



To: Members of the County Council

Date: 28 January 2013

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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, 5 FEBRUARY 2013** in **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 5 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 8 January 2013 (copy enclosed).

5 2013/14 BUDGET (Pages 11 - 30)

To consider a joint report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets and the Head of Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Council's approval of the budget for 2013/14 and the resulting increase in the level of Council Tax for 2013/14.

6 "HEALTHCARE IN NORTH WALES IS CHANGING" DECISIONS (Pages 31 - 44)

To consider a joint report by Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services and the Corporate Director: Modernising and Wellbeing summarising the decisions taken by the BCU Board on 18 January 2013 and the implications for the Council, and to receive a further verbal update at the meeting.

7 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 45 - 48)

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

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

No Items.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Ian Armstrong
Raymond Bartley
Brian Blakeley
Joan Butterfield
Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones
Bill 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

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

Martyn Holland
Colin Hughes
Rhys Hughes
Hugh Irving
Alice Jones
Huw Jones
Pat Jones

Julian Thompson-Hill
Joe Welch
Cefyn Williams
Cheryl Williams
Eryl Williams
Huw Williams

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 8 January 2013 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Raymond Bartley, Brian Blakeley, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bill 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, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Margaret McCarroll, Jason McLellan, Barry Mellor, Win Mullen-James, Bob Murray, Dewi Owens, Merfyn Parry, Allan Pennington, Arwel Roberts, Gareth Sandilands, David Simmons, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, Cefyn Williams, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM), Head of Finance and Assets (PMc), Head of Legal and Democratic Services (RGW), Principal Benefits Officer (DD) and Committee Administrator (SLW)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Armstrong, Gwyneth Kensler, Peter Owen and Bill Tasker

Prior to the full commencement of the meeting, Councillor Joan Butterfield requested an adjournment of 1 hour due to the fact a 39 page document had been received electronically from the Head of Finance and Assets by all Members shortly before the commencement of the meeting. The adjournment had been requested to enable Members to read the document thoroughly so a full and frank discussion could take place when the item was dealt with on the Agenda – Item 6, Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

It was suggested a 30 minute adjournment would suffice. A vote took place - 21 in favour and 21 against, the Chair had the casting vote and voted in favour of a 30 minute adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10.15 a.m. and reconvened at 10.45 a.m.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No personal or prejudicial interests 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 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

A list of civic engagements undertaken for the Council by the Chair and Vice-Chair for the period 20th November, 2012 to 18th December 2012 had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Chair referred to the Christmas Service which had raised £600 for various good causes, including the Flood fund.

***RESOLVED** that the list of civic engagements undertaken for the Council by the Chair and Vice-Chair be received and noted.*

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th December, 2012 were submitted.

Regarding accuracy of the minutes Councillor R J Davies stated on page 12, he had been referred to as J R Davies rather than R J Davies.

Matters Arising – Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies asked for clarification of the issue raised on page 6 from various Councillors regarding their own areas which had suffered during the recent floods.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed there would be an update on this issue at the informal Council meeting taking place on 21st January 2013.

***RESOLVED** that subject to the above, the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th December, 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.*

6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

A copy of the report by the Head of Revenues and Benefits on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Councillor Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Customers and Communities introduced the report.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provisions to abolish council tax benefit in its current form across the UK. From 31st March, 2013, council tax benefit would come to an end and the responsibility for providing support for council tax, and the funding associated with it, had been passed to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government, in partnership with Local Authorities in Wales, had developed a new scheme to provide council tax support which Local Authorities had to adopt by 31st

January 2013. Within the scheme there were local discretions which were also required to be decided by full Council.

The Head of Finance and Assets reported that the Welsh Government finalised the scheme on 19th December 2012 and all Welsh Councils had been informed that the scheme must be approved by 31st January 2013.

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was one element of the Welfare Reform which was to come into force from April 2013. The new scheme meant that if an individual was previously exempt from paying Council Tax they would now be billed for 10% of the Council Tax bill.

Local Authorities were to provide a small number of discretionary elements, similar to those available under the current Council Tax Benefit scheme, to respond to their differing local circumstances (provided that the costs of any local variation were locally funded). The discretionary elements were set out in full within the report.

The proposed scheme replicated the current Council Tax Benefit Scheme but with the following main exceptions:

- Second adult rebate to be removed (at the moment if an individual could afford to pay the Council Tax but lived with someone on a low income, assistance may be received to help with the payment of Council Tax).
- Minor amendments to earnings and capital disregards levels.
- Maintenance payments would no longer be disregarded – but only if receipt of maintenance payments were proven to be received.
- That to achieve the required budget savings a 10% reduction in Council Tax support payable would be applied.

Denbighshire County Council received £8.3million towards the cost of the new scheme. The forecasted expenditure for 2013/14 was approximately £9.6million, thereby resulting in a shortfall of approximately £1.3million. The Council could only bill residents the equivalent of approximately £1million and therefore there would be an overall shortfall of £300,000 which had already been factored into the budget.

The Council would endeavour to collect the Council Tax and would be looking at how best to support people to make payments and help to avoid escalation of Court proceedings or bailiff intervention.

There would also be an increased demand of enquiries to the Benefits Department, debt/ financial management and welfare advice centres. A Welfare Reform Group had been formed to co-ordinate activities and ensure that residents could obtain the relevant support. As well as all relevant Council departments, the CAB, Benefits Advice Shop and Welfare Rights were represented on the Welfare Reform Group.

An equality impact assessment had been undertaken, which had been previously circulated.

A consultation document had been sent out but only one response had been received which had been from Rhyl Town Council. The Town Council response had been that the scheme should have taken into account, areas of deprivation.

The response received from Rhyl Town Council would be forwarded on to the Welsh Government.

To ensure the information, regarding the new scheme, was being distributed to all individuals affected, a full page article in the County Voice was to be published and also letters were to be sent to people affected by the changes.

Lengthy discussions took place:-

- Various Members voiced their disagreement of the scheme, being Councillors Joan Butterfield, Brian Blakeley and Colin Hughes.
- If the scheme was not approved by full Council then Denbighshire County Council would be forced into a default scheme. It was clarified by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that there were two sets of regulations. One was the requirement for a scheme incorporating prescribed requirements to be adopted by 31st January, 2013 albeit with some discretionary elements, and the second set provided for a default scheme to be imposed without any discretionary elements where a council had failed to adopt a scheme..
- As part of the deal for the Welsh Government to vote the scheme through, the opposition had requested a sunset clause be inserted which was to monitor the scheme after 12 months.
- Weekly payments would be taken to assist individuals rather than a larger monthly sum and payment cards would also be distributed as soon as possible. The number of establishments where card payments could be made would also be increased.
- Denbighshire County Council were working closely with the CAB, Welfare Rights and the Benefit Advice Shop. The Welsh Government had made money available to assist for the first 12 months of the scheme. £4.6million would be available across Wales but there had been no direction of what the money could be used for. Denbighshire had already spent £50,000 to upgrade the IT system and were looking at the possibility, in the future, of employing additional staff. Welfare Rights had received funding for an extra two staff to work with the front line staff.
- It had been suggested that it should be made clear that Members were not in favour of this scheme and that it had been forced upon Members by Central Government.

The Chief Executive clarified the situation to Members by confirming that they were not being asked to vote for their own scheme. Denbighshire did not have a choice of the scheme or not. If the scheme was not approved, it would go through without the discretionary elements. Voting against the scheme meant enforcing a scheme without discretionary elements. This was the legal position. Councillor Eryl Williams questioned if the wording for the recommendation could be changed to “reluctantly agree”, so it would be on record for the future.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that amended wording could be added.

RESOLVED that the Member's reluctantly adopt the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Scheme and that they considered the 4 discretionary elements of the scheme and approved accordingly.

7 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the Council's Forward Work Programme, previously circulated, and Members agreed the following items be included:-

- Taith Presentation scheduled for 21st January, 2013 at Council Briefing would be deferred to a future date, yet to be confirmed.
- Customer Service Training for Elected Members would take place on 11th March, 2013 at Council Briefing.
- Councillor Joan Butterfield requested that the new Police Commissioner be invited to a future Council meeting. It was agreed by Members the invitation should be sent as soon as possible.
- Councillor Alice Jones requested the newly merged Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission be invited to a future Council meeting to explain how the new body would function and how it would be used to best effect. It was agreed to invite the North Wales Director, Tim Jones to a future Council meeting.
- The Chief Executive clarified that, regarding flooding, two written reports had been sent out to Members, one from CET and one from the Chief Executive. On the 21st January, 2013 at Council Briefing the Chief Executive was hoping to update Members of the up to date position. A presentation would be given by Don Norris, Emergency Response explaining the recovery, investigations and financial issues. An investigation was to commence as to why the floods happened at Rhuddlan, St. Asaph and Ruthin. This investigation was to be led by Rebecca Maxwell. With regard to the flooding at Glasdir, Ruthin, there would be a detailed independent investigation. The investigations would take time but were aiming to report back probably in May with the full investigation responses.
- Councillor Bill Cowie requested that information could be passed on to the residents who had been affected by the flooding and in due course, feedback from the investigations. This was agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Council Forward Work Programme be approved and noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.55 a.m.

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Report To: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 5th February 2013

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill

Lead Officer: Paul McGrady, Head of Finance & Assets

Title: 2013/14 Budget

1 What is the report about?

The report details the proposed budget for 2013/14.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

The Council is legally required to set a balanced and deliverable budget before the start of each financial year and to set the resulting level of Council Tax to allow bills to be sent to residents.

3 What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Council approves the budget as shown in the appendices.

3.2 That subject to the considerations in section 4.22 Council approves the resulting increase in the level of Council Tax for 2013/14.

4 Report details

4.1 The Welsh Government released its final settlement in mid-December. This showed the grant that each Council would get. Denbighshire's grant increased by 1%. This is lower than expected as, at the last minute, the minister announced a £10m top slice of the local government settlement. This removed £300k from Denbighshire's grant.

4.2 The final settlement showed a cut in our capital funding. The funding has been cut by 15% (equivalent to around £900k) to £4.867m. This is a significant loss on top of the 27% cut we had over the previous two years. The general capital funding is what we rely on to carry out Health and Safety works, major maintenance etc – basically the work that allows us to keep our buildings going.

Budget Assumptions

4.3 The outlook for public finance is still poor for the medium term. It is likely that low settlements and a difficult financial situation will continue beyond the term of the current three year plan. This means it is very important for Members to consider a medium to long term view on all proposals for savings and not try for easy options that provide short term solutions.

4.4 The MTFP had originally assumed there would be cost increases in a number of areas. It is always difficult to accurately forecast inflationary changes in so many areas of expenditure and the Council always has to be prudent with its assumptions.

Fuel and energy cost increases

- 4.5 The original assumption for the increase in energy costs was 15%, based on previous experience plus the rises that had been announced in the autumn for domestic supply. However, the best information we have currently suggests that the cost of our energy contracts will rise by around 5%. However, we were able to reduce our consumption significantly during last year as well, so the overall impact on the budget will be minimal. It is also assumed that the rate of Carbon Tax paid will increase.
- 4.6 Given the highly volatile nature of the energy market, the MTFP will continue to assume higher rises in future years and this will then be amended as we work through the budget process each year.

Pay and Single Status

- 4.7 An assumption has been made for an increase in staff pay for 2013/14. The increase was assumed in the light of a 3 year pay freeze, inflation running around 2.7%, increases in pension contributions and reductions in various welfare payments.
- 4.8 The poor economic climate and the recent announcement by the Chancellor that public sector pay increases should be limited to an average of 1%, coupled with ongoing poor financial settlements for English Councils mean a significant pay rise is less likely. Pay is negotiated at a UK level for Councils. This means that English Councils will probably push for a very low increase in pay costs. The budget assumes a pay increase at just over 1%.
- 4.9 It will be several months before we are any clearer on proposals for pay. We should therefore retain the assumption within the budget. If the rise is slightly above 1% we would have funds to pay this. If the rise was slightly below 1% it would create a saving which would have two consequences – firstly would generate cash as we would have a budget allowance, but no expenditure and secondly would form additional savings for 2014/15. This mirrors the arrangements we had going into 2012/13. Any remaining unspent pay budget for either year will generate an underspend which will be transferred into the strategic investment reserve. It has been assumed that any unallocated budget will then be rolled into future years to mitigate future pressures.
- 4.10 The agreement on single status brought 2 financial burdens to the Council's budget. The first was a one-off increase in pay costs as a number of staff were moved onto higher grades, the second was the 'incremental drift' of these grades. That means staff would have been appointed at the bottom of the grade and over time will move up to the top of the grade. We set up a budget to pay for this 'drift' and it is due to be fully allocated to services by 2014/15. In addition, the Council is currently defending an equal pay claim by a number of staff that allege discrimination over a significant period. Should the Council be unsuccessful in its defence then it will be expected to pay out a significant amount of money to claimants. A provision has been set up specifically for this.
- 4.11 The Council is also currently negotiating with the Trade Unions to remove the essential car user allowance from staff. The 2013/14 budget assumes that this

will be agreed and phased in over the year saving £200k in the year with further savings in 2014/15.

Other Inflationary Pressures

4.12 It is assumed there will be small percentage increases in business rates for council properties and insurance premiums and an inflationary uplift in the cost of the Council's PFI contract. These total £160k.

4.13 It is assumed that services will absorb any other inflationary pressures unless these were specifically raised at service challenges.

Schools protection

4.14 The Welsh Government expects that schools will be protected from savings. The Council must passport to schools an amount equivalent to 1% above the settlement the WG received. For Denbighshire that means that schools will receive a budget increase of around £1,237k (2.08%). From this, they must absorb any increases in staffing costs – single status, pay awards etc. The council also had to protect schools last year when they received around £1.2m. It is likely this protection will continue into 2014/15.

Social Services Protection

4.15 In addition to the protection for schools, it is expected that the Council protects and increases Social Care budgets by 2.08% (£958k) for this year only. From this, the service must absorb pay rises, care home fee rises and other pressures.

4.16 The 2011 census indicated that there were significantly less people over the age of 85 than the Council was receiving funding for. This is likely to lead to a large cut to the Council's funding for 2014/15. Discussions are underway with the Welsh Government, but for now, the Social Services departments are assuming the additional funding will be available for one year only and will be lost in 2014/15.

4.17 Adult Social Services and Children's Social Services had intended to make savings for 2013/14 because the protection was not formally announced until December. The services will still therefore be expected to make efficiency savings, but these will then be reinvested back into the service.

4.18 Protection for Social Care and Education puts additional strain on other services in the Council as they have to find additional savings to compensate for this. For 2013/14 some £102m (56%) out of our budget is ringfenced and protected.

Council Tax Support Scheme

4.19 Under the UK Government's welfare reform agenda, Council Tax Benefit has been abolished and replaced with 'Council Tax Support'. In England this has involved transferring a sum of money to Councils which is approximately 10% less than the level previously provided. In Wales it has been devolved to the Welsh Government who decided that a national scheme should be implemented. As previously reported to members, this scheme originally also proposed a 10% cut in funding for Welsh Councils. The budget was developed

accordingly. Council approved the new Council Tax Support Scheme on 8 January and on 15 January Cabinet agreed to recommend the budget to Council.

4.20 Two days later, the Welsh Government announced that they were changing the regulations for the Council Tax Support Scheme. This was presented to members at an emergency Council meeting on 31 January. This change saw the Council receive approximately £840k additional funding towards the scheme. It was previously assumed that this would be billed to residents and that there would be an element that would be uncollectable.

4.21 The Council has to set its Council Tax 'Base' by December each year. This is the number of households that are eligible to pay Council Tax. This base took into consideration the likely impact of the Council Tax Support. Given that the collection rate will now be higher than originally expected this will mean that the Council will collect more Council Tax than was in the budget assumption. Because this change has happened very late on in the budget setting process and that the future of Council Tax Support is uncertain, it is recommended that no change is made to collection rate and Council Tax Base assumptions.

4.22 This will create a windfall for this year. At this stage it is difficult to forecast what this might be, but it will be at least £300k. Members therefore can consider how they might want to allocate this. Possible options would be:

- A further reduction in Council Tax
- Allocation to Strategic Investment Reserve to support the Corporate Plan
- A fund to be used to provide advice and support to residents to help with the ongoing changes to the welfare system either through internal resources or through partnership with external bodies such as CAB. This would be through developing financial management and budgeting support rather than benefits advice.

If these options were considered a possible split could be:

Item	Option A £k	Option B £k	Option C £k
Council Tax Increase reduced to 1.8% (note this would be an ongoing cost)	0	80	80
Strategic Investment (one off)	300	220	160
Welfare Reform Support (equivalent to 2 posts for 1 year)	0	0	60
TOTAL	300	300	300

Option A – Allocates all the funds to strategic investment

Option B – Allows Council Tax to be further reduced slightly to acknowledge the fact that this funding was given to support Council Tax

Option C – Allows further support to be given to those affected by the changes to Housing Benefit

Budget Workshops

4.23 Two rounds of budget workshops were held in November and December to which all members were invited. Three areas were considered – savings, priorities for investment and possible Council Tax levels.

Savings

4.24 Services have proposed just under £3.1m of savings (shown in Appendix 1). These were examined by members in detail at Service Challenges and were presented to members at budget workshops in November. All savings have been deemed to be deliverable and no objections have been raised by members to any proposals.

Priorities

4.25 In September members approved the Corporate Plan along with a series of projects. In the budget workshops members were then asked to consider how to allocate priorities funding to these projects. The proposed split is shown below :

Priority	£k	Purpose
Modernising Education	200	Capital Investment
Highways	100	Capital Investment
Economy	160	To be confirmed
Modernisation	140	To be confirmed
Social Care	400	Capital Investment

4.26 These funds will be allocated to projects from the Corporate Plan and on the back of full business cases.

Council Tax

4.27 Members also gave an indication of the sort of Council Tax increase they wanted to see. Members considered a number of options as shown below. The original assumption for financial planning purposes was for a 2.75% rise. The range of responses from the groups was for Council Tax to be at or below the rate of inflation for the medium term and that for 2013/14 the broad steer was that it should be between 2% and 2.5%, preferably at the low end of this range.

Increase %	Income £000k
0	0
1	400
2	800
2.75	1,100
3	1,200
4	1,600

4.28 The original budget assumption had been for a rise of 2.75%. However increased savings from renegotiated contracts allowed this to be reduced to 2.5%. The Fire Service levy has been confirmed at £70k below the planned level and a reduced assumption for pay rises reduces pressures by £130k. Taken together these save the equivalent of 0.5% Council Tax making 2.0% achievable.

4.29 The base assumption for the future is that Council Tax will rise at around 2% each year.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

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

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

Appendix 1 shows agreed savings. There were also a number of grants transferred into the settlement and these are shown in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 shows the full Council budget and the implications of the proposals within this report. The net budget has risen from £177.4m in 2012/13 to £190.7m in 2013/14. This is mainly due to the transfer of Council Tax Benefit (£8.4m) from the UK Government and grant transfers of £3m from the Welsh Government.

7 What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

Individual services are responsible for carrying out impact assessments on their savings proposals contained within the budget. Appendix 4 summarises the assessments.

8 What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Service challenges were held with each head of service and each challenge included representatives from scrutiny committee and Cabinet. Corporate Plan and Budget workshops were held with members in September, November and December.

9 Chief Finance Officer Statement

2013/14 will be another challenging year for the Council's finances. It is likely that relatively low settlements will continue for the medium term and the Council must be mindful of this when setting this budget.

The budget as proposed is realistic and deliverable. It makes sufficient savings to balance our position, protects front line services from major reductions and allows investment of £1m into Council priorities. This is delivered with a maximum 2.0% increase in Council Tax which compares to general inflation running at around 2.7%.

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

If the budget is not agreed within the relevant timescale then the Council will be breaking the law.

This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver the agreed budget strategy will put further pressure on services in the current and future financial years. Effective budget monitoring and control and early reporting of variances will help ensure that the financial strategy is achieved.

10 Power to make the Decision

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

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Type of saving proposal Ref	Description	2013/14 £k
A) GENERAL EFFICIENCIES		
A2	Reduce Contingency for balances and impact of Recession	Phase out budget provision over 3 years 300
A6	Future Workforce cost review	inc car user allowances 200 * See Note
A7	Costs of Democracy	Reduced senior salaries 17
A8	Review of Senior Management & Exec PAs	Review in hand
A9	Reduce budget for Major Events	WAG now fund Nat Eisteddfod
A10	Modernising the Council	200
Sub Total		717
C) SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW		
C6	ICT/IM	Printer Rationalisation etc 25
C7	Finance & Assets	Most efficient support structure 100
	Energy	Reduced consumption 100
	Capital Financing	Reduced borrowing costs 100
Sub Total		325
D) SERVICE CHALLENGE PROCESS		
a) Leisure Services		
Da5	Remove subsidy by increasing income	General increase in income from various sources 70
		70
k) Libraries		
Dk1	Modernise Service Provision	Better use of space eg Gallery, Museum, TIC, location and suitability of some buildings etc 77
		77
b) Environmental Services		
Db1	Increase charges for certain services eg bulky waste collection	Increase charges 5
Db2	Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Contracts currently being tendered - increased competition likely to drive down prices 225
Db5	Regional Waste Project Procurement Budget	Project will be procured and budget will not be needed 81
Db6	Succession Planning	Changes to management structure 15
Db10	Service Redesign (Street Cleansing)	Better targetted cleaning, smarter working, better delegation of responsibility, potential reduction in some areas 138
Db13	Cemetaries charging -	Increase charging and reduce improvements budget 10
Db15	Free School Meals Cost Pressures	Increase in take-up of service 5
Db15a	Reduced subsidy of School Meal Service	Increased take up of meals 50
Db16	AONB	-20
Db17	Stores	-45
Db18	Recycling Parks	100
		564
c) Planning and Public Protection		
EC21	Review Pest Control	Staffing reduction only carry out statutory part of function 10
EC23	Review Building Control	Staffing reduction 20
EC26	Review of Pollution Control	Staffing reduction 20
EC29	Review of Management	Management Restructure 40
		90
d) Highways and Transport		
EC17	Traffic & Road Safety	Joint Service / Regional Service 50
EC18	Highway Maintenance DLO	Review of all activities - fleet usage, working hours, practices, inspections etc 150
		200
f) Adult Social Services		
Df1	Cefndy Healthcare, Older People	Reduced Council subsidy 46
Df5	Externalise elements of Home Care	Not replacing retiring staff and better use of the private sector 15
Df8	Impact of investment in reablement	Reduced need for care services as more people are able to live independently for longer 75
Df9	Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	Less people needing residential care due to preventative services and more independent living opportunities 155
Mental Health		
Df11	Management Changes	Retirement of staff - no replacement 19
Df12	Partnership Efficiency Savings	Reduce contribution to AMH partnership 26
Physical Disability & Impairment		
Df13	ISIL Scheme	Use of new units at Henllan site to promote more independent living 12
Df14	Reablement Intervention	Reduce need for care services through targetted intervention 26
Df15	Telecare	Regional partnership will reduce running costs 20

Other Adult Services			
Df16	Administration Rationalisation	Deleting vacant posts and reduction in staff	80
Df17	Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	Process improvements to reduce admin and other costs	<u>474</u> **See Note
<u>h) Lifelong Learning (Excl Schools)</u>			
Dh1	Improvement & Inclusion	Restructuring of Dept, removal of vacant post, reduction in hours, reduction in staff	0
Dh2	Modernising Education		<u>0</u> *** See Note
<u>i) Schools</u>			
	Schools	Clawback of unused Single Status budget increase	
	Schools	Reduction due to falling roles etc	
	Schools		<u>0</u> *** See Note
<u>j) Children's Services</u>			
<u>Staffing</u>			
Dj4	Social Workers	Reduction in social workers as cases reduce	108
<u>Refocus on Core Business</u>			
Dj7	Review of Bryn Y Wal Residential Service	Explore whether more cost effective provision is feasible - renegotiating contract, external placements etc	109
Dj8	Reduction in Independent (external) Placement Provision	Currently exceptionally high due to type of placements. These will change as certain individuals become adults	63
<u>Pressures</u>			
Dj18	In-house Fostering		-35
Dj20	Legislative		<u>-28</u>
			217 **See Note
<u>l) Housing & Community</u>			
	Various small savings		1
Dc1	Review of Regeneration	Reduction in number of staff	10
Db18	Regeneration Service Redesign	Integration with other services and reduce staffing	<u>23</u>
			34
<u>Regional Working</u>			
ENW1	Education Regional Board	School Improvement Service	55
ENW2	Social Care Regional Board	Procurement Hub	<u>100</u>
			155
<u>G) Review Arms Length Companies</u>			
G2	Bodelwyddan Castle	Reduced Council subsidy	28
G3	Clwyd Leisure	Reduced Council subsidy	50
G4	ECTARC	Reduced Council subsidy	<u>5</u>
	Sub Total		83
<u>H) Other Cultural/Heritage activities</u>			
H2	Ruthin Craft Centre	Reduce Council's financial support	20
H3	Llangollen Pavilion	Reduce Council's financial support	25
H4	Heritage facilities	Reduce Council's financial support	<u>10</u>
	Sub Total		55
		TOTAL SAVINGS	<u>3,061</u>

Note
*The proposal to remove the essential car user allowance is still being negotiated with unions and will be subject to a ballot.

**Although Adult and Children's Social Services are expected to make savings, these will be reinvested in the services.

*** No savings are required from the Education Department

Grants Transferred into the General Settlement 2013/14

APPENDIX 2

£000

Blue Badge Scheme Grant	14
Appetite for Life Grant	81
School Counselling Grant	161
School Breakfasts Grant	470
Local Government Borrowing Initiative (Highways)	325
Post 16-SEN in Mainstream	44
Post 16-SEN Special Schools and Out of County	884
Learning Disabilities Resettlement Grant	1,089
 SUBTOTAL	 3,068
 Council Tax Support	 8,340
 TOTAL	 11,408

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Denbighshire Budget 2013/14

APPENDIX 3

	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-
	Budget 2012/13 £k	Protection & Inflation £k	WAG grant and transfers £k	Investment in Priorities £k	Savings £k	Projected Budget 2013/14 £k
Business Planning & Performance	1,338					1,338
Legal & Democratic Services	1,512					1,512
Finance & Assets	7,072				-100	6,972
Highways & Infrastructure	10,474		325	100	-200	10,699
Planning & Regulatory Services	2,622				-90	2,532
Adult & Business Services	31,888	905	1,103	400	-574	33,722
Children & Family Services	8,776				-217	8,559
Housing & Community Development	2,087			160	-34	2,213
Communication, Marketing & Leisure	5,223				-147	5,076
Strategic HR	901					901
Customer Services	1,981					1,981
Environmental Services	10,419		81		-564	9,936
Modernising Education	1,983			200		2,183
School Improvement & Inclusion	4,445				-55	4,390
Schools Delegated	61,642	1,282	1,559			64,483
	152,363	2,187	3,068	860	-1,981	156,497
Corporate	6,849		9,167	140		16,156
Fire Service levy	4,569	24				4,593
Capital Finance/Interest received	12,656	250			-100	12,806
Inflation	0	1,551				1,551
CONTINGENCY for Further Pressures	650	0		0	-300	350
Contribution to Reserves	300	0		0		300
Further Efficiency Savings *	0	0		0	-680	-680
	177,387	4,012	12,235	1,000	-3,061	191,573
2. Level of Funding						
W A G funding	137,442	0	1,144			138,586
Transfers In			12,235			12,235
Use of reserves	50					50
	137,492	0	13,379	0		150,871
Council Tax yield	39,895	4,012	-1,144	1,000	-3,061	40,702
	177,387	4,012	12,235	1,000	-3,061	191,573

2.0%

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Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

Code: A2	Proposed Saving: Reduce Contingency for Balances/Impact of Recession
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	None – provision has not been committed
Conclusion/Recommendation	No Further Action

Code: A6	Proposed Saving: Workforce Cost Review
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	Removal of Essential Car User Allowance
Conclusion/Recommendation	HR have completed a detailed EqIA for this.

Code: A10	Proposed Saving: Modernising the Council
Change to service provided?	Possibly – these are targets and each proposal will need an EqIA as it develops.
Potential Impacts	
Conclusion/Recommendation	

Code: C6	Proposed Saving: Printer Rationalisation
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	Could impact more on those less able (older/disabled) to move around the office/between floors etc.
Conclusion/Recommendation	Council will commit to addressing any issues reported by staff as a result of the changes.

Code: DK1	Proposed Saving: Modernisation of Library Service Provision
Change to service provided?	No change proposed. The efficiency target has been achieved without changing current provision
Potential Impacts	The service is confident that this will not impact on the level of service provided. The efficiencies are not associated with any front-line provision. Does not impact directly on the workforce.
Conclusion/Recommendation	None - The service has adopted a policy commitment which ensures front line provision will not be affected, until a clear strategy and service model has been determined for Libraries in Denbighshire.

Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

Code: Db1	Proposed Saving: Increased Charges for bulky waste collection
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	Increased charges have a disproportionate impact on those groups who are more likely to be reliant on a service (in the case of bulky waste collection this would include pregnancy and maternity, disabled people and older people). Very significant price increases would have a disproportionate impact on those groups who are more likely to live in poverty (including people with disabilities and people from minority ethnic backgrounds).
Conclusion/Recommendation	The proposal is considered to be justified because the increases are not significant, and will not be out of step with charges of other authorities in North Wales. The service is committed to ensuring that charges for bulky waste collection remain reasonable and in line with the level of charging in other authorities in North Wales.
Code: Db2	Proposed Saving: Renegotiate Recyclate and disposal contracts
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	The saving will be achieved through the renegotiation of a contract. The service is confident that this will not impact on the level of service and that no-one with a protected characteristic would experience any negative impact.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required
Code: Db5	Proposed Saving: Regional Waste project procurement budget
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	A budget set aside for procurement in the regional waste project is no longer required for this purpose and the project will proceed as planned. The service is confident that this will not impact on the level of service and that no-one with a protected characteristic would experience any negative impact.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required
Code: Db10	Proposed Saving: Service Re-Design (Street Cleansing)
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The service aims to improve efficiency of street cleansing by improvements in the timeliness of cleansing routes. Although there is no expectation that cleanliness standards will fall, the service has considered the potential impact on people with mobility issues if this were to be the case. Older and disabled people could experience a negative impact in

Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

	the extremely unlikely event that street cleanliness deteriorates to an extent that litter and detritus formed a physical barrier or obstacle. The service is also aware that changes affecting staff can have negative equality impacts.
Conclusion/Recommendation	The service is committed to maintaining national standards in order that the potential risk described above never arises. Any proposals involving changes to staff terms and conditions should always be equality impact assessed. It is recommended that relevant HR policies are Equality Impact Assessed.

Code: Db13	Proposed Saving: Cemeteries Charging
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The service intends to achieve a saving via increasing the charges for cemetery provision. The service is aware that cemetery provision can have a significant impact on those with religious beliefs. There are currently policies in place to safeguard and respect religious wishes which are not affected by these savings proposals. It is the case, however, that increased charges for cemetery provision will impact on those groups who have a religious commitment to burial rather than other provisions. Very significant price increases would also have a disproportionate impact on those groups who are more likely to live in poverty (including people with disabilities and people from minority ethnic backgrounds).
Conclusion/Recommendation	The service has adopted a policy commitment which ensures that fees and charges remain broadly in line with other local authorities. The proposal is considered to be justified because the new charges will not be out of step with charges of other authorities in North Wales.

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Code: Db18	Proposed Saving: Recycling Parks
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	Renegotiation of contract.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required.

Code: EC21-29	Proposed Saving: Service Restructures
Change to service provided?	Savings targets.
Potential Impacts	
Conclusion/Recommendation	All restructuring proposals would be subject to an EqIA as they develop.

Code: EC17/18	Proposed Saving: Review of Traffic/Road Safety and Maintenance DLO
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Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

Change to service provided?	Savings targets
Potential Impacts	
Conclusion/Recommendation	All restructuring proposals would be subject to an EqIA as they develop.

Code: Df1	Proposed Saving: Cefndy Heath Care
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The Saving will be achieved via a reduction of council subsidy based on a revised business plan for the enterprise. This new plan sets more ambitious targets than had previously been the case, particularly in relation to increased volume of sales. The service believes there will be no negative impact on service users or staff with any protected characteristics.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required

Code: Df5	Proposed Saving: Externalise Elements of Homecare
Change to service provided?	Potential
Potential Impacts	The savings will be achieved through a reduction in staffing costs achieved by commissioning independent providers rather than employing staff to provide the service directly. This represents the shifting focus in the council's direct provision and commissioned services. The council's direct provision will focus on short term re-ablement activities, and longer-term provision will be commissioned from the independent sector. The service believes there will be no negative impact on service users with any of the protected characteristics. However, the service is aware that changes affecting staff can have negative equality impacts.
Conclusion/Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioning Strategy and Contracts are equality impact assessed to ensure that safeguards against potential negative impacts on service users are in place. 2. HR policies in relation to early voluntary retirement, redundancy, and redeployment are Equality Impact Assessed.

Code: Df8	Proposed Saving: Re-ablement (older people)
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The savings will be achieved by reducing the need for longer-term care packages by instead providing re-ablement which allows the older person to attain independence and therefore cease to require care support or elements of care support. The service believes that the impact on service users will be positive.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required

Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

Code: Df9	Proposed Saving: Residential Care - Impact of Extra-Care
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The saving will be achieved through the development of Extra Care provision which is expected to result in a reduction in demand for other services. This will reduce the financial burden which these other services would otherwise place on the council. The service believes that the impact on service users will be positive because Extra-Care provision provides greater independence for the service user.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required
Code: Df12	Proposed Saving: Partnership efficiency
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	The saving will be achieved through a reduction in the council's financial contribution to Partnership activities. The service is confident that this will not have an impact on service provision.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required
Code: Df14	Proposed Saving: Re-ablement (Physical Impairment)
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The savings will be achieved by reducing the need for longer-term care packages by instead providing re-ablement which allows the physically impaired person to attain independence and therefore cease to require care support or elements of care support. The service believes that the impact on service users will be positive.
Conclusion/Recommendation	No further action required
Code: Df15	Proposed Saving: Telecare
Change to service provided?	No
Potential Impacts	The Savings will be achieved through the development of a wider partnership (involving 5 rather than 2 local authorities), which is expected to deliver savings without any reduction in provision. However, the service is aware that changes affecting staff can have negative equality impacts.
Conclusion/Recommendation	HR policies in relation to early voluntary retirement, redundancy, and redeployment are Equality Impact Assessed.
Code: Df17	Proposed Saving: Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control

Appendix 4 Synopsis of Efficiency Programme EqIA

Change to service provided?	Potential
Potential Impacts	The savings will be achieved via a reduction in staffing costs across the service as identified by systems thinking exercises and vacancy control. The service believes there will be no reduction in service provision and that no service user with any of the protected characteristics will experience a negative impact. However, the service is aware that changes affecting staff can have negative equality impacts.
Conclusion/Recommendation	HR policies in relation to early voluntary retirement, redundancy, and redeployment are Equality Impact Assessed.

Code: DJ7	Proposed Saving: Review of Bryn Y Wal Residential Provision
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	The level of our need for this resource is insufficient to justify buying the complete resource, attempts have been made to seek agreements with other LAs without success. We feel that young people who would have accessed this resource can have their needs better met in the main by more family oriented provision and the released resources will help us reduce the need to permanently accommodate children in the first place when this better meets their needs.
Conclusion/Recommendation	Review as proposals develop.

Code: DJ8	Proposed Saving: Reduction in Independent Placement Provision
Change to service provided?	Yes
Potential Impacts	We will still be seeking to provide the most appropriate accommodation to meet needs however changes to provision such as that detailed above and the impact of the hub provide an opportunity to achieve this with a smaller resource commitment without detriment to end users.
Conclusion/Recommendation	Review on case by case basis.

Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 5th February, 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Bobby Feeley

Report Author: Director of Modernisation and Wellbeing

Title: “Healthcare in North Wales is Changing” decisions

1. What is the report about?

This report summarises decisions taken by the BCU Board on 18th January, 2013, the implications for the Council and outstanding concerns. A further verbal update will be made by the Chief Executive at the Council meeting, based on discussions between North Wales Chief Executives and BCU’s executive team due to take place on 1st February.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Council submitted a comprehensive response to the Health Board as part of the formal consultation response to “Healthcare in North Wales is Changing”. This report briefs councillors on decisions taken by the Board at the end of the consultation response, and proposes next steps.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council

3.1 writes to the Health Minister and the Deputy Minister for Social Services outlining outstanding concerns, following the further representations already made to BCUHB and via the Community Health Council. These are set out in Appendix 2.

3.2 supports the rapid establishment of a County based Health and Social Care Strategic Forum, with urgent clarification of powers and accountabilities, building on the draft terms of reference in Appendix 3 attached

3.3 asks the Social Services and Health Programme Board, reporting to the Regional Leadership Board, to monitor the impact of the changes on local authorities across the region

4. Report details.

Background

4.1 BCUHB published service change proposals “Healthcare in North Wales is Changing” in July 2012 with a consultation period running to the end of October

2012. The particular areas of service involved were: Localities and Community Services (including community hospitals), Older People's Mental Health Services, Neonatal and Vascular Services. Over the summer, a Working Group of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee prepared a draft response to NHS Service Reviews "Healthcare in North Wales is Changing."

4.2 In September 2012, full Council considered the draft response and were able to put questions directly to representatives of BCUHB who attended the meeting.

4.3 Full Council approved a final response in October, 2012. The BCU Board considered consultation responses and made decisions on the proposals at its meeting on 18th January, 2013.

Papers presented to the Board

4.4 All members have received copies of the documents submitted to the Board. They comprised

- a cover report incorporating the substantive proposals, issues raised in consultation, responses to these and final recommendations.
- reports from ORS (consultation company) summarising consultation responses from a variety of sources together with analysis of responses demographically, by area etc.
- the summary and supplementary consultation responses from the Community Health Council, the statutory scrutiny body
- summary Equality Impact Assessment
- technical documents- summary and full document- primarily concerned with financial and workforce implications
- Powerpoint summary of recommendations

Responses to consultation

4.5 Clearly there has been widespread response to all the proposals. At the Board, the main sense was that there were some contentious issues about the interpretation of consultation responses- especially the weight given to the Household Survey (representative sample of population of North Wales) compared with Open Questionnaire (self selected), the weight given to petitions and so on.

4.6 The Community Health Council is the statutory body formally charged with scrutinising the Health Board's proposals. It is the only body that can formally refer the Board's decisions to the Minister. The CHC's formal position, prior to the Board meeting, was to state that the CHC "believe(s) on balance that several of the proposals will be in the interests of people who use services and the health service- subject to the technical documents supporting this paper providing the necessary assurance the CHC has asked for". The technical documents were not available until the 18th January and the CHC committed to review them after that.

4.7 The proposals it supported at that stage were those for the enhanced care service, moving services from acute hospital settings to general practice and community settings, and neonatal intensive care (that is the care for the

approximately 36 babies per year who require the most intense level of health care but not **all** neonatal services- which will continue to be available from all 3 acute hospitals).

4.8 The CHC considered that other proposals would need modification if they were to be confident they would be in the interest of people who use services. These proposals related to community hospitals, including minor injury and x-ray services, the complex vascular service and older people's mental health services. They also said they would need further assurances on some aspects of those services eg co-ordination with local authorities, voluntary and independent sector organisations, and progress on transport.

4.9 The CHC met on 23rd January and will meet again on 28th January to consider its response which is required by 3rd March, 2013. Comments from Denbighshire County Council, including the comments made by individual members, were fed into this process via elected members who are also on the CHC.

4.10 Key recommendations and decisions for Denbighshire, plus a summary of the Board's position on issues particularly identified as concerns in the council's response to the consultation are attached at Appendix I.

4.11 Outstanding issues/concerns from the perspective of Denbighshire County Council are set out in full in Appendix 2. In summary, they relate to

- Transition arrangements
- Support for carers
- Transport and travel arrangements
- Transferring costs to local authorities
- The future of Glan Clwyd Hospital
- Joint planning
- Change management and risk

4.12 Though these concerns focus on the areas of service that were the subject of public consultation, in fact many other areas of health services are changing too without meeting the necessary criteria for public consultation. Issues raised below relate to those areas too. For example, changes to in-patient Trauma and Orthopaedics Services will also lead to higher levels of treatment and care being provided to patients at home, with implications- positive and negative- for carers and local authority services.

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

Close and integrated working with health services, especially in localities, forms a key part of the Council's work to respond to the needs of vulnerable people. The BIG Plan also sets out objectives for effective joint working to support families.

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

There are no immediate costs arising from this report. However, risks in relation to the proposals are set out in Appendix 2.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

BCUHB has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment on its proposals and this is available as part of the public Board papers. Key points are summarised in appendix 1 attached.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

A Working Group of Partnerships Scrutiny met on 21st January to consider the Board's decisions. Their views have been included in this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

These proposals need to be seen in the context of the BCUHB's overall financial situation. It began the 2012/13 year with a forecast deficit of around £60m. Despite additional funds of £14m being made available by the WG, it is still forecasting a deficit of around £11m for the year end. Informal discussions suggest that 2013/14 will be significantly worse.

The proposals show overall savings however, given the early stage of implementation, the complexity and scale, controversial nature and short timescales for implementation, the figures need to be treated with caution.

The cashflow forecasts show that savings will be delivered ahead of reinvestment. This could be due to the capital nature of some of the investments which will take several years to deliver.

For both Prestatyn and Llangollen hospitals the appendices note that business cases are yet to be submitted to the Welsh Government. This brings the risk of delay while they move through an approval process and also the risk that they are refused or have to be significantly amended.

As more services are moved into the community it is almost certain that there will be increased pressure on the Council's budget either from 'cost shunting' as BCUHB no longer pays for services as they did previously or from increased expectations of residents that we will provide additional support through adult social care.

Finally, my opinion is that healthcare in North Wales is not sustainable under the current conditions. The proposals under discussion do nothing to address the underlying affordability gap within BCUHB. If this is seen as a medium to long term solution for the areas it is addressing then other areas within BCUHB must make significant savings to close its financial gap. Alternatively the Welsh Government will need to find additional funding from its limited budget. Either of these possibilities will have a significant impact on the Council.

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

Key risks arising from the proposals are set out in Appendix 2. The council has attempted to mitigate the risks by the representations it has made to the Health Board and will continue to do this through the County Health and Social Care Forum (particularly through pushing for detailed costed implementation plans) and the Regional Social Services and Health Programme Board.

11. Power to make the Decision

S111 Local Government Act 1972

Appendix 1

Key recommendations and decisions for Denbighshire and position statements on issues flagged in Denbighshire's response to the consultation

Localities and Community Services

Hospital Hubs

Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and Denbigh Infirmary were confirmed as Hospital Hubs. The Board did not support the proposals for a joint Ruthin/Denbigh Hub- which the council had proposed. In the Board's view, Ruthin hospital was "well regarded....(but) does not have the level of activity to warrant it being a hospital hub.....Ruthin would continue to plan an important role in local service delivery but MIU and X-ray services should be consolidated at Denbigh".

Mold Community Hospital will also become a Hospital Hub. The Board changed their mind on this and the designation of a hospital hub here will serve some rural parts of Denbighshire better.

Minor injury units/services and x-ray services

Minor Injuries Unit was confirmed at Denbigh Infirmary but will close in Ruthin, Llangollen and Chirk Hospitals (April 2013). A minor injuries service will continue to be commissioned from Corwen GPs and Llangollen GPs will be requested to provide a primary care based service.

X- ray services will close at Ruthin and Chirk Hospitals. 7 sessions will continue to be provided at Denbigh, 6 at Mold, 10 at Holywell, An x-ray service will also be available at each of the District General Hospitals, and at the Royal Alex, and Colwyn Bay Hospital.

Community Hospitals

Prestatyn Community Hospital will close by April 2013. Inpatient services will be provided from Holywell Hospital and other neighbouring hospitals in the interim prior to development of a new facility. All other services currently provided from the hospital will move to the Royal Alex on interim basis. A multi-agency project team (which includes local authority representation) will continue to do the work to implement the short-term changes. A formal business case will be submitted to WG for the new community hospital.

Llangollen Community Hospital will close by April 2013. The Enhanced Care at Home Scheme will be established in Central/S Denbighshire and S Wrexham by the end of May 2013. Where needed, in patient care will be provided from Chirk Hospital. Consideration will be given to commissioning beds in a local nursing home. All other current services will relocate to the health centre (with some complex physio to Chirk). A multi-agency project team (which includes local authority representation) will manage implementation. A Full Business Case will be formally submitted to WG for provision of a Primary Care Resource Centre on the River Lodge site.

Older People's Mental Health

The replacement of in-patient beds at Glan Traeth, Rhyl, was confirmed. Provision will either be made at YGC or the new North Denbighshire Community Hospital. It was stated that the present (low) bed occupancy in the OPMH units in Conwy/Denbighshire means that the closure of Glan Traeth could take place before the opening of the new hospital. In-patient capacity would be provided at Ablett with some resources released to invest in community services.

In terms of respite care for carers of older people with mental health needs, it was stated that there is some evidence that "this group of patients have primarily social care needs.." If their needs meet NHS Continuing Care criteria NHS respite will be purchased by the NHS.

Neonatal Intensive Care

The Board confirmed their proposal "to work with the Neonatal Networks to commission complex or longer-term neonatal intensive care services from Arrowe Park for the approximately 36 babies per year who need this level of care. Neonatal care for over 700 babies will continue to be provided in our local units."

The documents submitted stated that the move would happen "within 6 – 12 months after receiving assurance that Arrowe Park has secured required standards compliance".

Vascular services

The proposals to the Board state that "arterial surgical services will be consolidated into a single specialist centre, subject to the appropriate infrastructure...." The preferred site identified is tentatively YGC but more work on this is to be done. The proposal is for change to "be facilitated through an interim operational contingency move to 2 arterial centres (in YG and YMW) during 2013." This is identified as a pragmatic and flexible first step.... to the consolidation on a single centre" (by April 2015)

Position on general issues- carers

The Board papers state that "we have worked in partnership with local authorities in their Carers Strategy Groups for some time and have recently established a BCUHB Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure Project Board. We will continue to work jointly to address carers' needs including respite care with partners in local authorities and the third sector. Individual service areas will focus on the detail of their particular community as identified in detailed project work (for example for Older People's Mental Health. We recognise the important role that carers play both in supporting independence and emotional wellbeing as well as good physical and mental health."

Position on general issues- transport and travel

The Board papers state that “we will work with local partners and stakeholders to identify how we can address some transport needs through:

- improved public transport where necessary and possible
- Opportunities for social care transport to support some transport needs
- Community transport through means such as raising awareness of local provision, supporting providers increase capacity by grant funding for recruitment, training and communication. On an area by area basis we will consider supporting some of the direct costs of any new provision where a provider cannot recoup its costs from patient charges.

Where needed we will arrange full transport and access audits to support the implementation process once it is determined whether proposals will proceed.”

Position on general issues- transition

Many people said in consultation that no closures should take place until the alternative services are in place.

The Board’s position is that

–“we cannot guarantee that new services would be wholly in place prior to changes- we rely on the redeployment of our skilled workforce to establish the new services in the community and therefore some services may cease first. However, no-one will be without services when needed- in the case of proposed closure of community beds, there is already capacity in neighbouring facilities to provide appropriate care.”

Need for joint planning/implementation with local authorities

The Board papers state that “Joint working with social services- and the local authority departments overall- is a priority for the Health Board. Following feedback from some Local Authorities, we are discussing the establishment of county level strategic forums to oversee and co-ordinate our collaborative work and see a clear link between these proposed forums and the implementation process for consultation proposals which are confirmed.”

Equality impact assessment and actions identified

Key issues identified include

- The fact that older people are high users of most of the services being consulted on- with impacts on transport and travel and carers identified
- People with learning disability were talked to- more difficulties accessing services, anxiety, lack of confidence
- Significant range of issues with Arrowe Park proposals

However, while there may be impacts identified, also identified are possible positive impacts eg from receiving care closer to home. In most cases, mitigations are considered to be available and not sufficient to prevent proposals from proceeding.

Finances and non financial risks identified

The changes are considered to be affordable by the Board's Director of Finance provided the decommissioning from hospital services, both community and acute-actually happens. Technical documents address this. Costs have been benchmarked. A potential £1.5m of savings is identified as arising from the Localities and Communities proposals. Additional revenue investments for Enhanced Care at Home are included in the plans. (£4.2m is being made available across 14 localities) plus £40m capital is needed. £80k has been allocated to respond on transport issues.

In terms of the non financial risks, the key risks identified are

- disruption to staff
- recruitment uncertainty during transitional phases
- challenging implementation timescales or complex/linked phasing,
- unanticipated increases in demand,
- developing/maintaining effective relationships with partners,
- securing capital funding,
- organisational reputation associated with complex or contentious service changes,
- unintended/unanticipated impacts on clinical services

Appendix 2

Key outstanding issues/concerns for Denbighshire County Council

From the meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Working Group on 21st January, and representations from individual members subsequently, the main areas that still cause members real disquiet are set out below.

Transition arrangements ie moving from the existing pattern of services to the new ones. There are a number of aspects to this. Some feel that BCU gave assurances that there would be no closures of existing services until, for example, new hospitals or primary care facilities were up and running. In other cases, there is concern that suitable alternative services will not be available when existing services close (eg it is planned to close Llangollen Hospital (by April 2013) before the enhanced care service in South Denbighshire is operational (by the end of May 2013). It also seems likely that the hospital will close before an MIU service has been commissioned from Llangollen GPs. Similar concerns are expressed about the closure of Chatsworth House- alternative in patient beds would be provided at Holywell and other neighbouring hospitals- but, for example, without assurances that transport issues have been addressed. There is concern that unless provided from the beginning some of the alternative services proposed may not materialise. Communities will be perceived to have managed without. There are also anxieties that the in-patient capacity to absorb needs is not really there (eg in Ablett). The need for a wide-ranging communications strategy setting out the new arrangements is also identified.

Support for carers. The Council raised many concerns in its consultation response about the potential impact of the Board's proposals on family carers. While the proposals acknowledge the importance of carers, and the potential consequences for carers were identified in the Board's Equality Impact Assessment, there are no clear proposals to fund enhanced services. There is anxiety that increased pressure on families may lead to carer breakdown and expectations on the council to fund higher levels of carer support.

Transport and travel. Again, this is an area about which the Council, and many other respondents raised issues. Transport and travel issues are also a major theme identified in the Equality Impact Assessment. The Board has committed £80k to respond to travel needs and made general commitments to undertake further work eg via full transport and access audits. It points out that it cannot be expected to meet the transport needs of all patients. However, widespread concern remains, including those local authorities may be expected to expand provision at a time when WG subsidy for public transport is reducing.

Transferring costs to local authorities. Both support for carers, and transport and travel arrangements, are areas where there is potential for financial costs to Councils to increase as the result of NHS changes. There are other potential areas too- for example increased demand for home adaptations, for disability equipment, travel and social work costs involved in making arrangements for Denbighshire residents in healthcare provision throughout North Wales. While the Council wants to develop integrated services for residents, there have to be negotiations, in a spirit of

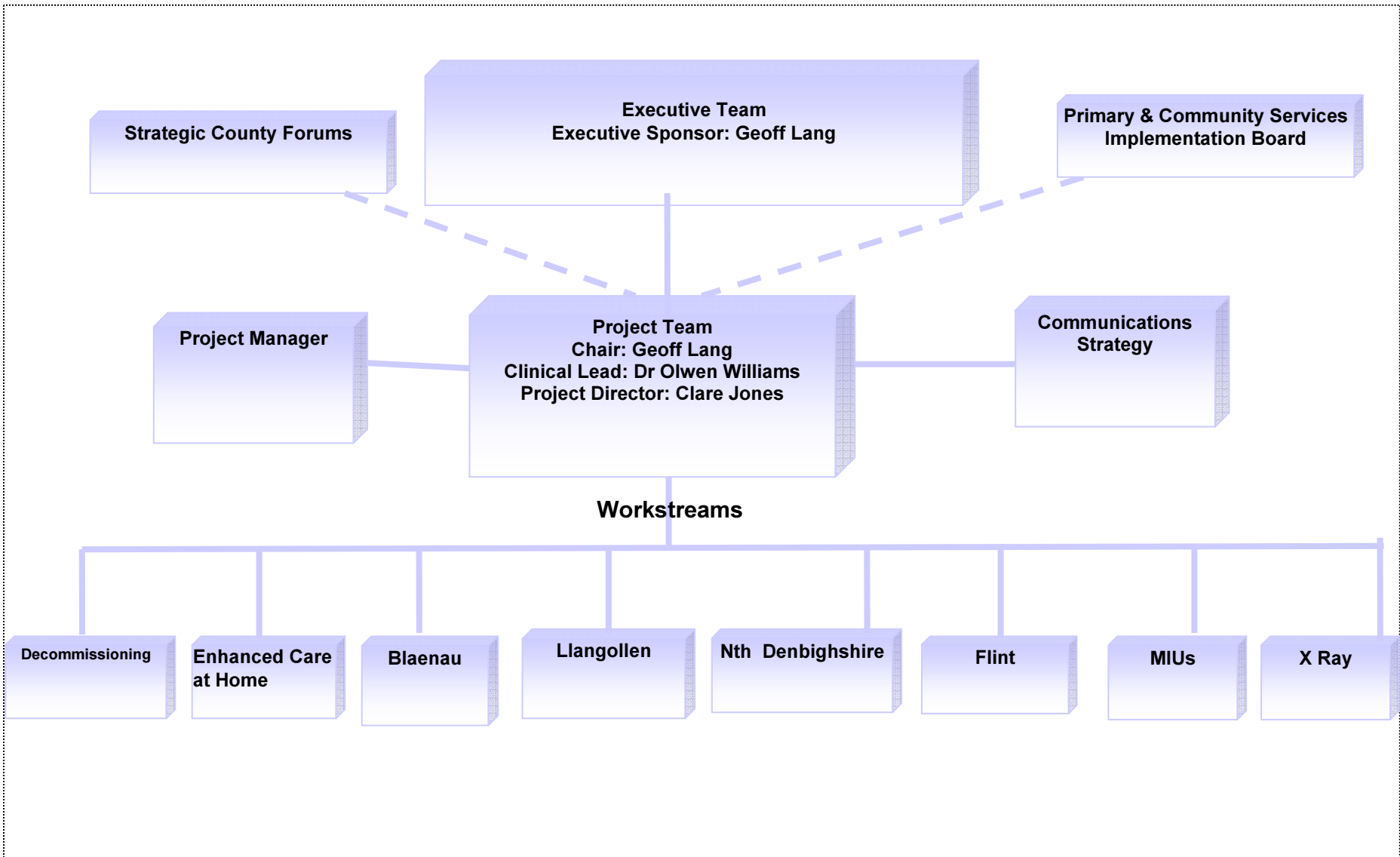
partnership, about how services are to be funded and items like these do not appear to have been fully costed or factored in.

The future of Glan Clwyd Hospital. It is planned that complex vascular services will be focused on a single centre- by 2015. Survey work has shown a preference for this site to be YGC, though further work on an ultimate site is planned. In the meantime, services will focus on 2 sites in 2013- Ysbyty Gwynedd and the Maelor. There is scepticism that a single centre on the Glan Clwyd site will materialise. Linked to this, it is felt that sufficient work has now been done and decisions taken to enable the Health Board to clarify the ultimate blueprint for each of the DGHs. There is still considerable concern that YGC will be “downgraded” and a strong wish that BCU now describes what it will look like long-term to mitigate these fears.

Joint planning. Members are pleased that the Health Board has stated the priority it attaches to joint working with Social Services and local authority departments generally. It is also pleased that the proposal for a County based strategic health and social care forum has been accepted. However, there are concerns, having seen the governance diagram attached as part of this appendix, that the County forums could be sidelined by the very large regional implementation structure. Given that the adult social care budget comprises approximately 25% of local government spend, it is essential that decision-making and financial accountability for these services is aligned with the existing County democratic structures. Further work is plainly needed to make these structures really effective for both BCU and local authorities. Initial terms of reference for a County forum- largely drafted by Denbighshire County Council officers- are attached in Appendix 3.

Change management and risk. The Board’s proposals involve simultaneous changes to multiple services to a very short timescale eg the closure of inpatient beds at 4 community hospitals (Prestatyn, Llangollen, Flint and Ffestiniog) by April 2013- plus the closure of other in-patient facilities to the same timescale- the closure of beds at Glan Traeth, for example. Changes to MIUs and x-ray services are also envisaged to happen within this timescale. The Board papers state that prudent preparations have been undertaken in anticipation of the approval of proposals but that detailed work will commence once the final configuration has been agreed. In some cases, this will have to be done with interim arrangements and transition resource in place. While councillors accept they are not in the position to judge the clinical risks involved in such a widespread and complex change programme, they do know how demanding it is on organisations to be undertaking high profile change across a number of areas and have significant concerns about deliverability.

From Healthcare in North Wales is Changing – Supporting Technical Analysis



Appendix 3

Health and Social Care County Forum- draft terms of reference

Overarching purpose

To shape, agree, measure and monitor strategic health and social care development at County level ensuring a focus on an integrated experience for patients/service users

Objectives

More specifically each Forum will:-

- oversee implementation of changes and joint working models at County level affecting both BCU and local authorities, complementing the focus of Locality Leadership Teams
- tackle the urgent issues and opportunities arising from NHS and local authority service reconfiguration including difficult issues such as developing services for carers, transport and travel
- provide a focus for negotiating early intervention/prevention programmes across BCU and local government
- provide a clear, equitable accountability line for both localities and other key delivery groups through BCU and the local authority
- Inform and exchange information which will shape strategic development and avoid unintentional consequences
- Agree local measures which would evidence achievement of local, regional and national outcomes
- Recommend action which would unblock barriers to strategic development and operational service delivery, troubleshooting where necessary
- Understand the financial environment of each partner organisation and seek for opportunities to maximise efficiencies
- Consider alignment/pooling of budgets and other resources
- Identify and champion opportunities for Integrated working
- Ensure co-ordinated service responses to demographic pressures and national and regional policy initiatives
- Take forward joint workforce initiatives in support of strategic change

Membership level

Members of the Forum need to have the authority and budget holding responsibility to be able to do business.

Membership of the County Forum would comprise:-

For the LA—, Social Services Director, Head of Adult and Children’s services, (this may vary depending on local view and structures) Portfolio Holder(s)

For BCUHB—an Executive Director, senior representation from the 3/4 link CPGs, senior representation from Locality Leadership Teams, Improvement Partnership Manager, Public Health Manager

VSC representation

Meetings to be held at least quarterly and report to the LSB, to local authorities via Cabinet and to BCU.

County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
26 February	1	HR Policies and Procedures			Linda Atkin
	2	Council Tax Setting and Associated Matters	To approve the Council Tax for 2013 / 14 and associated budget matters.	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	3	Supplementary Planning Guidance West Rhyl	To approve the SPG document	Yes	Angela Loftus
	4	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2013 / 14	To show how the Council will manage its investments & borrowing & to seek approval for associated policies.	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady / Richard Weigh
Council Briefing 11 March	1	Customer Services Training for Elected Members	Training and information on customer services	N/A	Jackie Walley / Jacqui Pendleton
	2	The Communication & Marketing Role	Understanding the role and responsibility within the Council	N/A	Cllr Hugh Irving / Jamie Groves
9 April	1	HR Policies and Procedures			Linda Atkin
	2	Corporate Plan Annual Delivery Document			Alan Smith
	3	Review of Political Balance and	To review changes in the	Yes	Steve Price

County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		Committee Membership	political balance of the Council and any affect on committee memberships.		
	4	Capital Plan	To consider the Council's Capital Plan		Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady / Richard Weigh
	5	Wind Energy Interim Planning Guidance	To inform members about consultation responses and to consider adopting the IPG	Yes	Graham Boase / Angela Loftus
	6	Recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group 2013 / 14	To consider the recommendations		Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Council Briefing 22 April	1	Taith Presentation	A general briefing on Taith's work	N/A	Cllr David Smith / Stuart Davies / Iwan Prys-Jones & Linda Hughes (Taith)
	2	Alliance Leisure	Informal session with Alliance Leisure representatives as requested by the Communities Scrutiny Committee	N/A	Jamie Groves
7 May	1	HR Policies and Procedures			Linda Atkin

County Council Forward Work Plan

Future Meeting

Date	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Council decision required (yes / no)?	Author – Lead member and contact officer
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	Debbie Nalecz / Gareth Roberts

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>February (5th)</i>	<i>22 January</i>	<i>February (26th)</i>	<i>12 February</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>22 March</i>

Updated 25/1/2013 - SP

Council Work Programme.doc

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