that the construction industry could build at higher rates. Indeed, the revised phasing table produced by the Council assumes an annual build rate of 727 units per annum between 2016 and 2021⁷, undermining its own contention that the construction industry could not build at a rate higher than 500 units per annum.
8. Turning to environmental capacity, the Council started with 6 strategic sites in the Sustainability Appraisal Report⁸ and accepted at the hearing on 10 January that all were realistic options. The Council also conceded that not all the candidate and alternative sites were unacceptable on environmental grounds. It is not considered, therefore, that Denbighshire County Council has provided evidence to justify providing fewer units than required by the latest Welsh Government projections.
9. The Council were not able, at the hearing on 10 January, to indicate what account had been given to the need for affordable housing in the formulation of the LDP's housing target. The Council's track record in the provision of affordable housing is acknowledged and is to be commended but the evidence submitted to the hearing on 17 January casts serious doubt on the LDP's ability to achieve its target of 2,250 to 3,000 affordable homes by 2021. The undisputed need for affordable

² IP002, Table 3

³ Although there was a change in methodology between 2006 and 2008, a study commissioned by Conwy County Borough Council concluded that there was limited scope to challenge the 2006 projections (IP002, paragraph 3.2.10)

⁴ IP002, Table 2

⁵ EB002

⁶ IP002, paragraph 3.2.9

⁷ EXAM004 Sup A7

⁸ DLDP004

housing in Denbighshire weighs against deviating below the number of units required by the Welsh Government's latest projections.

Supply

10. Table 5 in IP002 indicates a potential supply of 7,771 dwellings but the evidence submitted to the examination casts serious doubts regarding whether the LDP would deliver its target of 7,500. If the proposed Key Strategic Site at Bodelwyddan (KSS) is found to be sound and if the LDP is adopted in the autumn of 2012, it is common ground that the first houses would not be completed on the KSS until 2014 at the earliest (9 years into the plan period). In EXAM0069 the Council states that; '*At its peak, market sales are expected to reach 175dpa*'. Even if the KSS were to deliver at this rate from 2014 to 2021 (which seems highly unlikely) it would only deliver 1,225 dwellings by 2021 (490 below the number allocated).
11. It is, therefore, unlikely that the KSS will deliver the total amount of housing allocated by 2021. In addition, the major source⁹ of planned new housing in the LDP will not make any contribution to meeting its target until 2014.
12. Turning to other allocations, questions are raised regarding the redevelopment of the HM Stanley Hospital and whether the Ocean Plaza site in Rhyl will deliver the anticipated 230 units¹⁰. The Council has produced evidence regarding the deliverability of other allocations in the plan, the majority of which is unchallenged but a potential supply of 7,771 compared to a target of 7,500 leaves little room for slippage (a contingency of only 4%). This raises grave concerns regarding the flexibility of the LDP to deal with the delay to or failure of allocations to come forward.
13. The 7,771 includes 1,795 from identified urban potential sites and 505 from conversions and windfalls¹¹. Although separated in the Council's calculations, all these types of site are classed as windfalls and around 31% of the Plan's target of 7,500 is made up of such sites (30% of 7,771). Looking at the summary and detailed phasing tables in EXAM004 Sup A7; 2671 units in phases 2 and 3 would be provided through windfalls. That is 35% of the overall provision and 42% of the amount yet to be built if 7,500 is to be achieved by 2021.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| LDP Target | 7,500 |
| Less completions 2006-11 | 1,205 |
| Leaves | 6,295 |
| Less | |
| Phase 2 allocations | 1,331 |
| Phase 3 allocations | 2,293 |
| Leaves | 2,671 on windfall sites |

⁹ The KSS represents around 51% of the houses allocated in the LDP

¹⁰ EXAM0038.A

¹¹ IP002, Table 5

14. The Council's figures in IP002 and EXAM004 Sup A7 differ but both indicate that at least 30% of the target would be met by windfalls. The Council conceded at the hearing that there has been some double counting and that some of the smaller sites may be subject to Policy PSE 2 which seeks to protect existing employment sites and could prevent some sites coming forward for housing. Further, the Council's own evidence shows that the completion rate on urban capacity sites is 120 dwellings per annum¹². At such a rate such sites would only provide 1,080 new homes between 2012 and 2021.
15. The Council argue that the completion rate on urban potential sites could improve. Although it is not unreasonable to assume that market conditions will change over the life of a plan, only 9 years remain in the life of this LDP. One hopes that the economy will improve but, if it does, will it be soon enough to make a material difference in the number of windfall sites coming forward?
16. The Council is yet to receive the Welsh Government's response to its Statement of Common Ground in relation to the 2011 Joint Housing Land Availability Study¹³. In that document the Council indicates that it has a land supply for housing of 4.52 years. Some argue that it is much lower but there can be no dispute that the supply of housing land in the county does not meet the requirements of PPW or TAN 1.
17. The number of units to be provided on each site is based on an assumed density of 30 dwellings per hectare. PPW¹⁴ says that LDPs should include policies to cover density (amongst other things). The Council should be aiming to increase densities in sustainable locations. However, despite the Council's assertions at the hearing that higher densities would be sought where appropriate, the LDP is silent in this regard. There is no guarantee, therefore, that higher densities would be achieved (and, therefore, more units built than anticipated in Table 5 of IP002).

Conclusion

18. PPW states that the latest Welsh Government local authority level Household Projections for Wales should form the starting point for assessing housing requirements. An analysis of the housing projections indicates that the starting point for the LDP should be between 8,400 and 8,586 units (these figures do not include a contingency). The Council has failed to produce convincing evidence to justify deviating below the latest household projections. The need for affordable housing in Denbighshire weighs against allocating less than that indicated by the latest household projections.
19. A potential supply of 7,771 units compared to a target of 7,500 raises significant concerns regarding the ability of the LDP to deal with

¹² IP002, paragraph 3.3.3,

¹³ EXAM0027

¹⁴ PPW, paragraph 9.2.12

changes in circumstances. This is particularly worrying when the evidence submitted to the examination regarding the rate of delivery of units on the KSS, the delivery of other allocations and windfall sites casts serious doubt over the ability of the LDP to deliver its target of 7,500 units.

20. The Inspectors, therefore, are concerned that, in respect to this issue, the LDP fails to have regard to national policy (Test C2) is not founded on a robust evidence base (Test CE2) and is not reasonably flexible to deal with changing circumstances (Test CE4).

Suggested ways forward

21. In order to address this potential finding of unsoundness the Council could:

- Provide additional evidence to justify not meeting the Welsh Government's household projections and provide further evidence to substantiate the contention that the LDP would deliver its target of 7,500 units.
- Allocate additional sites in the LDP to meet the identified shortfall.

22. The Council is invited to consider the above and provide a response at a meeting which it is hoped will be convened on 9 February 2012. The venue and time of the meeting will be published on the examination web site as soon as details are confirmed.

23. The meeting will be open to the public but, given that it is being convened to explore ways forward with the Council, participation will be limited to representatives of Denbighshire County Council and the Welsh Government.

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Denbighshire Local Development Plan EXAMINATION

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/ldpexam

Housing: Need and Supply, Inspectors' findings

1. EXAM0075 set out the Inspectors' preliminary findings on matters of housing need and supply. The Council's response, EXAM0075R (revised) was subject to consultation and the new evidence it contained was discussed at a Hearing on 23 May. That evidence has been considered and the purpose of this note is to inform the Council of the Inspectors' initial findings with regard to housing need and supply and to provide an opportunity for the Council to consider ways forward.
2. For reasons that will be set out in our final report to Denbighshire County Council, we consider that the Council has produced evidence to support the target of 7,500 units set out in Policy BSC1.
3. However, and again for reasons that will be set out in our final report, we are not persuaded that the Local Development Plan (LDP) will deliver this number of units by the end of the plan period. Our analysis of the evidence submitted to the examination indicates that the LDP is likely to deliver around 6,450 units by 2021. A further 1,050 would, therefore, have to be allocated to meet the LDP's target (this would not provide a contingency).
4. It is our view that unless provision is made for the allocation of at least 1,000 additional houses the LDP will fail to meet the needs of Denbighshire to 2021. It will not have regard to national policy (Test C2) it will not be founded on a robust evidence base (Test CE2) nor will it be reasonably flexible to deal with changing circumstances (Test CE4).
5. The allocation of additional sites outside the list of potential sites in EXAM0075R(revised) would require further consultation. Additional work is also likely to be required with regard to strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal.
6. The Council is invited to consider the above and provide a response by 22 June 2012. The Inspectors are aware that officers may need to seek the views of members before providing a response. If this is the case the Inspectors would appreciate an indication of when the Council will be in a position to provide a substantive response by 22 June.
7. The date of the submission of our report to the Council for fact check (6th July) was announced at the end of the last hearing on 24 May. That announcement will be reviewed after 22 June.

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Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 10th July 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill

Report Author: Head of Finance and Assets

Title: Final Revenue Outturn 2011/12

1 What is the report about?

- 1.1 Cabinet has received regular monitoring reports throughout the financial year on the performance of expenditure against budget and savings agreed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan. This report details the final position at financial year end and the proposed treatment of year-end balances. The first draft of the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 will be submitted to the external auditors on 30th June. The audited accounts will then be presented to the Audit Committee in September for formal approval.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 The Council's constitution requires full Council to approve the establishment, use of and contributions to, financial reserves.

3 What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Council approves the final revenue outturn position for 2011/12
- 3.2 That Council approves the treatment of reserves and balances as detailed in this report

4 Report details

- 4.1 The overall financial outturn position for 2011/12 is an underspend against the approved budget which together with an increase in the yield from Council Tax strengthens the financial position of the Council. As a consequence it is possible to make recommendations for the transfer of funds to specific reserves that will continue to assist the Council in addressing the severe financial pressures of the next few years and will help to build capacity to deliver investment in schools in the future.
- 4.2 The final Revenue Outturn figures are detailed in Appendix 1. The final position on service and corporate budgets was an under spend of £1.6m. Expenditure on schools was £223k below the delegated budget.
- 4.3 The outturn position for services and corporate budgets was £603k higher than previously reported to Cabinet in March. The most significant movement is within School Improvement & Inclusion where the late determination of eligible expenditure within a number of grant schemes meant that expenditure

incurred during the year could be claimed and funded against grants. In addition, there was a reduction in specialist placement costs toward the end of the year. The impact of both of these issues was approximately £300k.

- 4.4 Toward the end of the financial year, there was a significant improvement in the position of the schools in financial difficulty which has contributed toward the overall improved position for schools. This has a direct impact on the in-year movement on school balances. Spending from schools delegated budgets was £223k less than the level of the overall LMS formula budgets and therefore school balances have increased by the same amount. Details of individual schools balances are shown in appendix 3. Total school balances are now £1.808m.
- 4.5 Services continue to be proactive in planning for savings for future years, and the financial impact of some of those proposals began to take affect toward the end of 2011/12. The council budgeted to make a contribution to balances of £300k which in keeping with previous reports is assumed in the final outturn position.
- 4.6 Further information regarding service outturn is as follows:

Business Planning & Performance – the majority of the under spend relates to the budget supporting the Cymorth grant. The council has a core budget supporting the grant funding which has begun to wind down and be replaced by Families First grant. The Project Management Team budget was also under spent as a result of recharging more costs than planned to projects.

The under spend in **Legal & Democratic Services** has arisen as savings planned for 2012/13 were delivered early.

Finance & Assets – the under spend includes £6k in Accountancy, £4k in Revenues & Benefits and £26k in Audit. The latter amount is earmarked to fund costs associated with the loss of external contracts in 2012/13. The Property budget was under spent by £105k which reflected reduced costs throughout the year and additional income generated through fees charged to projects. The Property budget includes the non-devolved repair and maintenance budget was under spent by £38k.

Highways & Infrastructure – achieved an under spend of £261k, which is in line with projections over the last quarter of the year. The position included overspends on highway maintenance budgets (£202k) but under spends on major project budgets (£144k), network management (£55k) and fleet management (£55k). Proposals to use the balance carried forward include revenue funding for the Foryd Harbour project, changing coin mechanisms on parking ticket machines (to accommodate new 5p and 10p coins) and funding costs relating to the Olympic Torch event.

Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services – the majority of the under spend reported (£100k) relates to the 2011/12 budget allocation for Town Plans/Closer to the Community schemes which it has been agreed will be rolled forward to 2012/13.

Adult Services – although the outturn is balanced, as part of the agreed budget strategy, uncommitted Supporting People grant funding of £100k. The Supporting People grant will be cut by 4% in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and 5% for each of the following three years. The remainder of the grant surplus has been transferred to the supporting people grant reserve (£713k) as part of the strategy agreed through the service challenge process to fund future pressures within adult social care – including the impact of capping charges for day care, increases to residential care fees and general increases in demand for services.

The small overspend in Leisure, **Libraries and Community Development** includes is an overspend on the Pavilion Theatre budget (£91k) though measures have been taken to ensure that this is rectified in 2012/13. The service inherited an £86k overspend on the Llangollen Pavilion budget in 2010/11 which this year achieved an under spend of £21k.

The under spend in **Strategic HR** is as a result of vacancies in Health & Safety and lower expenditure on training budgets.

The under spend in **Customer Services** includes savings on a number of vacant posts within the ICT and Customer Care budgets.

The under spend in **Environment** includes elements of savings in the 2012/13 Medium Term Plan being achieved ahead of schedule. Also, changes to agency workforce regulations during the year contributed to the saving.

The under spend on **Corporate** budgets has increased by £100k from the figure previously reported and is now £306k. The under spend is due to corporate expenditure on pension back-funding, bank charges and audit fees being lower than expected. The corporate budget line includes the budgeted contribution to reserves of £300k.

- 4.7 The position on the yield from **Council Tax** is impacted upon by an increase in the number of dwellings in the County, together with a very high level of tax collection (98% which is likely to be the highest in Wales). Assumptions when the budgets were set had taken account of a likely drop in collection rates as a result of the continuing difficult economic picture generally but the council still successfully maintained a high collection rate, which is a considerable achievement.
- 4.8 An assumption of the number of new properties was built into the calculation of the Council's Tax Base and used at Budget Setting time to calculate the level of Council Tax chargeable at Band D. This same assumption was used by Welsh Government to calculate the level of government funding through RSG for the year. A prudent approach was necessary as an overstated tax base would have resulted in reduced government funding.
- 4.9 As reported throughout the year, the final level of Council Tax yield was thought likely to exceed the original estimates used when setting the budget. The final yield is £351k (0.9%) higher than the original estimate and the Council therefore has a one off benefit.

- 4.10 Given the position overall within services, it is proposed at this stage that departments carry forward any net under spends in full to help deliver the 2012/13 budget strategy. Services will be required to outline in more detail how the balances brought forward will be used in 2012/13 in the Finance Report to Cabinet in July.
- 4.11 The final position means that the council has £600k one-off cash funding available. This is a significant achievement and the council must ensure that the funding is used in the most effective way. It is proposed that this be used to build cash reserves to contribute to the Modernising Education/21st Century Schools capital programme.
- 4.12 A number of other contributions to and from Reserves and Provisions have been allowed for within the accounts. These are detailed in Appendix 2 and will require approval by full Council. Movements to reserves not already highlighted include.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

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

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

- 6.1 The council's net revenue budget for 2011/12 was £175m. The final position excluding schools was a net under spend of £1.6m (0.9%). Included within this position is the impact of grant funding confirmed late in the financial year and the budgeted contribution to reserves. It is proposed that those services that achieved an under spend carry the net balance forward to 2012/13. The position within each service and intended use of balances will be reviewed early in 2012/13.

7 What consultations have been carried out?

- 7.1 The budget has been reported to cabinet throughout the year. Lead Cabinet Members have consulted on an ongoing basis with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action required to deliver the outturn position.

Chief Financial Officer Statement

- 7.4 The council has delivered significant revenue budgets savings of £6.4m in 2011/12 which is a considerable achievement. Services continue to be both prudent and effective in identifying savings going forward, some of which have had an impact in 2011/12. This along with the determination of some grant funding late in the year and an improved council tax yield has again delivered a strong budget performance.

The principle of maintaining a suitable level of un-earmarked general balances together with specific reserves and provisions for potential commitments or investments in capital is key to helping the Council deliver and improve services during a period of severe financial pressure. It is essential that good

budgetary control and financial planning continues to be applied to avoid the possibility of overspends in the current and future years, particularly in the light of the extremely tight budget settlements for the next few years.

The financial benefit the council has derived from excellent council tax collection rates this year and in previous years is likely to diminish from 2013/14 as changes to the council tax benefit system mean that more costs will pass from central government to the council and collection rates are likely to drop as eligibility rules change.

Members have asked previously for details of the position on individual school's balances at the end of the financial year. These are shown in Appendix 3.

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

- 8.1 The general economic position and the impact upon council services in the medium term remains challenging and it is therefore prudent that the council continues to maintain adequate reserves to meet the financial challenges ahead and to deliver the agreed budget strategy.

9 Power to make the Decision

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

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Appendix 1

| | Final Outturn | | | 2011/12 | | Service Under/Overspends £'000 |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | Schools Position £'000 | Under & Overspends To Balances £'000 | |
| Business Planning & Performance | 971 | 789 | -182 | | | -182 |
| Legal & Democratic Services | 1,548 | 1,520 | -28 | | | -28 |
| Finance & Assets | 6,157 | 6,016 | -141 | | | -141 |
| Highways & Infrastructure | 10,679 | 10,418 | -261 | | | -261 |
| Planning, Regeneration & Public Protection | 3,819 | 3,677 | -142 | | | -142 |
| Adult & Business Services | 31,802 | 31,802 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Children & Family Services | 8,799 | 8,800 | 1 | | 1 | 0 |
| Housing Services | 388 | 388 | 0 | | | 0 |
| Leisure, Libraries & Community Development | 5,981 | 5,986 | 5 | | 5 | 0 |
| Strategic HR | 1,299 | 1,260 | -39 | | | -39 |
| Customer Services | 2,981 | 2,874 | -107 | | | -107 |
| Environment | 11,498 | 11,409 | -89 | | | -89 |
| Modernising Education | 1,337 | 1,298 | -39 | | | -39 |
| School Improvement & Inclusion | 4,548 | 4,227 | -321 | | | -321 |
| Total Services | 91,807 | 90,464 | -1,343 | | 6 | -1,349 |
| Schools | 60,369 | 60,146 | -223 | -223 | | |
| Corporate Budgets | | | | | | |
| Corporate | 5,716 | 5,411 | -306 | | -306 | |
| Budgeted Contribution to Balances | 300 | 0 | -300 | | -300 | |
| Capital Financing/Investment Interest | 12,104 | 12,104 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Levies | 4,549 | 4,549 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Total Services & Corporate Budgets | 174,845 | 172,674 | -2,171 | | -606 | -1,349 |
| FUNDING | | | | | | |
| Welsh Government Funding | 136,538 | 136,538 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Use of Reserves | 50 | 0 | 50 | | 50 | |
| Council Tax | 38,557 | 38,908 | -351 | | -351 | |
| Total Funding | 175,145 | 175,446 | -301 | | -301 | |
| In-year Position | 300 | -2,772 | -2,472 | -223 | -901 | -1,349 |
| RESULTING POSITION AS AT 31st MARCH 2011 | | | | | | |
| Schools balances brought forward | | | 1,578 | | | |
| - plus in year position | | | 223 | | | |
| Schools Position as at 31st March 2011 | | | 1,801 | | | |
| Earmarked Balances | | | | | | |
| Service Underspends: | | | | | | |
| Business Planning & Performance | | | 182 | | | |
| Legal & Democratic Services | | | 28 | | | |
| Finance & Assets | | | 141 | | | |
| Highways & Infrastructure | | | 261 | | | |
| Planning, Regeneration & Public Protection | | | 142 | | | |
| Strategic HR | | | 39 | | | |
| Customer Services | | | 107 | | | |
| Environment | | | 89 | | | |
| Modernising Education | | | 39 | | | |
| School Improvement & Inclusion | | | 321 | | | |
| | | | 1,349 | | | |
| Proposal | | | | | | |
| Modernising Education/21 Century Schools Reserve | | | 600 | | | |

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Appendix 2

| TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES | Balance 31st Mar 2011 £'000 | Transfers (In)/ Out £'000 | Balance @ 31st Mar 2012 £'000 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Capital Schemes | (865) | (391) | (1,256) |
| Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme | 0 | (14) | (14) |
| Environmental Services | (70) | (59) | (129) |
| Early Retirement Fund - Schools | (716) | 0 | (716) |
| Youth Service | (61) | 0 | (61) |
| Integrated Children's Centre | (72) | (11) | (83) |
| Leisure Strategy | (50) | (59) | (109) |
| Modernising Education | (153) | (200) | (353) |
| Insurance Fund | (572) | 190 | (382) |
| Major Events Reserve | (200) | 12 | (188) |
| Town & Country Planning Act (s.106) Requirements | (1,846) | 492 | (1,354) |
| PFI Grant | (3,263) | (379) | (3,642) |
| Capital Financing (VAT refund interest) | (860) | 0 | (860) |
| Elections | (55) | (25) | (80) |
| Risk Management Fund | (129) | 42 | (87) |
| IT Networks Development | (189) | 27 | (162) |
| Single Status | (4,022) | (703) | (4,725) |
| Superannuation Recovery | 0 | (89) | (89) |
| N Wales Regional Transformation Fund | 0 | (63) | (63) |
| Training Collaboration | 0 | (47) | (47) |
| IT Systems Development (EDRMS) | (24) | 24 | 0 |
| Finance Systems | 0 | (40) | (40) |
| Legal Reserve | 0 | (52) | (52) |
| LABGI reserve | (149) | 0 | (149) |
| Delivering Change | (2,986) | 423 | (2,563) |
| Area Member Reserve | (300) | 101 | (199) |
| Regeneration Project (VAT refund) | (166) | 2 | (164) |
| Winter Maintenance | (402) | 0 | (402) |
| Major Highways Projects | (160) | 0 | (160) |
| Transport Fund | 0 | (101) | (101) |
| Signing Schemes | 0 | (75) | (75) |
| CESI Pooled Budget | (90) | 64 | (26) |
| Llys Marchan Reserve | (10) | 0 | (10) |
| Supporting People | (2,940) | (714) | (3,654) |
| S.117 Mental Health Act | (52) | 0 | (52) |
| Specialist PSS Placements | (890) | 0 | (890) |
| Care Home fees | 0 | (358) | (358) |
| Social Care Amenity Fund | 0 | (23) | (23) |
| Sustainable Waste Management | (1,749) | (1,700) | (3,449) |
| Environment Directorate - Reserves | (166) | (20) | (186) |
| LDP Future Costs | (305) | 42 | (263) |
| Design & Development | (25) | (95) | (120) |
| External Funding Administration | (165) | 31 | (134) |
| Planning Delivery for Wales | (230) | 2 | (228) |
| Revenue Grants Unapplied | (467) | (70) | (537) |
| Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation | (1,578) | (223) | (1,801) |
| TOTAL | (25,977) | (4,059) | (30,036) |

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PRIMARY SCHOOL BALANCES AS AT 31.03.2012

0.5 = Nursery

| COST CENTRE | SCHOOL | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2011 | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2012 | MOVEMENT IN YEAR | TOTAL PUPIL NOS. SEPT 2011 | BALANCE PER PUPIL |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 114 | YSGOL BETWS GWERFIL GOCH | 6,567 | 12,587 | 6,020 | 33.00 | 381 |
| 116 | YSGOL Y FAENOL | 23,489 | 32,145 | 8,657 | 111.50 | 288 |
| 117 | YSGOL BODFARI | 12,525 | 16,977 | 4,452 | 34.50 | 492 |
| 136 | YSGOL CARROG | 20,930 | 19,830 | (1,100) | 34.50 | 575 |
| 140 | YSGOL CEFN MEIRIADOG | 25,941 | 34,920 | 8,979 | 63.50 | 550 |
| 146 | YSGOL CLOCAENOG | 11,198 | 4,316 | (6,882) | 36.50 | 118 |
| 162 | YSGOL CAER DREWYN | 34,156 | 36,796 | 2,640 | 81.00 | 454 |
| 163 | YSGOL CYFFYLLIOG | 9,559 | 2,311 | (7,248) | 29.00 | 80 |
| 164 | YSGOL MAES HYFRYD | 50,946 | 43,236 | (7,710) | 73.00 | 592 |
| 168 | YSGOL Y PARC INFANTS | 73,278 | 60,620 | (12,658) | 171.50 | 353 |
| 169 | YSGOL FRONGOCH JUNIORS | 31,152 | 56,771 | 25,619 | 180.00 | 315 |
| 170 | YSGOL GWAENYNNOG INFANTS | 25,766 | (1,074) | (26,840) | 86.00 | (12) |
| 171 | YSGOL HEULFRE JUNIORS | (14,554) | 3,084 | 17,638 | 83.00 | 37 |
| 172 | YSGOL TWM O'R NANT | 35,818 | 38,802 | 2,984 | 240.00 | 162 |
| 176 | YSGOL HIRADDUG | 42,805 | 35,629 | (7,176) | 203.00 | 176 |
| 196 | YSGOL GELLIFOR | 16,547 | 8,405 | (8,142) | 82.50 | 102 |
| 198 | YSGOL GLYNDYFRDWY | 10,315 | 26,907 | 16,592 | 21.50 | 1,252 |
| 210 | YSGOL BRO ELWERN | 10,268 | 3,954 | (6,314) | 32.50 | 122 |
| 219 | YSGOL HENLLAN | 9,937 | 31,312 | 21,375 | 58.00 | 540 |
| 247 / 261 | YSGOL BRO FAMAU | 2,828 | 2,622 | (206) | 86.00 | 30 |
| 249 | LLANBEDR CONTROLLED | 443 | (2,242) | (2,684) | 62.00 | (36) |
| 251 | YSGOL DYFFRYN IAL | 717 | 219 | (499) | 43.50 | 5 |
| 252 | YSGOL GYNRADD LLANDRILLO | 22,820 | 16,970 | (5,849) | 27.50 | 617 |
| 255 | YSGOL BRYN CLWYD | (6,500) | (1,634) | 4,866 | 25.00 | (65) |
| 258 | YSGOL LLANFAIR D.C. | 32,686 | 46,250 | 13,564 | 99.00 | 467 |
| 266 | YSGOL BRYN COLLEN | 10,191 | (3,220) | (13,411) | 143.50 | (22) |
| 268 | YSGOL BRO CINMEIRCH | 9,438 | 10,366 | 928 | 65.00 | 159 |
| 284 | YSGOL MELYD | 23,026 | 33,134 | 10,108 | 140.50 | 236 |
| 325 | YSGOL PENTRECELYN | 25,231 | 23,936 | (1,295) | 31.00 | 772 |
| 332 | YSGOL BODNANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 37,949 | 46,538.36 | 8,590 | 495.50 | 94 |
| 333 | CLAWDD OFFA | (24,375) | (31,821) | (7,446) | 217.00 | (147) |
| 336 | YSGOL PENMORFA | 50,557 | 29,331 | (21,226) | 427.00 | 69 |
| 337 | YSGOL Y LLYS | 56,173 | 75,917 | 19,744 | 279.50 | 272 |
| 338 | YSGOL PANTPASTYNOG | 15,122 | 24,694 | 9,572 | 54.50 | 453 |
| 351 | YSGOL RHEWL | 4,728 | (327) | (5,055) | 41.00 | (8) |
| 361 | YSGOL Y CASTELL | (13,851) | (25,540) | (11,689) | 199.00 | (128) |
| 364 | YSGOL BRYN HEDYDD | 59,285 | 41,728 | (17,557) | 436.00 | 96 |
| 365 | CHRIST CHURCH C.P. | 46,384 | 32,678 | (13,706) | 391.00 | 84 |
| 366 | YSGOL DEWI SANT | 60,389 | 109,447 | 49,057 | 491.00 | 223 |
| 367 | YSGOL EMMANUEL | 129,406 | 168,401 | 38,995 | 428.00 | 393 |
| 368 | YSGOL LLYWELYN | 4,307 | 19,103 | 14,796 | 487.00 | 39 |
| 369 | YSGOL MAIR R.C. | 7,923 | (23,429) | (31,352) | 274.00 | (86) |
| 373 | YSGOL BORTHYN CONTROLLED | 55,529 | 58,899 | 3,370 | 116.00 | 508 |
| 374 | RHOS ST. C.P. | 60,669 | 127,055 | 66,386 | 180.50 | 704 |
| 375 | YSGOL PENBARRAS | 15,986 | 37,892 | 21,906 | 234.50 | 162 |
| 390 | ST. ASAPH INFANTS V.P. | 13,863 | 25,564 | 11,701 | 98.50 | 260 |
| 392 | YSGOL ESGOB MORGAN | 20,276 | 3,997 | (16,279) | 98.00 | 41 |
| 405 | YSGOL TREFNANT CONTROLLED | 47,672 | 61,029 | 13,356 | 67.50 | 904 |
| 408 | YSGOL TREMEIRCHION | 8,181 | 9,426 | 1,246 | 46.00 | 205 |
| 467 | YSGOL GYMRAEG Y GWERNANT | 10,071 | 9,090 | (981) | 111.50 | 82 |
| 490 | ST BRIGID'S | 0 | 15,002.30 | 15,002 | 141.00 | 106 |
| TOTAL | | 1,223,766 | 1,408,602 | 184,836 | 7,692 | |

Average

183

SECONDARY SCHOOL BALANCES AS AT 31.03.2012

| COST CENTRE | SCHOOL | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2011 | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2012 | MOVEMENT IN YEAR | TOTAL PUPIL NOS. SEPT 2011 | BALANCE PER PUPIL |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 513 | DENBIGH HIGH SCHOOL | 75,729 | (32,478) | (108,207) | 737 | (44) |
| 527 | YSGOL DINAS BRAN | 148,262 | 127,370 | (20,892) | 997 | 128 |
| 537 | PRESTATYN HIGH SCHOOL | 255,195 | 258,251 | 3,056 | 1,762 | 147 |
| 541 | RHYL HIGH SCHOOL | (102,031) | (255,325) | (153,294) | 806 | (317) |
| 543 | BLESSED EDWARD JONES HIGH SCHOOL | (113,244) | (168,740) | (55,497) | 485 | (348) |
| 549 | YSGOL BRYNHYFRYD | 151,826 | 79,653 | (72,173) | 1,246 | 64 |
| 553 | YSGOL GLAN CLWYD | 169,442 | 154,624 | (14,818) | 947 | 163 |
| 590 | ST BRIGID'S | 0 | (15,002) | (15,002) | 377 | (40) |

TOTAL **585,180** **148,354** **(436,825)** **6,980**

Average **21**

SPECIAL SCHOOL BALANCES AS AT 31.03.2012

| COST CENTRE | SCHOOL | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2011 | BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2012 | MOVEMENT IN YEAR | TOTAL PUPIL NOS. SEPT 2011 | BALANCE PER PUPIL |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| 619 | YSGOL PLAS BRONDYFFRYN | (302,074) | 55,126 | 357,200 | 121.00 | 456 |
| 655 | YSGOL TIR MORFA | 70,745 | 188,980 | 118,235 | 133.00 | 1,421 |

TOTAL **(231,329)** **244,106** **475,435** **254**

Average **961**

TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS **1,577,616** **1,801,062** **223,446** **14,926**

Average balance per pupil - all schools

121

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Report To: | County Council |
| Date of Meeting: | 10th July 2012 |
| Lead Member / Officer: | Barbara Smith – Lead Member for Modernisation and Performance |
| Report Author: | Gary Williams – Head of Legal and Democratic Services |
| Title: | Appointment of lay member to Corporate Governance Committee |

1. What is the report about?

The report is about the appointment of a lay member to sit on the Corporate Governance Committee of the Council which is the Council's Audit Committee for the purposes of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The Council is required by the Measure to have an Audit Committee and to appoint at least one lay member to that Committee. The Committee cannot exercise any of its functions until its membership is complete.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Council appoints as a lay member to the Corporate Governance Committee the person recommended by the interview panel.

3.2 That the lay member be appointed for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Election in 2017.

4. Report details

4.1 The Measure requires the Council to appoint an Audit Committee. The membership of which must include at least one lay member. The Committee may have no more than one third of its membership comprised of lay members.

4.2 On 15th May 2012 Council agreed to designate the Corporate Governance Committee as the Council's Audit Committee. Council further agreed that one member of the Committee should be a lay member.

4.3 On 22nd May 2012 Council appointed six elected members to the Corporate Governance Committee and delegated to those members the role of interviewing candidates for the position of lay member and recommending to Council a person to be appointed.

4.4 The council advertised the position of lay member in the local press by means of a joint advertisement with two other North Wales authorities.

- 4.5 At the time of writing this report the Council has received applications from three candidates, all of whom will be interviewed on 2nd July 2012.
- 4.6 Candidates are not eligible for consideration if they are Officers or Councillors of any relevant authority, nor can they be the spouse or civil partner of such a person. Candidates are not eligible if they are former Councillors or Officers of Denbighshire County Council.
- 4.8 The interview panel will make a recommendation to Council as to the person to be appointed.

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

- 5.1 The decision implements the requirements of the Measure and contributes to the priority of a high performing Council.

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

- 6.1 The lay member will be entitled under the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' report to a daily fee of £198 (£99 for a half day) and £256 (£128 for half day) if the lay member is the Chair of the Committee. Payments are for meeting time and include time spent on preparation and travel. A half day meeting is defined as up to four hours and a full day is over four hours. Payments are capped at a maximum of the equivalent of ten full days a year.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

- 7.1 The Welsh Government consulted widely on the implementation of the Measure.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The role is a requirement of the Measure. The costs of appointing a lay member are not significant and will be contained within existing resources.

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

- 9.1 The requirement in the Measure to appoint a lay member to the Committee is compulsory. Failure to appoint a lay member would render the proceedings of the Committee invalid.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 81 and 82 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 10th July 2012

Lead Member / Officer:

Report Author: Gary Williams – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales – Council Size Policy Consultation Paper

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report is about the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales' consultation paper in respect of its Council Size Policy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) is consulting on policy proposals to introduce council size as 'the starting point in any electoral review'. The Commission has requested that responses to the consultation be returned to them by 16th July 2012. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the proposed response.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Council approves the submission of the draft consultation response shown at Appendix 4 (to follow).

4. Report details

4.1 The Commission is required to carry out periodic reviews of the electoral arrangements of the twenty two unitary authorities in Wales.

4.2 The Commission uses the term 'Council size' to describe the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council.

4.3 Council size is the starting point of any review. The Commission considers that without having the optimum number of electors per councillor it cannot consider the patterns of electoral divisions.

4.4 The Commission considers that council size is an important part of identifying an electoral scheme that provides for effective and convenient local government. The right number of members will provide the basis for the Council to conduct its business in the most effective way.

4.5 The Commission considers that there is a benefit in considering how council size is established as a general principle outside the remit of a specific review.

4.6 The consultation paper sets out a process for establishing council size.

- 4.7 The Commission intends to adopt a banding approach that groups similar authorities together and identifies a council size dependent on the band.
- 4.8 The Commission proposes four categories, Rural, Urban, Valley and Other. These groups are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.9 The Commission has calculated a council size proposal for each authority. The Commission does not intend to use this prescriptively and considers a size of plus or minus three from the proposed figure to be satisfactory. The Commission intends to have discussions with each authority under review. Those discussions may persuade the Commission to adopt a council size beyond plus or minus three.
- 4.10 The proposals for council size contained in the paper are set out in Appendix 2. Denbighshire has been placed in the Rural category with a proposed Council size of 43 councillors.
- 4.11 The Commission considers that the authorities should have a council size that provides for member elector ratios as follows;

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|-------|
| Rural | 1 | : | 1,750 |
| Urban | 1 | : | 2,500 |
| Valley | 1 | : | 2,350 |
| Other | 1 | : | 1,850 |

- 4.121 The Commission considers that before taking any decisions on electoral schemes it should understand the role of councillors in the area that it is reviewing and how these roles fit together within a particular authority in order to determine how many members the authority needs. This understanding would be used in conjunction with the banding approach.
- 4.13 The Commission will also consider Minister's Directive 2009 which states that the aim should be to achieve electoral divisions with a councillor to electorate ratio of no lower than 1:1,750.
- 4.14 In addition to considering the banding approach and the discussion with the council the Commission will consider the geographic composition of the area. The size of communities and community wards will continue to be a factor in identifying a council size that will provide for divisions that can be based on the communities.
- 4.15 The Commission's procedure for conducting an electoral review requires that the Commission members and officials will meet members and senior officers of the council in advance of the review to discuss procedure and data requirements. The Commission suggests that at these meetings the issue of council size should also be addressed. Group Leaders should give their views on what membership is appropriate, in the interest of how the council works.
- 4.16 Following these discussions the commission will agree on council size at a formal commission meeting and subsequently inform those interested parties what the size is, in order that those parties may contribute to the review and submit a scheme to the Commission based on the agreed council size.

4.17 The Commission seeks consultation responses to the questions posed by it in the consultation paper which are set out at Appendix 3.

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

5.1 This is a consultation response in respect of a paper produced by the Commission. The response will not directly impact upon the corporate priorities.

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

6.1 The response will not have any direct cost. The consultation is about a policy to be adopted by the Commission. Any future determinations of electoral reviews conducted by the Commission may affect the total amount spent on member salaries.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

7.1 The Consultation Paper has been circulated to Group Leaders with a request that their Groups' views be provided in advance of the meeting of Council in order that a draft response, incorporating those views, may be prepared for Council as Appendix 4 (to follow).

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no direct cost implications from this report, however should the proposed changes go ahead, this will have a small financial impact.

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

9.1 Failure to provide a consultation response may lead the Commission to decide upon its Council Size Policy without taking into account the views of Council.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 111 Local Government Act 1972.

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Classification of authorities

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Rural – authorities with a predominantly rural composition</p> | <p>Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Conwy Denbighshire Gwynedd Isle of Anglesey Monmouthshire Pembrokeshire Powys</p> |
| <p>Urban – the most heavily populated areas</p> | <p>Cardiff Newport Swansea</p> |
| <p>Valley – populated areas confined by a unique physical environment.</p> | <p>Blaenau Gwent Caerphilly Merthyr Tydfil Rhondda Cynon Taf Torfaen</p> |
| <p>Other – authorities which contain a mixture of rural and urban characteristics</p> | <p>Bridgend Flintshire Neath Port Talbot Vale of Glamorgan Wrexham</p> |

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Proposals for council size for 'rural' authorities.

| 'Rural' Unitary Authority | Electorate 2011 | Existing number of councillors | Number of councillors proposed under banding |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Carmarthenshire | 138,122 | 74 | 75 |
| Ceredigion | 56,476 | 42 | 32 |
| Conwy | 91,246 | 59 | 52 |
| Denbighshire | 74,798 | 47 | 43 |
| Gwynedd | 86,144 | 75 | 49 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 49,484 | 40 | 30 |
| Monmouthshire | 70,663 | 43 | 40 |
| Pembrokeshire | 93,120 | 60 | 53 |
| Pembrokeshire | 102,855 | 73 | 59 |
| TOTAL | 762,908 | 513 | 433 |

Proposals for council size for 'urban' authorities

| 'Rural' Unitary Authority | Electorate 2011 | Existing number of councillors | Number of councillors proposed under banding |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Cardiff | 250,711 | 75 | 75 |
| Newport | 105,342 | 50 | 42 |
| Swansea | 185,058 | 72 | 74 |
| TOTAL | 541,111 | 197 | 191 |

Proposals for council size for 'valley' authorities

| 'Valley' Unitary Authority | Electorate 2011 | Existing number of councillors | Number of councillors proposed under banding |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Blaenau Gwent | 53,527 | 42 | 30 |
| Caerphilly | 128,977 | 73 | 55 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 43,597 | 33 | 30 |
| Rhondda Cynon Tâf | 176,144 | 75 | 75 |
| Torfaen | 69,951 | 44 | 30 |
| TOTAL | 472,196 | 267 | 220 |

Proposals for council size for 'other' authorities

| 'Other' Unitary Authority | Electorate 2011 | Existing number of councillors | Number of councillors proposed under banding |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Bridgend | 103,345 | 54 | 56 |
| Flintshire | 116,452 | 70 | 63 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 110,167 | 64 | 60 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 94,102 | 47 | 51 |
| Wrexham | 102,041 | 52 | 55 |
| TOTAL | 526,107 | 287 | 285 |

Questions to local authorities and other interested parties on the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales' consultation on its approach to council size.

General

1. Do you consider that outlining a detailed approach to adopting a particular council size is helpful?

Banding

2. Do you think that the principle of banding is useful when considering council size?
3. Do you think the four categories of 'urban', 'rural', 'valley' and 'other' are appropriate? Do you think that each authority has been allocated to the relevant category?
4. Do you think that the councillor:elector ratio for each category of authorities is appropriate? If not, what ratio is better and why?

Discussion with authority under review

5. Do you think it is helpful for the Commission and Council to have detailed discussions at the start of the review process about what the council size should be?
6. Do you agree that the areas of council business identified in paragraph 48 of this consultation document are all pertinent issues, relevant to council size?

This guidance has been prepared on the basis of the existing legislation and Directions. The Commission must conduct all electoral reviews within this framework until any changes are introduced by legislation or in Minister's Directions. However, the Commission welcomes views on what, if any, changes should be made to the legislation for conducting electoral reviews in the future, in relation to matters relevant to council size:

7. Do you consider there should be a range of council sizes for authorities to fall between? Do you think 30 to 75 is an appropriate range?
8. Do you consider there should be a councillor:elector ratio for authorities to aim towards? Should it be different for different authorities?
9. If the proposals contained in this Policy are accepted by the Minister, do you consider that the current Directions are needed? If you are in favour of the Direction, please give the reasons for your view.

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Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 10 July 2012

Lead Officer: Corporate Director: Modernisation and Wellbeing

Report Author: Service Manager: Quality and Systems

Title: Annual Council Report: Social Services 2011/2012

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 Every Director of Social Services in Wales is required to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of social care services in their authority. The Director's annual report for 2011/2012 is attached as Appendix 1.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To provide the public with an honest picture of social services in Denbighshire and to demonstrate a clear understanding of service strengths, challenges and improvement priorities for 2012/2013.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 Council are asked to endorse the Director's assessment and improvement priorities for 2012/2013

4. Report details

4.1 The assessment process

- 4.2 A comprehensive self assessment has been undertaken on the quality and effectiveness of services and the organisation's capacity to improve and sustain improvement.

- 4.3 The self assessment is contained within a detailed Position Statement that will be made available on the intranet.

- 4.4 A significant volume of evidence has been collected to demonstrate the analysis and judgements contained within the Position Statement. This information has been submitted to CSSIW who will carry out a small number of observational visits to gather evidence that our self assessment is in line with our operational practice.

4.5 Summary assessment

4.6 Our overall assessment is that Denbighshire Social Services continues to perform well, with a very committed work force that continues to work to make life better for vulnerable people.

4.7 There is good evidence that we are:

- ✓ helping people to access the help they need, when they need it
- ✓ supporting people to live independently in the community
- ✓ supporting families to care for their children safely and to reduce the risk of family breakdown
- ✓ safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- ✓ developing new and innovative services
- ✓ working closely with other authorities and agencies to combine our effort
- ✓ delivering an efficient, high quality and well managed service

4.8 Challenges and improvement priorities

4.9 The annual report reflects the need to continue to adapt and develop services to respond to the challenges of an ageing community and increasing numbers of children and adults with complex needs.

4.10 Key features of our approach to proactively remodel, and develop new service patterns to improve local services, include:

- an ambitious programme to transform adult social care in Denbighshire with a focus on promoting independence so that people have greater choice and control over their lives
- realigning the focus of Children's Services and the way in which services are planned and delivered as part of a continuum of care as children and families need for support and intervention changes

4.11 This approach is in line with the "White Paper" on the future of Social Services (Sustainable Social Services: a Framework for Action) and the Consultation Paper on the Social Services (Wales) Bill which set a substantial transformation agenda.

4.12 The annual report recognises the need to strengthen our approach to quality assurance so that we robustly assess service users experience and the outcomes that are being delivered.

4.13 The improvement priorities we have identified through our self assessment have been integrated into our Service Business Plans. This approach ensures that the improvements identified in the annual report are mainstreamed into the authority's performance management framework.

4.14 Publication of the annual report

4.15 In line with the guidance that governs the ACRF process we are required to publish the annual report by 31 July 2012.

4.16 The report will form an integral part of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) performance evaluation of Denbighshire Social Services. The evaluation also informs the Wales Audit Offices assessment of Denbighshire County Council as part of the annual improvement report.

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

5.1 Activity in 2011/2012 has directly contributed to the delivery of the Responding to Demographic Change and Regeneration corporate programmes. Examples include:

Demographic Change

- ✓ supporting more people to live at home independently. Examples include:
 - the implementation of an Intake and Reablement service that helped 2549 adults
 - an additional 425 older people supported through Telecare customers
- ✓ opening a further Extra Care facility in Ruthin (Llys Awelon). This is the third Extra Care facility in Denbighshire and work is in progress for a fourth facility in Denbigh. The existing 3 facilities provide 139 older people with safe and secure tenancies in a living environment designed to maintain their independence
- ✓ working with Leisure Services to promote and develop opportunities for older people to participate in physical activities. Examples include guided walks, free swimming and aqua aerobics, chair based exercise sessions provided to community groups, in Extra Care Housing and in our day centres

Regeneration

- ✓ the mapping of vulnerable families, many of whom live in disadvantaged areas included within our regeneration projects, and the commissioning of early intervention services
- ✓ developing training, volunteering and employment opportunities to 514 people as part of our New Work Connections project
- ✓ initiatives by the Welfare Rights Partnership which removed £17m in personal debts, generated increased income of £8m and moved 1,138 people out of poverty

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

- 6.1 The actions identified within the report are aimed at delivering service improvements, improving outcomes and meeting local needs better within the context of achieving challenging financial efficiencies

7. What consultations have been carried out?

- 7.1 It is acknowledged that consultation has been limited in the production of the self assessment and annual report. Feedback directly gained from service users and carers about our services as part of our existing quality assurance systems has been used to assess our performance.

- 7.2 We have drawn on findings of the positive CSSIW inspections in 2011/2012 including a fostering and adoption inspection, an inspection of adult services, and inspections of our residential Homes and in house provided services.

- 7.3 Prior to the formation of the new Council a small group of Elected Members contributed to the self assessment process. A draft version of the annual report was also circulated to Partnership Scrutiny on 29 May 2012.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 8.1 While there are no immediate significant financial implications resulting from the annual report, it is crucial that any costs associated with implementing the actions are compatible with the medium term financial plan.

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

- 9.1 Detailed risk registers have been developed for the Adult and Business Service and for the Children and Family Service. As the ACRF has been mainstreamed into the work of the Services the associated risks and actions to mitigate and manage them are captured in the risk register.

10. Power to make the Decision

- 10.1 Section 3 of Local Government Act 1999 – Best Value duty to secure continuous improvement.
- 10.2 Section 7 of Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 – duty to secure continuous improvement of service delivery.
- 10.3 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 – duty to secure continuous improvement of service delivery.
- 10.4 Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services issued under Section 7 of Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.

Annual Report 2011-12

Who we are
What we do
The difference we make



**Denbighshire County Council
Social Services**

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If you would like to find out more about our services and how to access them, contact the First Contact Team. You can write or call in to see them at:

64 Brighton Road
Rhyl
LL18 3HN

County Hall
Wynnstay Road
Ruthin
LL15 1YN

Phone 01824 712900
Fax 01824 712888
Text 07917 597993
Email firstcontactteam@denbighshire.gov.uk
Website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

This document provides a summary of our annual self assessment. [Click here](#) if you want to read the full detailed assessment.

For a version of this leaflet in Braille or another language or format, [call free on 0800 243 980](#).

Introduction

This is my annual report about social services in Denbighshire. The report looks at performance in 2011/2012 and sets out our priorities for 2012/2013.

How effective are our services?

My overall assessment is that Denbighshire Social Services continue to perform well. We have very committed staff and I am pleased with their continued work to ensure that we make life better for vulnerable people.

Recent Welsh Government papers set an agenda to transform social care services in Wales. We have already started to deliver this agenda. Over the last 3 years we have made good progress in adapting and developing services to respond to the needs of an ageing community and increasing numbers of children and adults with complex needs. We recognise that there is more to do and the priorities we have set will continue to modernise our services.

Modernising our services will involve developing more joined up approaches to meeting people's needs. This will involve changing the way we work and the way services are delivered. We will need to ensure that we manage change consistently well, ensuring that people who use social services, our staff and communities have the opportunity to shape the way change is taken forward.

We recognise that some of the changes we will make may not be popular, and that people like familiar services. However, the financial climate means that we will have to approach things in a different way to be able to provide support for increasing numbers of people in future with the money we have. Ensuring vulnerable people are protected and that people receive high quality services will always be central. We will also focus on making changes so that people can be independent as possible, services make lives better and people are treated with dignity.



Sally Ellis

Corporate Director Modernisation and Wellbeing

Children & Family Services

Supporting Children and Families

What we are about

We aim to ensure vulnerable children:

- ✓ are safeguarded
- ✓ live with secure, stable loving families
- ✓ have opportunities for success, and
- ✓ are enabled to grow and develop into healthy, well rounded adults.

The Services we provide

We recognise the importance of providing the right support to children and families at the right time. This involves working closely with other agencies to combine our effort so that we:

- help prevent problems arising
- respond early before problems escalate, and
- provide effective support when intensive help is needed from statutory services.

The services we provide include:

- information, advice and signposting people to help and support
- supporting families to care for their children safely and to reduce the risk of family breakdown
- helping children in need, children with disabilities and young carers
- supporting looked after children and care leavers
- providing stable, secure placements through fostering and adoption, and
- child protection to ensure vulnerable children are safe.

Early Intervention: helping families before problems escalate

Every year families, professionals and the general public contact us with concerns about children, young people and their families. We call these contacts. In 2011/2012 we received 5150 'contacts'. Social services does not need to be involved in the majority of these cases. However, it is often the case that the family is at a point where they need some form of help or support.

During 2011/2012 we have started using an approach that places the family at the centre of making change to their lives. We ensure that the family are listened to and that we help them to build on their strengths, their resilience and their skills. The approach is known as putting a Team Around the Family.

Ceri's story

Ceri is a teenager who refused to go to school. Ceri and her mum were arguing a lot. Ceri did not like leaving the house and did not socialise well. Ceri has a problem with her weight.

The Team Around the Family service worked with Ceri and her mum to find out what was working and what they needed help with. A number of agencies worked together with the family to:

- find a way for Ceri to engage in education
- help Ceri and her mum improve their relationship through counselling
- help them eat healthily and exercise
- help them manage their debts

Ceri's mum has said she feels much more positive about everything in life.

The difference this has made for Ceri

- I did well in my basic skills test
- I start college after the summer break
- I have stopped arguing with mum
- Me and mum have started going to the gym and we're enjoying it!
- Mum is on top of our finances
- I am much happier about my future

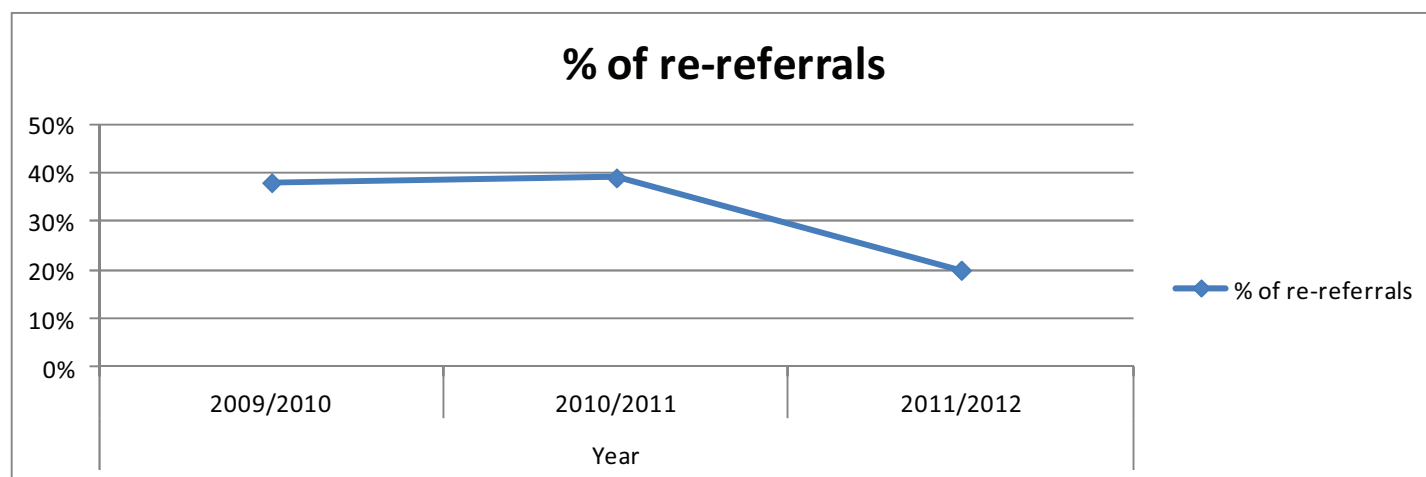


Supporting Families

During 2011/2012 we have improved the way we support families to care for their children safely and to reduce the risk of family breakdown. We have started using an approach (Framework Analysis) which involves agencies working together to assess, plan and support children and families.

We have been working with other agencies to strengthen the way we respond together to help these families. Each week we meet with teachers, health visitors, and the police to share information and concerns about children and families. At these meetings we agree what action is needed and who will take the lead. This helps to ensure that families get the help they need early on from the most appropriate agency.

Focusing on helping people get help early on has helped us to halve the number of children/young people who are referred to the Department more than once during the year (down from 39% in 2010/2011 to 20% in 2011/2012).



In 2012/2013 we will work with the Family Information Service to ensure families have access to information about the support they can get in their community and from statutory services.

We will continue to develop our services. We recognise that services do not always join up to provide families a smooth transition in and out of services as their needs change. We have developed an action plan to grow and develop our range of intensive family support services. This is part of a wider multi-agency approach to family support that we will continue to develop over the next 2-3 years.

Children with disabilities

In our last annual report we highlighted the work we had planned with Health on a project to develop an integrated disability service at Hyfrydle in Denbigh. There have been delays in this project which means that we have not yet fully joined up our services. This is disappointing but we are confident that our Health colleagues will ensure that the project is delivered this autumn. Positively the lease for the building has been signed and development work has started.

A key focus of supporting disabled young people in transition to adulthood is to provide effective planning to make sure that their future needs are identified and that the right services are put in place. This is an area where we do well. However, we recognise that there is a group of young people receiving direct support from the Children and Family Services who will not be eligible for support from adult services as they get older. We have set up a key worker service to work with partner agencies to identify support that may be available for them.

Looked after children

Looked after children are children and young people who are in the care of the local authority because of a care order made by the court or by agreement with their parent(s). Often these children are referred to as being 'in care'. Over the last 3 years the number of looked after children in Denbighshire grew. The number of looked after children has now stabilised although children are still coming into care and we are finding that they are staying in care for longer (this is discussed later in the report). In Denbighshire there were 165 looked after children on the 31st March 2012.

The Council acts as a 'corporate parent' for looked after children. We are proud of the work we have undertaken in 2011/12 to be good 'corporate parents'. This includes making sure that looked after children attend school, visit the dentist and have health immunisations.

One of our developing strengths is the attention we give to ensuring that children and young people are involved in their care arrangements and are a key part of any decisions and arrangements for their future. We are proud that all children and young people have access to an independent advocate.

“I would like to thank my Social Worker for her time, appreciated the relationship they had developed and how she was able to challenge me to consider new possibilities and actions in difficult areas of my life”

Service User (Court practice group)

We use a range of different ways to find out what children and young people think about our services. However, we need to get better at pulling this information together to develop a more comprehensive picture of common themes/ issues that arise. In response we have revised our Quality Assurance Framework (2012-2014) which now places a stronger and more co-ordinated emphasis on listening and responding to what service users tell us.

Fostering and adoption

We have a dedicated Fostering Service that is responsible for making sure we have suitable foster carers. This includes ensuring people are trained and supported to provide good placements for looked after children. We had a successful annual fostering inspection in 2011/2012.

We are pleased that we have good placement stability for looked after children. However, prolonged care proceedings mean that children are tending to remain in foster care longer. We are therefore experiencing challenges in providing well for the varying and differing ages and needs of children and young people. In addition Foster Carers have told us that our current training for foster carers needs to change. In response we will review the foster carer training programme and develop tailored training and support packages for longstanding foster carers and kinship carers (carers who are relatives of the young people they look after).

We have worked closely with the North Wales Adoption Service which has focussed on providing a steady supply of approved adopters. There is now a rolling training programme for prospective adopters and an increased number of assessments being presented to panels. We have also established a joint adoption panel with Conwy. However, even with this effort and focus progress has been restricted due to a national shortage of prospective adopters.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

One of Social Services' key responsibilities is to protect children from harm. We try to do this in partnership with families, and where appropriate, keep children in their own homes. Our assessment is that we have efficient and well developed systems in place to keep vulnerable children and young people safe. We ensure that our processes for dealing with child protection are followed in a timely manner and we work well with other agencies to safeguard children.

We have a well established joint Conwy and Denbighshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board which makes sure that there is a consistent approach to safeguarding and child protection across all key agencies. The authority's Estyn inspection of Education was positive about the safeguarding work undertaken in the authority. We have also provided a comprehensive range of child protection training across the social care sector with 121 receiving child protection training during the year.

In 2012/13 we need to ensure we consult more effectively with children who have been subject to the child protection process in order to better understand the impact (positive/ negative) it has had on their safety.

Delivering an efficient, high quality and well managed service

Over the last year we have achieved a great deal with the commitment of an experienced and established workforce. We have successfully implemented a major restructure of our Service in 2011 that supports and promotes good quality social work practice. Information about how we are managing our service can be found in our full assessment (a link to this document is on page 2).

How does our performance compare?

Our assessment of our strengths and challenges is as follows:

| Strengths | Challenges |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• making timely decisions on referrals (within 1 working day)• reducing repeat referrals• completing initial assessments (within 7 working days)• ensuring children are seen as part of the initial assessment• the timeliness of initial child protection conferences• meeting timescales for reviewing children who are on the child protection register/are looked after• having qualified social workers allocated to cases• placing looked after children in appropriate placements so they do not experience unnecessary placement moves• ensuring good school attendance for looked after children• ensuring looked after children are not permanently excluded from school | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• completing core assessments within 35 working days• ensuring that children do not experience changes of school unless it is due to transitional arrangements• undertaking statutory visits to looked after children in accordance with regulations• ensuring plans for permanence for looked after children are in place at the point of their second review• child in need reviews are carried out within the statutory timescales |

Click [here](#) to see how we how performed against our performance indicators in 2011/2012.

Looking forward—our top priorities

The pace of change within Children’s Services continues to be fast, diverse, and demanding. We must manage this pace within a challenging and testing economic environment in which significant long term efficiency savings must be made. Our focus will be how we improve outcomes for children and young people whilst delivering efficiencies.

We have set priorities for the next 3 years. The information on the next page sets out the main focus of our energies in 2012/13 to deliver the 3 year priorities:

| 3 year priority | In 2012/2013 we will: |
|---|---|
| Vulnerable families provide stability and safe care for children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen the way we involve and work with families and partner agencies in assessing the needs of families and in the planning, delivery and reviewing of services (Joint Assessment Family Framework and Framework for Analysis) implement a Family Support Strategy. The Strategy will set out the range of support services we will deliver to families develop our approach to delivering family support services with partners |
| Looked after children are provided with permanent, stable, secure and loving families and become independent adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a new training programme for experienced foster carers and carers looking after family members so that they can develop the skills to help support children and young people with a range of complex needs undertake an evaluation of Bryn y Wal children's home and look at options for how we use the budget to meet the future needs of children and young people who are looked after |
| Vulnerable children are protected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bring together and reduce the number of multi-agency panels that work to support vulnerable children/young people and families work together with our partner agencies to develop an agreed programme to respond to the impact of domestic abuse on children develop consultation approaches that enable us to learn from the experiences of families involved in Child Protection process |
| Children with complex additional needs are enabled to live stable, secure and inclusive family lives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review delivery of services to children and young people with additional needs (e.g. due to disability) to make sure the service is able to respond to their needs effectively |
| The Children and Family service is efficient, of high quality and well managed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve the way in which we use our information and intelligence to inform service development and delivery |

Adult & Business Services

Supporting Adults

What we are about

We aim to support people to live as independently as possible. For most people this means working with them so that they can continue to live in their own home.

The services we provide

The type of service we offer depends on a person's needs. Depending on their situation we could offer someone:

- information and advice
- advice about benefits and how to claim them
- signposting to services available in their community
- support that helps people to regain or develop their skills and confidence to take care of themselves
- special equipment and home adaptations
- care and/or support in a person's home
- short breaks
- day services
- care in a residential or nursing home for people with specific high level care needs



Click [here](#) for more information about the services we provide.

A year of change

During 2011/12 we delivered an ambitious programme to transform adult social care in Denbighshire. We put a new structure in place which had 2 key features.

A new Intake and Reablement Service which:

- ◆ makes it easier for people to access our services
- ◆ enables us to respond promptly when people seek help, and
- ◆ focuses on how we can maximise peoples independence.

Services delivered through locality offices which:

- ◆ bring a stronger link between our services and the communities they serve
- ◆ enable agencies to work together to jointly assess and support people, and
- ◆ promote health, well-being and independence in towns and communities.

The emphasis of the new structure is on prevention and early intervention, whilst recognising that an ageing population will have complex, long term care needs that require responsive support tailored to individual needs.

We have carried out a review of our new structure gathering the views of staff, partner agencies and most importantly some of the people who have received our services. The outcome of the review showed that:

- ◆ we treat people with dignity and respect
- ◆ people felt that our services are reliable, and
- ◆ overall we are easy to contact (but there is room for improvement).

One person told us:

“I am grateful for the prompt service received and the kind and caring attitude of the staff as I find it difficult to be in the company of strangers.”

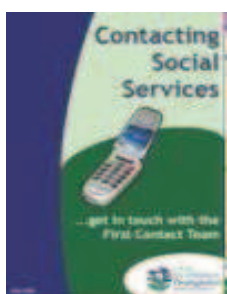
The review highlighted that we need to ensure that service users and their carers know who to speak regarding their care. 25% of users who responded to were unclear about who they needed to speak to if they had any queries. We have started work to make sure that people are clear about who is responsible for their care. We are also looking at what information is given to people once our input has ended.

Providing an effective and timely response

Our First Contact Team provides a single point of access to our services. They carry out initial screening to find out what needs the individual might have and refer them to the appropriate team or relevant external agencies. Last year our First Contact Team provided advice, information and support to over 6000 adults.

In 2011/12 we increased the input of social work staff and occupational therapists into initial screening processes. We believe that this approach has improved signposting, assisting people to get information/advice and everyday support in their own communities and improved the quality of information going to the longer term teams. In 2012/2013 we will be developing standards for our First Contact service that will help us better understand how effective the service is and the difference it is making.

We are pleased that we have been selected as a pilot to develop a single point of access to social and health care services. This will seek to remove the need for a service user or their carer to make contact with a range of agencies when in need of support. Health and third sector colleagues were part of the development bid which got financial support from the Social Services Improvement Agency for initial development costs. This is an exciting opportunity and we look forward to reporting progress at the end of 2012/2013.



Click [here](#) to find out how you can contact social services.

Promoting independence

We have developed our services to provide a stronger focus on supporting people to maintain their independence. These services are rapidly becoming the first thing we do when someone needs help. Reablement and Telecare are good examples of the work we have undertaken to promote people's independence.

Reablement

Reablement is short-term support which is designed to develop people's confidence to manage as many tasks as possible on their own rather than having other people do things for them.

Last year our Intake and Reablement Service has assisted 2549 people to retain their independence by delivering short term intensive support. 69% of people no longer needed a package of care after short term support.

We were pleased that an evaluation showed that our approach to reablement is working. A survey completed by people who have received reablement showed that at the end of the reablement service:

- ✓ 76% of people stated they had more confidence
- ✓ 47% said the service had helped improve their privacy, and
- ✓ 49% said it had improved their dignity.

When we went back to people 3 months after they had received a reablement service we found that:

- ✓ 62% of people felt their confidence had improved further
- ✓ 25% said it had remained the same, and
- ✗ 7% of people felt their confidence deteriorated.



Click [here](#) for more information about reablement in Denbighshire.

Telecare

Our Community Equipment Service (CESI), which is a formal partnership with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU), provides and manages a wide range of equipment from hoists to Telecare to help people live independently within the community.

Telecare is a range of equipment that uses sensors and an alarm system which is plugged into the telephone socket. This alerts a carer or a response centre when a person needs help or something has been detected such as gas or smoke. 1300 people are now provided with Telecare in Denbighshire with 450 new installations in the past year.



The CESI service provides a quick response with 83% of equipment delivered within 5 working days. Positively 82% of equipment is recycled meaning that it is put back for use in the community.

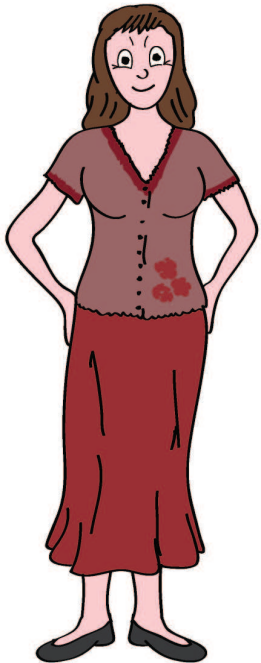
Click [here](#) for more information about telecare in Denbighshire.

Ellen's Story

Ellen had been in hospital for 7 months. Although she was ready to be discharged from hospital her property was unsuitable.

We arranged temporary accommodation and a reablement care package to enable her to leave hospital. The social work and OT (Occupational Therapist) then worked together with Housing and Ellen to find a property that was suitable to meet her needs.

Ellen is now living independently in the community of her choice. She is independent with personal care tasks and is managing all food and drink preparation. Ellen's family and friends support her with shopping. Ellen has managed to walk to the local bus stop to use local transport into town on a couple of occasions.



Communities

We have a range of services that have been developed to build networks and support to help people live in their community without reliance on statutory social care services.

We have worked closely with communities to develop a range of community initiatives that include:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Passion for Life | A framework for older people which enables them to make incremental changes to move them from where they are now to where they would like to be in their lives |
| Dignity in Care | Local volunteers work to champion dignity and respect to be at the heart of care services |
| Telebuddy services | Volunteers phone people who may feel lonely or isolated to make sure they are okay |
| My Life My Way groups | A mentoring scheme where older people support young disadvantaged people |

We are currently piloting Community Information Points in 3 rural areas to help bridge the gap between local communities and those agencies able to offer help and support.

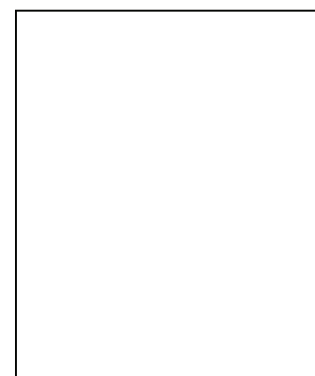
The New Work Connections (NWC) project supports people over the age of 16 who, through a range of disadvantages, are economically inactive or unemployed. The main group of people we work with are people who have social care needs and we believe that help with pursuing training and/or employment can often help to transform people's lives and reduce dependency on health and social care services. During the year we supported 514 people. We are aiming to help more people in 2012/2013.

Our Supporting People strategy has been very successful in providing a range of options for people to have supported accommodation in the community.



Click [here](#) for information about the type of support provided through Supporting People and how you can ask for help.

Evaluation questionnaires demonstrate that our Welfare Rights Team makes a real difference to people's independence, health and wellbeing. Last year our Welfare Rights Partnership removed £17m in personal debts, generated increased income of £8m and moved approximately 1,138 people out of poverty.



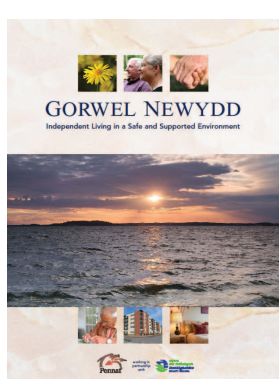
Click [here](#) for an annual report on the work of the Welfare Rights Team.

Modernising our services

As a nation we have an ever ageing population with increasing levels of physical and mental frailty. We need to ensure that we continue to develop modern services to respond to the changing needs of people in Denbighshire within the context of financial pressures. Between 2009—2012 the Council agreed that, in response to demographic pressures, priority would be given to adapting and developing services for older people and people with learning disabilities.

Modernising services for older people

We are proud of how we have developed Extra Care in Denbighshire. We have established schemes in Rhyl and Prestatyn and a further scheme opened in Ruthin last year. The Ruthin scheme is built on the same site as our existing in house Care Home (Awelon) and we have commitment to build an Extra Care Scheme in Denbigh. There is a clear need for more Extra Care facilities in Denbighshire but funding the development of a further phase is challenging.



Click [here](#) for information about Extra Care Housing in Denbighshire.

We have strengthened our services for older people with mental health problems (EMH). We have commissioned day activities for people with EMH as part of our support for carers. These approaches move away from traditional models of EMH day care and aim to break down barriers of isolation by providing services in places such as Extra Care Housing where people can form friendships and support networks.

We have worked well with Leisure Services to promote and develop opportunities for older people to participate in physical activities. Examples include guided walks, free swimming and aqua aerobics and chair based exercise sessions provided to community groups, in Extra Care Housing and in our day centres.

Over 100 people enrolled for chair based activities with the average age being between 80 – 90 yrs. One Extra Care group now feel that once a week session is not enough and are trialling twice a week sessions with two residents leading the group.

Jean's Story

Jean has attended your chair based exercise group at Nant-Y-Mor and can't praise the group enough. She has gained more movement in her arm since doing the exercises. There has been a marked improvement in her arm since her injury, she did have Physio following the removal of her plaster, but this stopped after so many weeks, leaving her with very limited movement. This exercise group has not only given her the motivation to carry on these exercises at home, but to meet others.

Modernising services for people with learning disabilities

Last year we started work to develop Intensive Supported Independent Living accommodation in Henllan which will support 8 people with learning disabilities, 2 physically disabled people and 2 people with autism to live in the community. Whilst there have been delays in delivering the scheme we are on track for a summer opening and funding arrangements between Health and ourselves have been agreed.

In addition two new housing schemes providing low level supported housing, one for 5 adults the other for 3 adults with learning disabilities have been developed since September 2011. These developments involved close and detailed consultation processes with local residents and both schemes have been very successful.



Click [here](#) to find out more about Community Living Schemes that support people with a learning disability to live in the community.

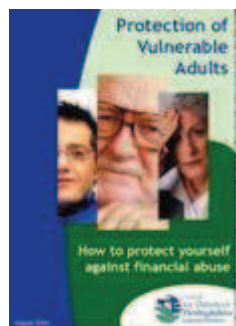
Safeguarding

We have effective systems in place to make sure that vulnerable people are safeguarded. We work well with other agencies and 318 people from across the social care workforce attended POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) training. We have posters that explain the types of abuse a vulnerable person may suffer and who can be contacted by anyone who has concerns.

We need to make sure that there is a consistent understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and the concept of 'Best Interest' where people can make decisions about another person in certain situations. We will deliver specific refresher training for staff around the Mental Capacity Act. Through a complaint we have learnt lessons about how we can improve the way we involve and inform families about POVA cases, and the need for us to provide greater clarity about our decision making in strategy meeting minutes.



Click [here](#) for information about the kinds of abuse vulnerable adults may suffer, and contact details for anyone with concerns about the welfare of a vulnerable adult.



Click [here](#) for information about how vulnerable adults can protect themselves against financial abuse, and what to do if they feel they are being abused.

Supporting Carers

We value the role that carers have and appreciate this can be a challenging and demanding role. We are very committed to improving and developing support and services for carers, and are providing more services to carers than ever before. Over recent years there have been significant improvements to the service, including the appointment of a Carers' Commissioning Officer, the development of a Carers' Strategy, a dedicated Carer Assessors service, Carers Emergency Card Scheme, EMH Carer Support, Healthy Carers Worker post, and a dedicated webpage. However, we recognise that there is more to do to ensure that carers forms a central part of our assessment processes. We will provide refresher training for our staff on our carers' assessments and services to support carers in Denbighshire.

Cath's Story

Cath is a 72 year old lady who suffered a stroke which left her with complex needs. In the beginning it seemed unlikely that Cath and her husband (her main carer) would be able to cope if Cath returned home.

Cath's husband had a carers assessment and a care package was put into place to help support him in his caring role. More suitable accommodation to meet Cath's needs was found and adaptations were made. Her husband was given in depth training in correct moving and Handling techniques to enable him to maintain his own and his wife's safety in transfers and daily living.

Cath was offered and accepted day care and her husband was given an advocate to assist with financial matters and correspondence.

Following detailed work by a social workers and OT Cath's husband was able to manage his role as main carer and both are managing independent living in the community.



Click [here](#) for more information about the Carers Emergency Card Scheme.

Looking forward—our top priorities

Over the coming year we will need to make some difficult decisions about the services we provide and the way we provide them. We will need to ensure that services provide good results for vulnerable people with eligible social care needs. This will include remodelling day services and reviewing the provision of meals on wheels. We will also adopt new approaches and ways of working with the 3rd sector (voluntary organisations), independent providers, community councils, statutory partners and other local authority colleagues.

We will need to ensure that our quality assurance framework is fully embedded to ensure that we have a better understanding of the quality of services in Denbighshire. We also need to develop our systems to provide a deeper understanding of service users and carer experience and where they feel improvements need to be made.

We have set priorities for the next 3 years. The information below sets out the main focus of our energies in 2012/13 to deliver the 3 year priorities:

| 3 year priority | In 2012/2013 we will: |
|---|---|
| <p>Personalisation People have choice and control over their lives and are able to live as independently as possible</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further develop approaches that enable people to control their care and be at the centre of their service • enhance the use of Assistive Technology to support adults to remain safe and independent • develop our performance management to focus onto quality, outcomes and service user value • develop and implement robust customer involvement • introduce and promote customer service standards across all services |
| <p>Localisation People’s individual needs can be met within their local community</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further develop and implement a model for the delivery of health and social care within a locality structure • develop commissioning strategies that reflect and responds to the needs of Localities • develop the Single Point of Access, Assessment and care co-ordination across health and social care in Denbighshire |

How are we performing

Last year our services were inspected as part of a planned inspection of an adult social care by the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW). The inspection provides an important independent evaluation of services that we provide. We were pleased with the outcome of the inspection which concluded
XXXXXXXX

– highlights to be included once final report is received.



Follow this link to see the inspection report

During our restructuring process we maintained “business as usual” and sustained performance against our statutory PI’s. Our assessment of our strengths and challenges is as follows:

| Strengths | Challenges |
|--|---|
| <p>Our analysis is that we perform above the Welsh average for the following performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Managing or removing risk in POVA cases.✓ The rate of older people supported in the community.✓ Ensuring that care packages are reviewed.✓ Ensuring a low number of delayed transfer of care.✓ Providing carers with a service following an assessment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ The rate of older people supported in care homes.➢ The percentage of carers who were offered an assessment or review of their needs in their own right.➢ We recognise that there is still an insufficient take up of Direct Payments in particular by older people. We need to improve this and work with staff to understand and break down the barriers that prevent people taking up a Direct Payment. |

Click [here](#) to see how we how performed against our performance indicators in 2011/2012.

| 3 year priority | In 2012/2013 we will: |
|--|---|
| <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Vulnerable adults are protected from harm</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the management arrangements of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) function including the Annual POVA training plan • develop and implement an Action Plan as a result of learning / recommendations from a Serious Case Review • deliver training around the Mental Capacity Act. • undertake a feasibility study regarding a new approach to meeting the needs of disabled children and adults |
| <p>Integration</p> <p>Services work together to meet the needs of individuals using flexible resources to reduce dependence</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to implement a Reablement Strategy across all services • further developing an effective and productive interface with Health • develop an Accommodation Strategy in partnership with Housing Services |
| <p>Efficiency and Effectiveness</p> <p>Adults have co-ordinated health and social care support to meet their needs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further develop the social care workforce strategy taking account of changing needs • develop an approach to respond to and embrace new models of social care provision • implement staffing / workforce indicators as laid out in the Social Care Measure • develop a staff engagement strategy • modernise service delivery, maximising office space and utilising new technology to increase capacity and productivity |

Delivering an efficient, high quality and well managed service

We have worked hard to ensure that our workforce is a stable one that is well trained and equipped with the skills to meet the requirements of changing and modernising services. Information about how we our managing our service can be found in our full assessment (a link to this document in on page 2).

Feedback can be provided to:

ACRF Feedback
Ty Nant
Prestatyn
LL19 9LG.

You can also call 01824 712900 or email:
ssdcomments@denbighshire.gov.uk to leave feedback.



Ceri's Family concept and images: © Denbighshire Health, Social Care and Well-Being Unit.

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County Council Forward Work Plan

| Meeting | | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Council Decision required (yes / no)? | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 11 September | 1 | Pay Policy Statement | | Yes | Linda Atkin |
| | 2 | NHS Service Reviews | To consider proposals for the reconfiguration of the delivery of NHS services in north Wales | No | Sally Ellis |
| | | | | | |
| 9 October | 1 | LDP Update | | | Graham Boase |
| | 2 | Joint Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site | To seek the adoption of the SPG | Yes | Eleri Evans / Graham Boase |
| | 3 | SPG West Rhyl | | | AL |
| | 4 | Corporate Plan | | | Alan Smith |
| | 5 | Economic Ambition Strategy | | | Graham Boase |
| | 6 | Policies and Procedures (HR to advise which policies are coming when) | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 6 November | 1 | Policies and Procedures | | | |
| | 2 | LDP | | | Graham Boase / Angela Loftus |

County Council Forward Work Plan

| Meeting | | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Council Decision required (yes / no)? | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | |
| 4 December | 1 | Policies and Procedures | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 8 January | 1 | Policies and Procedures | | | |
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| 5 February | | | | | |
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| 26 February | | | | | |
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| 9 April | | | | | |
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| 7 May | | | | | |

County Council Forward Work Plan

| Meeting | | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Council Decision required (yes / no)? | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | |
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| | | | | | |
| Council Briefing 15 October | 1 | Corporate Parenting | To present important information on members' corporate parenting duties | No | Julie Moss |
| | 2 | Budget Workshop | | | |
| | | | | | |

Future Meeting

| Date | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Council decision required (yes / no)? | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| September 2012 (tbc) | Annual Performance Review 2010 / 2011 | To approve the Council's Annual Performance Review document. | Yes | Tony Ward / Alan Smith |
| Council Briefing – Date tbc | Presentation by the Empty Homes Officer | Proposed by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1 December 2011 to inform of the post's roles and objectives | No | Tbc |
| TBC | Supplementary Planning | | | Graham Boase / Eleri |

County Council Forward Work Plan

| Date | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Council decision required (yes / no)? | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| | Guidance on Affordable Housing | | | Evans |

Note for officers – Full Council Report Deadlines

| <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Deadline</i> | <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Deadline</i> | <i>Meeting</i> | <i>Deadline</i> |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>July</i> | <i>26 June</i> | <i>September</i> | <i>28 August</i> | <i>November</i> | <i>23 October</i> |

Updated 28/6/2012 - SP

Council Work Programme.doc