



To: Chair and Members of the Cabinet Date: 27 August 2012
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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2012** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS

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 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, 17th July, 2012 [copy enclosed].

5 FINANCIAL UPDATE REPORT (Pages 13 - 28)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

6 CHILD PROTECTION FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT - CONTRACT EXEMPTION REPORT (Pages 29 - 36)

To consider a report by Councillor R.L. Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services (copy enclosed) which detailed the Supporting People funded Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project and sought an exemption of the contract from the requirement to tender.

7 REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE (Pages 37 - 40)

To consider a report by Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Member for Education (copy enclosed) which sought approval for the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Joint Committee to be established pursuant to the decision to accept the Full Business Case, and the establishment of a new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service, across the six North Wales Authorities.

8 WEST RHYL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Pages 41 - 76)

To consider a report by Councillor H.H. Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development (copy enclosed) which provides details of the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP).

9 CHANGES TO SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME (Pages 77 - 88)

To consider a report by Councillor R.L. Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services (copy enclosed) detailing the recent developments in the proposed arrangements for the Supporting People Programme and sought Cabinet agreement to Lead Member representation on the Regional Collaborative Committee.

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 89 - 90)

To receive the enclosed Cabinet Forward Work Programme and note the contents.

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act) would be disclosed.

11 WEST RHYL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (Pages 91 - 100)

To consider a report by Councillor H.H. Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development (copy enclosed) on the use of Compulsory Purchase procedures to acquire property in West Rhyl, for the purpose of implementing the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Hugh Evans
Julian Thompson-Hill
Eryl Williams
Bobby Feeley

Hugh Irving
Huw Jones
Barbara Smith
David Smith

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Agenda Item 4

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 17 July 2012 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development; Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Customers and Communities; Huw Jones, Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure and Youth; Barbara Smith, Lead Member for Modernising and Performance; David Smith, Lead Member for Public Realm, and Eryl Williams, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education.

Observers: Councillors Ray Bartley, Joan Butterfield, William Cowie, Richard Davies, Gwyneth Kensler and David Simmons.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM); Corporate Director: Customers (HW); Head of Legal and Democratic Services (RGW); Head of Finance and Assets (PM); Head of Children and Family Services (LR); Head of Housing and Community Development (PM); Head of Communication, Marketing and Leisure (JG); Conservation Architect (PE); Strategic Regeneration Manager (MD), and Committee Administrator (KEJ).

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor David Smith declared a personal interest in the Ruthin Leisure Centre Development Proposal (Agenda Item No. 6) as he was a School Governor at Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 June 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

5 AGREEMENT OF A JOINT SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF LOCAL PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

In the absence of the Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services, Councillor Barbara Smith presented the report seeking Cabinet's approval of a joint

scheme for the provision of Local Primary Mental Health Support Services in North Wales as required under Part 1 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010. A regional scheme for the area of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) had been developed by the Health Board and local authorities in North Wales and agreement to the scheme was now being sought from all partners. The Health Board was the lead agency for the scheme.

Cabinet considered the legislative changes and requirements brought about by the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 and implications in terms of the provision of mental health support services in the area. Assurances were sought regarding future funding provision for the scheme in order to safeguard the Council's position and the likely demand on services as a result of early intervention. Mr. Wyn Thomas from BCUHB reported upon the funding allocation across local authorities and the proposed investment in staffing in order to equalise caseloads across the areas. Future demand on services was unknown at this stage but there was a commitment to review activity on an ongoing basis. The Head of Children and Family Services added that the Welsh Local Government Association would be monitoring funding arrangements and Councillor Barbara Smith advised that the scheme would be reviewed by partners on an ongoing basis.

Councillor Joan Butterfield queried whether there was any flexibility in the scheme to address social deprivation and Mr. Thomas responded that support would be provided alongside or in GP services and the workforce would be utilised dependent upon activity and demand in particular practices. Councillor Ray Bartley raised his concerns regarding the extra workload for psychiatric nurses and Mr. Thomas replied that additional staff would be recruited as part of the process.

Cabinet noted that the scheme would be reviewed regularly and Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill proposed that reference to safeguarding future funding arrangements be made within the resolution. Consequently it was –

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Joint Scheme (as attached to the report) subject to a review if the funding assumptions change.

6 RUTHIN LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

[Councillor David Smith declared a personal interest in this item as he was a School Governor at Ysgol Brynhyfryd.]

Councillor Huw Jones presented the report seeking Cabinet's approval of the proposals for the development of PE and leisure facilities at Ruthin Leisure Centre / Ysgol Brynhyfryd. The proposals included a new all weather pitch, reception area, changing areas, fitness suite and future potential for a running track. Councillor Jones highlighted the work undertaken by the development partner and elaborated upon affordability of the scheme. If the proposals were approved building work would likely begin in September/October and take approximately twelve weeks to complete.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill expressed his support for the proposals advising that the Strategic Investment Group had carried out a detailed analysis of the

business case. He stressed the need to secure private sector involvement in such schemes to make them financially viable and advocated the use of development partners where appropriate.

The Head of Communication, Marketing and Leisure (H:CM&L) responded to members' questions and elaborated upon the specifics of the scheme; competition in the sector and marketing of the facilities. He confirmed that the project involved the separation of public and pupils to allow greater community use and would also enable the school to make a saving on their contribution to the facility. Councillor Joan Butterfield highlighted the lack of track facilities in the county and advocated taking up the option of a running track to meet those needs. She also sought assurances that maintenance costs had been included within the budget projections. The H:CM&L advised that a running track would be considered in the future if the scheme generated enough income to cover the cost of investment. In terms of maintenance costs, the proposals would remove much of the maintenance backlog on the site and maintenance budgets were in place. The development partner was also required to undertake some maintenance work under the framework agreement.

Having considered the suitability and merits of the scheme Cabinet were pleased to support the proposals for redevelopment to improve facilities for the school and wider community and were satisfied that the proposals had been based on reasonable assumptions. Members also noted the potential for further efficiencies if the level of demand identified in the feasibility study was met. The Leader congratulated the service on the innovative approach in providing sports and leisure facilities and members paid tribute to the work of the officers involved.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposals for a £1.3 million development of PE and leisure facilities at Ruthin Leisure Centre / Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

7 FORMER NORTH WALES HOSPITAL, DENBIGH - PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor David Smith presented the report updating Cabinet on progress with the site and recommended authorisation for further action. The report also included a confidential appendix on projected costs.

Councillor Smith provided some background to the current situation including progress following the Urgent Works Notice served on 6 June 2011, costs incurred to date and estimated future costs. It was noted that the creation of a Single Purpose Vehicle (in the form of a Building Preservation Trust) was essential prior to serving the Repairs Notice and Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill felt that reference to this should be included within the resolution. If the owner failed to make progress with the repairs within two months the council could begin compulsory purchase proceedings.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (H:L&DS) referred to an e-mail received the previous day sent on behalf of the property owners alleging that the council had acted unlawfully. The H:L&DS refuted the allegations and advised Cabinet that the legalities were all in order. Councillor Hugh Irving took exception

to the e-mail which threatened legal action and felt the property owners should try and reach an agreement with the local authority.

During consideration of the report members welcomed the progress now being made and paid tribute to the officers for their hard work in addressing the long running problem under difficult circumstances. In response to a question from the Leader regarding timescales the Conservation Architect (CA) indicated that was largely dependent upon the owner's reaction but the compulsory purchase proceedings and subsequent planning permission for alternative use may take up to three years. Members also discussed future plans for the site and the Leader was pleased to see a clear process to be followed. The CA advised that development of the site could follow compulsory purchase action and planning permission would be sought for alternative use by the Building Preservation Trust. In response to Councillor Ray Bartley's concerns over security of the site, the CA advised that warning notices had been erected around the building and all entry points had been boarded up. He also referred to the possibility of CCTV cameras being installed around the site.

RESOLVED that Cabinet confirms its approval to serve a Repairs Notice, set up a Single Purpose Vehicle and proceed to Compulsory Purchase action with a back to back agreement for transfer of the site to the Single Purpose Vehicle.

8 FINANCE REPORT 2012/13

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy, and also sought Cabinet's consideration of a recommendation from the Strategic Investment Group. He provided a summary of the Council's financial position as follows –

- the latest revenue budget forecast showed a balanced position across all services
- £1.312m of the savings agreed as part of the budget had been achieved and £2.131m were being progressed
- highlighted key variances from budgets or savings targets relating to individual services, and
- a general update on the Capital Plan and Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor Thompson-Hill also sought support for the Strategic Investment Group's recommendation (as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report) relating to a capital scheme to improve the provision of library services in Prestatyn. Councillors Huw Jones and Hugh Irving welcomed the scheme advising that they would be meeting with Prestatyn Town Council that evening with a view to allaying any concerns raised regarding the proposals. The Head of Communication, Marketing and Leisure clarified that any objections on planning grounds would need to be considered by Planning Committee but would not affect the project timescales.

Councillor David Smith noted the significant differences in interest rates for borrowing and investment. The Head of Finance and Assets explained that most of the council's debt had been borrowed by predecessor authorities when interest

rates were extremely high. The council currently had to investment on a short term basis.

Councillor Gwyneth Kensler queried the £50k pressure on Rhyl Regeneration and the increased costs associated with the Rhyl in Bloom project. She also referred to the dissatisfaction in Conwy over the School Transport budget and asked whether this council could confirm the robustness of its own budget for School Transport. The Leader reported upon additional work undertaken in the Rhyl Going Forward Plan advising that the lack of resources and capacity would be examined. The Head of Housing and Community Development agreed to provide some costing for Councillor Kensler on the Rhyl in Bloom project. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill reported that no issues of concern had been raised regarding Denbighshire's School Transport budget.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the budgets and savings targets for the year and progress against the agreed budget strategy be noted, and*
- (b) *the capital project to improve library services in Prestatyn as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report be approved.*

9 ECONOMIC AMBITION STRATEGY FOR NORTH WALES

Councillor Hugh Evans presented a report seeking Cabinet's approval of the principles of the Economic Ambition Strategy for North Wales and the establishment of an Economic Ambition Board to coordinate and oversee delivery of the strategy. The Strategy Document and Draft Constitution of the Board had been attached to the report at Appendix A and B respectively.

Councillor Evans highlighted the economic indicators which showed that the North Wales economy had low productivity; low levels of new firm formation; high levels of youth unemployment and lack of inward investment in comparison to other parts of Wales and the UK. In order to address those issues a Strategy had been developed involving joint working between the region's six local authorities. The Council could pursue its own priorities for economic development but also work collaboratively where it was advantageous to do so. It was proposed that delivery of the Strategy be undertaken by the creation of an Economic Ambition Board for North Wales.

The Strategic Regeneration Manager advised that the same report would be issued to the other local authorities in the region. Partnerships Scrutiny Committee had fully endorsed the approach and made a number of comments which were fully in line with the action being undertaken. The Head of Housing and Community Development added that the regional collaborative approach would enable North Wales local authorities to benefit collectively from outside providers. The approach had worked in other areas where real economic benefits had been realised.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *approve the principles of the Economic Ambition – A Strategy for Change document as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and*
- (b) *approve the formation of the Economic Ambition Board and the draft constitution as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.*

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Hugh Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for consideration advising that the two scheduled meetings in September would likely be required in view of the volume of business to be transacted.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill asked that items in the work programme be allocated to specific Lead Members now that Cabinet Members and portfolios had been confirmed. The Corporate Director: Customers advised of a possible delay (from September to October) in producing the following reports –

- Ruthin Schools Review
- Review of Faith Based Education Provision

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.*

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

***RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

11 MELIDEN REEMA'S REPORT

Councillor Hugh Irving presented the confidential report seeking Cabinet's consideration of the preferred investment option for the REEMA properties in Meliden. He explained that a consultation exercise and options appraisal had been undertaken in order to determine an agreed way forward. Details of the options considered had been provided.

The Independent Tenant Advisor addressed Cabinet and conveyed the tenants' views on the options and future expectations. The tenants were keen for the council to make a clear decision about the future of their homes.

Members considered the future of the housing stock given the consultation feedback, financial appraisal and independent and impartial input from the consultants and independent tenant advisor. The Head of Housing and Community Development clarified particular issues in response to members' questions regarding the properties including financial implications and options in terms of refurbishment or demolition with new build. Following a full and detailed debate it was –

***RESOLVED** that –*

- (a) *Cabinet prefers in principle the option of demolition of the existing stock and new build development of the site subject to an appropriate funding model being developed;*
- (b) *the Head of Housing and Community Development be given delegated authority to develop and implement a local lettings and decant policy;*
- (c) *a Working Group be established to include residents to develop the preferred option and funding model for the new build development;*
- (d) *the Head of Housing and Community Development be authorised to enter into discussions with the Welsh Government for provision of housing subsidy to develop new council housing on the site, and*
- (e) *once a preferred new building option and funding model have been developed the matter be brought back to Cabinet for final approval.*

12 CONTRACT 7 AWARD OF WHQS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Councillor Hugh Irving presented the confidential report seeking Cabinet approval to formally award Contract 7 of the Housing Improvement Programme following completion of the tendering process through the current framework agreement. Details of the framework agreement together with progress relating to the Housing Improvement Programme had been included within the report.

Councillor Eryl Williams sought assurances that the contract award would ensure local employment and recruitment from within the county. He felt that this directive should be included as a prerequisite in future contracts. The Head of Housing and Community Development advised that this condition would be built into a new framework agreement and work was ongoing with the contractor concerned to encourage local employment. He agreed to provide Cabinet with further detail on that issue for information.

RESOLVED that, *subject to satisfactory validation checks of the contractor's tender submission, the contract be awarded to Adever Construction Limited.*

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.

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Report To: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 4th September 2012

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill

Lead Officer: Paul McGrady, Head of Finance & Assets

Title: Finance Report

1 What is the report about?

The report gives details of the council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2012/13 as at the end of July 2012. The report also gives a summary update of the Capital Plan, the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

The report advises members of the format of the budgets and sets out the reporting structure for the coming year. At this stage there are no significant deviations from the agreed budget strategy for 2012/13 as defined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Capital Plan and the Housing Stock Business Plan.

3 What are the Recommendations?

Members note the budgets and savings targets for the year and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4 Report details

The latest revenue budget forecast is presented as **Appendix 1** and shows a small over spend across all services, including schools and corporate budgets.

The Housing Revenue Account summary is also included in Appendix 1 for information but this is a separate fund and not part of the council's revenue budget.

Appendix 2 to this report gives an update showing progress against the savings and pressures agreed as part of the 2012/13 budget setting process. In total, net savings of £3.443m were agreed and £1.774m (58%) has been achieved with £1.669m (42%) classed as in progress. Although items are still classed as 'in progress' none of the savings listed are thought to be unachievable and the percentage of savings classed as achieved should increase steadily over the coming months.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

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

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

This section of the report is used to highlight any key variances from budget or savings targets, risks or potential additional savings that may arise throughout the year and to give a more general update on the Capital Plan and the Housing Revenue Account. The position to the end of July continues to assume few variances from the agreed budgets but detailed below are areas that require further explanation.

All departments will be required to clearly set out assumptions and progress in relation to use of revenue balances carried forward from 2011/12 for inclusion forward in the report to Cabinet in October.

Revenue Budget

Communication, Marketing & Leisure – The budget for the Rhyl Integrated Children's Centre Oaktree Centre is under pressure due to the loss of £80k grant funding. While the service is taking action to reduce expenditure it is likely that this facility will overspend by £40k and it has been agreed that this will be funded corporately this year. Future years' pressures will be dealt with during the service challenge / budget setting process.

In the Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services Department there is potentially a £50k pressure on the Rhyl Regeneration revenue budget as reported in July. It is proposed that part of the £91k Regeneration under spend from 2011/12 is rolled forward to finance these costs in 12/13.

Adult Services budgets are shown as balanced but at this stage assume that approximately £293k of the Supporting People Reserve will be used to fund the pressures within year. This was part of the strategy agreed at previous Service Challenge meetings and the specific reason for the original creation of the Reserve.

The Environment Services Department has a budget savings target of £771k for 12/13 and is well on course to achieve this high level of savings.

Modernising Education & Customer Care budgets are currently projecting a small under spend of £45k. These are in year surpluses due to a staffing restructure which is currently being implemented.

Schools - as at July the projected 2012/13 school balances remain at £1.757m. This is a negative movement of £44k from the balances of £1.801m brought forward from 2011/12. The council is currently working with two schools that are in financial difficulty with deficit balances totalling (£401k). These schools have recovery plans in place and are actively working to the targets set out in these plans.

Capital Plan – The estimated outturn is £3.8m at the end of July against an agreed Plan of £37.3m. **Appendix 3** shows a summary of the current plan and how it is financed. An overview of major capital projects is shown as **Appendix 4**.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – The latest HRA forecast shows a planned in-year deficit of £226k. This includes funding capital expenditure of £602k from revenue as part of the agreed Housing Stock Business Plan for 2012/13. The latest outturn includes increased expenditure forecasts on supervision and management lines, where some one-off costs supporting service improvement have been included. Expenditure on repairs is also forecast to be above the budget at this stage but this is being addressed and may reduce in the coming months. The Business Plan remains viable and based on the latest forecast, the HRA balance carried forward will be £709k.

The Housing Capital Plan is forecast to spend £7.6m in 2012/13 which is part-funded by prudential borrowing (£4.5m). The achievement of Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the end of 2012/13 remains on target and a detailed stock condition survey is being completed currently. This survey will help inform capital investment and business planning assumptions going forward.

A summary of the latest HRA position is shown in the table below.

Housing Revenue Account & Capital Plan Summary:

<u>Housing Revenue Account Summary 2012/13</u>	
<u>July 2012</u>	
Expenditure	£'000
Housing Management & Maintenance	5,635
Capital Charges	2,661
Subsidy	3,148
Provision for Bad Debts	29
Revenue Contribution to Capital	602
Total Expenditure	12,075
Income	
Rents	11,752
Garages	159
Interest	9
Total Income	11,920
In Year Surplus /(Deficit)	155
HRA Balance Carried Forward	709

Housing Capital Plan	
July 2012	£,000
Planned Expenditure	7,575
Funded By:	
Major Repairs Allowance	2,400
Revenue Contribution	602
Capital Receipts	17
Prudential Borrowing	4,556
Total	7,575

7 What consultations have been carried out?

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

8 Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report highlights the revenue and capital budgets as agreed for 2012/13 and demonstrates how the council's finances will be reported to Cabinet throughout the year. Services are expected to deliver the savings agreed through the Service Challenges and budget setting processes and at this stage seem to be on target to achieve them. The report to Cabinet in October will provide a detailed update in relation to the use of balances carried forward from 2011/12. It is important that services continue to manage budgets prudently and that any in-year surpluses are considered in the context of the medium-term financial position.

Economic Commentary & Treasury Management Update

The financial markets remain extremely volatile and this continues to limit the number of institutions with which the council can invest and the length of investments the council can make. Both of these issues limit the returns the council can achieve. As the uncertainty in the markets continues, the council's policy limits most new investments to overnight deposits. This strategy of making very short term investments is likely to continue for the medium term.

Total borrowing currently stands at £134.39m at an average rate of 5.75% and total investments are £22.0m at an average rate of 0.76%.

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

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

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

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

10 Power to make the Decision

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

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Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2012/13

Forecast as at 31/07/2012	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net	Variance Previous Report
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000
Business Planning & Performance	1,197	-224	973	1,197	-224	973	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Legal & Democratic Services	2,065	-553	1,512	2,065	-553	1,512	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Finance & Assets	14,270	-7,265	7,005	14,270	-7,265	7,005	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Highways & Infrastructure	20,112	-9,667	10,445	20,112	-9,667	10,445	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Planning, Regeneration & Public Protection	5,714	-1,936	3,778	5,764	-1,936	3,828	50	0	50	1.32%	50
Adult & Business Services	44,809	-12,959	31,850	44,809	-12,959	31,850	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Children & Family Services	9,799	-1,029	8,770	9,799	-1,029	8,770	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Housing Services	1,842	-1,461	381	1,842	-1,461	381	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Leisure, Libraries & Community Development	9,963	-4,661	5,302	9,963	-4,661	5,302	0	0	0	0.00%	40
Strategic HR	1,558	-470	1,088	1,558	-470	1,088	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Customer Services	4,092	-999	3,093	4,092	-999	3,093	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Environment	19,071	-8,304	10,767	19,071	-8,304	10,767	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Modernising Education	1,476	-321	1,155	1,431	-321	1,110	-45	0	-45	-3.90%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	10,811	-7,476	3,335	10,811	-7,476	3,335	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Services	146,779	-57,325	89,454	146,784	-57,325	89,459	5	0	5	0.01%	90
Corporate	44,674	-36,670	8,004	44,674	-36,670	8,004	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Precepts & Levies	4,569	0	4,569	4,569	0	4,569	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	12,656	0	12,656	12,656	0	12,656	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	61,899	-36,670	25,229	61,899	-36,670	25,229	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Council Services & Corporate Budget	208,678	-93,995	114,683	208,683	-93,995	114,688	5	0	5	0.00%	90
Schools	70,460	-7,756	62,704	70,504	-7,756	62,748	44	0	44	0.07%	44
Total Council Budget	279,138	-101,751	177,387	279,187	-101,751	177,436	49	0	49	0.03%	134
Housing Revenue Account	11,841	-11,912	-71	12,075	-11,921	154	234	-9	225	-316.90%	273

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Appendix 2 Medium Term Financial Plan Update 2012/13

Update to 31/07/2012

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Saving £'000</u>	<u>Total £'000</u>
General				
A3	Convert Essential Car Users to Casual	In progress	200	
A7	Costs of Democracy	In progress	20	
				220
Support Services Review				
C1	HR Review - Ongoing Impact of Centralisation	In progress	45	
C3	Legal services - phase 1	Achieved	70	
C4	Democratic support	Achieved	28	
C5	ICT/IM Structure	In progress	60	
C6	ICT/IM Procurement	In progress	25	
C7	Finance & Assets	Achieved	300	
				528
Service Challenges				
Leisure, Libraries & Community Development				
Da1	Leisure Services-New Booking System	Achieved	30	
Da2	Back office co-located with Youth	Achieved	30	
Da3	Transfer Town Halls to Town Councils	Achieved	80	
Da5	Remove subsidy by increasing income	In progress	120	
				260
Environmental Services				
Db2	Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Achieved	510	
Db3	Service Redesign (Refuse)	Achieved	200	
Db4	Regional Waste Procurement budget	Achieved	134	
Db7	Other Reorg Savings	Achieved	20	
Db9	Fleet Efficiency	In progress	138	
Db12	Public Conveniences	Achieved	10	
Db14	WAG Waste Target Pressures	Achieved	-366	
Db15	Free School Meals Cost Pressures	Achieved	-20	
Db16	Countryside staff reduction	Achieved	50	
Db17	Tourism Service Redesign	In progress	49	
Db18	Regeneration Service Redesign	Achieved	46	
				771
Planning and Public Protection				
Dc1	Review of Regeneration	In progress	10	
EC21	Review Pest Control	Achieved	20	
EC23	Review Building Control	In progress	20	
EC24	Review of Planning Policy Service	In progress	20	
EC25	Review of CCTV service	In progress	30	
EC27	Review of Trading Standards	Achieved	50	
EC28	Licensing	Achieved	20	
				170
Highways & Infrastructure				
EC12	Passenger Transport	In Progress	35	
EC13	Parking	In Progress	70	
EC15	Development Control	In Progress	18	
	NWTRA Fees	Achieved	100	
EC16	Winter Maintenance	In Progress	65	
				288
Adult Social Services				
Df1	Cefndy Healthcare,	Achieved	43	
Df2	Closer working of Fin assessments & Benefits	In Progress	30	
Other Adult Services				
Df4	Service Restructure	In Progress	130	
Older People				
Df5	Externalise elements of Home Care	Achieved	15	
Df6	Day care - review and rationalise	Achieved	30	
Df7	Review Meals on Wheels	In Progress	64	
Df8	Impact of investment in reablement	Achieved	75	
Df9	Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	Achieved	100	
Mental Health				
Df11	Management Changes	Achieved	19	
Df12	Partnership Efficiency Savings	Achieved	26	

		<u>Status</u>	<u>Saving £,000</u>	<u>Total £'000</u>
Adult Social Services (con'd)				
Physical Disability & Impairment				
Df13	ISIL Scheme	In Progress	18	
Df14	Reablement Intervention	In Progress	26	
Df15	Telecare	Achieved	20	
Other Adult Services				
Df16	Administration Rationalisation	Achieved	67	
Df17	Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	In Progress	40	
Business Support & Development				
Df18	PMDF Grant - Loss of funded posts	In Progress	152	
Df19	Workforce Development Review	Achieved	20	
				875
School Improvement & Inclusion				
Dh1	Service Restructure	In Progress	100	100
Children & Family Services				
Staffing				
Dj3	Other Staff Savings	Achieved	21	
Refocus on Core Business				
Dj5	Re-shaping Supervised Contact Service	In Progress	43	
Dj8	Reduction in Independent (external) Placement Provision	Achieved	48	
Decommissioning Services				
Dj11	Voluntary Organisation Grants	Achieved	37	
	Child Trust Funds	Achieved	2	
Dj12	Parenting Programme	Achieved	82	
Dj14	Rhyl Adventure Playground	Achieved	61	
Pressures				
Dj18	In-house Fostering	Achieved	-224	
Dj20	Legislative	Achieved	-28	
				42
Housing				
	Various Small savings	In Progress	7	7
REGIONAL WORKING/COLLABORATION				
ENW1	Education Regional Board	In Progress	25	
ENW2	Social Care Regional Board	In Progress	25	
				50
OUTSOURCING				
G2	Bodelwyddan Castle	Achieved	18	
G4	ECTARC	Achieved	10	
				28
Other Cultural/Heritage activities				
H1	Pavilion Theatre	In Progress	50	
H2	Ruthin Craft Centre	Achieved	20	
H3	Llangollen Pavilion	In Progress	25	
H4	Heritage facilities	In Progress	9	
				104
Total Savings 2012/13				3,443
Summary:			£'000	%
Savings Achieved/Replaced or Pressures Confirmed			1,774	52
Savings In Progress/Being Reviewed			1,669	48
Savings Not Achieved/Deferred			0	0
Total			3,443	

Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2012/13 - 2015/16
Position to July 2012

APPENDIX 3

		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital Funding:					
1	General Funding:				
	Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing	8,361	3,470	2,994	2,844
	General Capital Grant	3,251	1,931	1,931	1,931
	General Capital Receipts	768			
	Earmarked Capital Receipts	480	0	0	0
		12,860	5,401	4,925	4,775
2	Prudential Borrowing	11,976	3,003	300	0
3	Reserves and Cera	2,209	1,220	0	0
4	Specific Grants and Contributions	12,007	4,163	961	0
	Total Finance	39,052	13,787	6,186	4,775
	Total Estimated Payments	-37,339	-8,704	-1,261	0
	Contingency	-1,713	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
	Earmarked Contingency				
	Unallocated Reserve	0	0	0	0
	Funding available	0	4,083	3,925	3,775

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Appendix 4 Major Capital Projects Update

Foryd Development

Budget	£10.302m (inc Revenue £413k)
Funding	WG, WEFO and Sustrans grants
Expenditure to Date	£1.855m
Comments	<p>Summary A preferred design for the project which supports the working harbour and provides a smaller timber modular building on the harbour square has been agreed.</p> <p>Foryd Harbour Cycle & Pedestrian Bridge The detailed design is complete other than the mechanical and electrical works. As the project progresses through the construction phase the mechanical and electrical (M & E), works will be refined within the budget provision for this item. The M & E budget has been capped to provide cost certainty and any cost reduction achieved will benefit DCC.</p> <p>A letter of intent was issued to the Contractor earlier in July for the construction of the bridge and the contract documents will be completed shortly, and signed early September 2012.</p> <p>Quayside Units, Public Square & Extended Quay Wall The Planning application for the works was approved 14th March 2012; the planning consent is subject to planning conditions, most of which have already been discharged.</p> <p>The detailed design is complete and the Category 3 check of the design, to ensure that the structural design is sound and fit for purpose is now complete.</p> <p>Further to consultation with the Harbour users the design now includes pontoon moorings in the channel to the seaward side of the pedestrian and cycle bridge.</p> <p>A letter of intent was issued to the Contractor early July for the enabling works contract. The contract documents for the enabling works, (quay walls, estuary bed excavation and formation of the public square) are now complete and it is anticipated that the contract will be signed early September 2012.</p> <p>The procurement of the quayside building has commenced .</p> <p>Foryd Harbour Cycle & Pedestrian Bridge & Quayside Units, Public Square & Extended Quay Wall Costs The projected expenditure is includes use of some of the capital contingency allocated to the project in 2011/12.</p>

	<p>It is likely that further external funding will be made available to the project which should be confirmed in the coming weeks.</p> <p>A value engineering opportunity related to the handrails on the bridge is being investigated and could provide cost savings.</p> <p>Programme The onsite works related to the construction of the bridge and the enabling works contract commenced on 30th July, and to date are progressing well and to programme, with no issues reported.</p> <p>A temporary Harbour Masters office together with a visitor centre is now located at Foryd Harbour, and will remain for the duration of the works. This will provide an essential staff presence in the harbour to inform users and visitors, and will provide a base from which to operate the bridge and CCTV system prior to the completion of the quayside building.</p> <p>The finishes to the square and the building will be subject to subsequent works contracts; these are still scheduled to complete in December 2013.</p>
<i>Forecast Expenditure 12/13</i>	<i>£6.750m</i>

Rhyl Coastal Defence

Budget	£8.246m Phases 1 & 2
Funding	WAG Grant
Expenditure to Date	£7.985m
Comments	<p>This coastal defence scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 2000 properties and 500 businesses in West Rhyl.</p> <p>Phases 1 & 2 for works to the inner harbour and river training wall are complete.</p> <p>A meeting is planned with the Welsh Government in September to discuss phase 3 – works from Sydenham Avenue to the Drift Park. It is hoped that the Welsh Government will confirm funding and programme which will allow works to commence in 2013/14.</p>
<i>Forecast Expenditure 12/13</i>	<i>£0.597m</i>

Highways Programme Works

Budget	£3.650m
Funding	£3.650m Prudential Borrowing

Expenditure to Date	£0.470m
Comments	An allocation of £3.650m was made to progress highways capital works as part of the 2012/13 Capital Bid process. An update on the use of this funding was recently provided to all Councillors.
Forecast Expenditure 12/13	£3.650m

Property Acquisition & Demolitions, Rhyl Going Forward

Budget	£3.863m
Funding	£2.618m SRA Grant ; £0.915m DCC Prudential Borrowing ; £0.176m PEG; £0.154 DCC
Expenditure to Date	£3.206m
Comments	<p>Council have previously approved the purchase of a number of properties in Rhyl with a view to demolition and the provision of public realm works. Latest updates are as follows:</p> <p>Honey Club The Council has submitted an application to the Welsh Government for conservation area consent to demolish the Honey Club. A decision on this is still awaited.</p> <p>A development agreement is currently being formalised. This will enable the redevelopment of the site for a hotel.</p> <p>25 & 26 West Parade A compulsory Purchase order has been served on the owners of the property.</p> <p>26 - 30 Abbey Street These properties have been demolished and the area will in future form part of an urban park, included within the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project.</p> <p>12, 20 & 31 Gronant Street, Rhyl 20 John Street, Rhyl</p> <p>The acquisition of these properties forms part of the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project.</p> <p>A separate report on West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project is on the agenda.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 12/13	£0.657m Note. Excludes West Rhyl Housing Project

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Agenda Item 6

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 4th September 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr B Feely, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services

Date: 12th June 2012

Lead Officer: Supporting People Planning Officer

Title: Children's Services, Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project, Tender Exemption

1. What is the report about?

The Supporting People funded Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on the exemption of this contract from the requirement to tender.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To exempt Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project from the requirement to tender.

4. Report details.

- The Child Protection Family Support Project supports between 59 – 100 families who are receiving statutory services in the areas of child protection and children in need as well as families identified as being in crisis and in urgent need of such statutory services.
- This project also supports young people leaving the care of Denbighshire County Council where a continuing statutory duty exists.
- The need for this project was confirmed in the 2012-2013 Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) agreed by the Supporting People Planning Group and by a Delegated Decision of the Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing.
- This project is delivered internally by the Family Support Team based within Denbighshire County Council Children and Family Services department.
- The Family Support Team benefits from administrative and management support from Denbighshire County Council which allows more resources to be allocated to service delivery.
- The Family Support Team benefit from the support systems already in place within Denbighshire Social Services Department i.e. Access to PARIS system and all records in relation to Child in Need and Child Protection. These systems would not be available to external providers.

- The Family Support Team delivers quality outcomes to a challenging Service User group.
- The link between Social Services statutory Child Protection functions and those of this project are essential to ensure that this project operates successfully. It is felt that the current internal provider is best equipped to maintain these links. Any external provider would be extremely unlikely to be able to establish these links to a satisfactory level that ensured continuity in service provision.
- The annual contract value is £356,782.22 and the duration of the contract is 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years based on performance and outcomes. Therefore the funding allocation will be £1,783,911.12 for the maximum five years contract duration.
- In accordance with best practice and in consultation with the Strategic Procurement Unit there is no compelling case for outsourcing or contracting out this project.

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

The Big Plan:

As part of the range of housing related support services, this project supports

- Vulnerable families to access coordinated family support intervention.
- Children and Young People with post 16 developments.
- Individuals and families to access education and training opportunities.
- Vulnerable individuals and families in accessing preventative support.

Responding to demographic change:

The project supports people who need housing. It also contributes towards tackling issues of transience and poverty.

Regeneration:

This project supports service users in addressing issues of multiple deprivation including housing deprivation and needs.

This project plays a key role in contributing to the prevention of homelessness for vulnerable groups:

“Partners in the public, private and voluntary sector will have worked together to eliminate deprivation”

“We will safeguard vulnerable children and adults, promoting their independence and ensuring that everyone is able to realise their potential.”

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

Cost Implications: £356,782.22 per annum has been allocated to this project from Denbighshire’s SPRG funding as outlined in the 2012-13 SPOP and agreed by the Supporting People Planning Group. The funding allocation will be £1,783,911.12 for the maximum five years contract duration.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

- The project has been identified as strategically relevant and confirmed as a priority in the 2012-2013 SPOP.
- The Head of Internal Audit has been consulted and has confirmed that the proposed action is in compliance with Financial Regulations.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The proposals comply with Financial Regulations and the exemption sought is valid in this case. The cost of the project must be contained within the funding available.

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

- An exemption from tender would forego the opportunity to seek improved value for money from an alternative provider. However this should be considered against the potential cost and disruption should the internal administrative and safeguarding systems be no longer available to the provider of this service.
- This project was previously subject to competitive tender in 2009 and remained with Denbighshire County Council Children and Family Services.

Risks associated with this project going to tender include:-

- This project is strategically important to DCC Children and Family Services. If this project went out to competitive tender, this sensitive and challenging service with close links to Child Protection could be awarded to an external provider.
- Monitoring and reviewing arrangements for Child Protection would need to be factored into any cost savings gained from awarding this contract to an external provider. The cost implications to The Children and Family Services for providing this element of the service are unknown.
- The risks associated with not agreeing the recommendation include a direct impact on statutory services. The project alleviates pressure on Homelessness and other services by providing appropriate housing related support.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 111 of the Local Government Act (1972); Financial Regulation 25(Contract Procedure Rules); CPR 10.1(a), 10.1(l) & 10.2

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Denbighshire County Council (DCC)

HOUSING RELATED SUPPPORT SPECIFICATION

Project Name: **Child Protection Family Support Project**
Project Description: This is a housing related floating support project for families who are receiving statutory services in the areas of child protection and children in need as well as families identified as being in crisis and in urgent need of such statutory services. In addition the service will support young people leaving the care of Denbighshire County Council where a continuing statutory duty exists.

All service users will be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and will have been identified as needing support in a number of areas to enable them to manage their tenancy independently. Support will be time limited and it is expected that individuals will move on to live independently in the community or onto another community based project with lower level support.

- Project Aims:**
- Preventing people presenting as homeless or potentially homeless
 - Ensuring vulnerable people can move on to more independent living and continuing to live independently after support has been withdrawn
 - Ensuring vulnerable people are supported to access education, employment, training or voluntary work and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.
 - Generating confidence and housing skills such that families and young people can live independently
 - Supporting families and young people to access other community resources and other agencies.
 - Promoting a more stable lifestyle
 - Contributing to decreased social isolation
 - Contributing to ensuring that families have access to support/ services as soon as a need/ problem arises
 - Ensuring that the welfare of children and young people is safeguarded and they are protected from harm
-
- Contributing to the improved performance of Denbighshire County Council Children and Families Services against the following indicators
 - 1) The percentage of referrals that are repeat referrals within 12 months
 - 2) The percentage of referrals during the year where the child had been on the CPR or who had been looked after during the previous 12 month period.
 - 3) The percentage of open cases of children with an allocated social worker where the child is receiving a service in each of the following groups:

- i) Children on the Child Protection Register
 - ii) Children Looked After
 - iii) Children in Need
 - 4) The percentage of open cases of children allocated to someone other than a social worker where the child is receiving a service in each of the following groups::
 - i) Children on the Child Protection Register
 - ii) Children Looked After
 - iii) Children in Need
 - 5) The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact at the age of 19
 - 6) The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19.
 - 7) The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19
- Contributing to the delivery of the Welsh Assembly Government's seven core aims for services for children and young people, i.e. that they:
 - have a flying start in life
 - have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities
 - enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation
 - have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities
 - are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised
 - have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing, and
 - are not disadvantaged by poverty.

Project Outcomes:

- Service users will be better able to access and engage with the services they need.
- Service users will be better able to manage their lives and affairs
- Service users will be better able to avoid or cope with crises and other situations which cause stress or anxiety
- Contribute to achieving the following outcomes and actions detailed in Denbighshire's Big Plan:
 - Accessed Education
 - Accessed support for young carers
 - Improved basic skills, life coaching and life skills
 - Improved emotional health and wellbeing
 - Accessed support for post 16 development
 - Accessed parenting education programmes
 - Accessed preventative support for vulnerable individuals and families

Referrals:

Referrals will be accepted from Denbighshire County Council Social Work teams, and other statutory and voluntary agencies via the Denbighshire County Council Supporting People Coordinator.

Refused referrals or those placed on a waiting list will all be promptly referred to the Supporting People Coordinator for possible re-allocation to another project. Any voids or vacancies on the project will be promptly notified to the Supporting People Coordinator and other referrers.

Service users will be selected on needs alone and not on their prospects of successful move on.

NB: if an ongoing support need is established (i.e. a long term requirement for support extending beyond two years), the service users will be referred to a more appropriate low level or non-SP funded service in accordance with Supporting People eligibility criteria.

Project Dimensions

Location: **Denbighshire** (county-wide)
 Service Users: Between 59 (minimum) and 100 (Maximum).
 Support Staff: The support provider will deliver a minimum of 350 service hours per week, i.e. 10 full time equivalent support workers. The provider must make available a sufficient number of staff to deliver consistently at this level 52 weeks a year.

Contract Dimensions

Start Date: 30th November 2012
 Duration: Three years (with an option to extend for a further one or two years)

Maximum Contract Price: **£1,783,911.12 maximum for the full term of the contract (5 years total)**
 (£356,782.22 per annum)

Delivery Requirements:

Support staff will work with individual service users to conduct a detailed assessment of need and to develop from this an outcomes-focussed support plan. All support plans will be reviewed regularly with service users. This will include an exit strategy from this support service.

The provider will deliver a housing related support package including all aspects of general support and counselling identified in the assessment of need and support plan and assist the service user to access appropriate move on accommodation.

The project is a floating support project; therefore the support provider will be required to deliver support to service users in their own homes and to assist service users to access appropriate new accommodation where they are living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation.

Type of Support:

The support delivered will be housing related and conform to Supporting People guidance, standards and eligibility criteria. The service should not provide personal care, health care or professional or therapeutic counselling

Out of Hours: Staff will provide a flexible and responsive service during evenings and weekends when required, according to service user needs.

Service User Involvement: Service users will contribute to the review and monitoring processes of this project. Feedback from service users will also contribute to the evaluation of the project and will inform future service improvement and development.

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	4 September 2012
Lead Member / Officer:	Councillor Eryl Williams Lead Member for Education
Report Author:	Hywyn Williams Corporate Director: Customers
Title:	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service Joint Committee

1. What is the report about?

On 21 February 2012, Cabinet approved the Final Business Case for the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service. The Full Business Case made reference to the need for a Joint Committee to be established to govern the new Regional structure across North Wales. This report sets out detailed Terms of Reference and membership for the Joint Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek Cabinet approval for the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Joint Committee to be established pursuant to the decision to accept the Full Business Case and establish a new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service, across the six North Wales Authorities.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 To confirm the establishment of the Joint Committee in accordance with the report.
- 3.2 To appoint the Lead Member for Education to represent the Authority on the Joint Committee.
- 3.3 To approve the Terms of Reference and Delegated functions of the Joint Committee as set out in paragraph 4 of the report

4. Report Details

4.1 Summary

The six North Wales Local Authorities resolved in March 2012:

- (a) To support and approve the Full Business Case for the establishment of a Regional Schools Effectiveness and Improvement Service by April 2013.
- (b) To support the North Wales Education Programme Board's recommendation that a Joint Committee with a Host Authority be adopted as a model of governance.

- (c) The Chief Executives Group for the six Local Authorities subsequently approved Gwynedd Council as the Host Authority for the Regional Service.

Following a detailed options appraisal the recommendation in the Full Business Case was that a governance model based on a Joint Committee / Host Authority approach be adopted. The process of establishing the Service is now proceeding. The Partnership is to be underpinned by a formal agreement (“Inter Authority Agreement”) which gives effect to the decision of March 2012 to establish the Service. The Inter Authority Agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the Partners and the Hosting Authority as well as governance arrangements. As part of that process the Full Business Case identified an outline structure for the Joint Committee however, the specific details of membership and Terms of Reference were to be the subject of further consideration and work. This report is a consequence of that process and recommends the formal terms of reference and membership of the Joint Committee based on the Full Business Case and further Legal advice.

4.2 Joint Committee

The possible membership structure of the Joint Committee was set out in the Business Case together with an acknowledgement that this would need to be further refined. The Full Business Case as accepted also outlined the scope of the proposed service and the function of the Joint Committee within that structure. The Joint Committee will be governed by the Procedure Rules of the Host Authority.

4.3 Joint Committee Membership

The proposed membership of the Joint Committee set out below reflects the structure outlined in the Full Business Case. The key change is in relation to the voting rights of the Co-opted members. There is a legal constraint which means that Co-opted members of the Joint Committee may not vote on resolutions*.

The quorum necessary for a Joint Committee meeting shall be five (5) voting members of the Joint Committee. The Agreement will also provide for the attendance of a deputy if required.

Voting Members	Officer Members –Non Voting
6 x Education Portfolio Members <i>one from each NW LA</i>	6 x Statutory Chief Education Officers <i>one from each NW LA</i>
Co-opted Non-voting Members*	Officers in Attendance
1 x Diocese Representative <i>nominated from across the Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor Diocese, on a rotating bi-annual term</i>	1 x Legal Representative
1 x Primary Schools Representative 1x Secondary Schools Representative 1x Special Schools Representative	1 x S151 Representative
1x Governor Representative	Other specialists as requested

As provided for in the Full Business Case, the RSEIS Schools and Governors User Group would nominate a Secondary, Primary, Special and Governor representative to take the respective seats on the Joint Committee.

4.3 Joint Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions

The Inter Authority Agreement will also define the governance arrangements for the Joint Committee, including its Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers. In doing so it will also identify which matters are specifically reserved to the individual partner authorities to determine. The proposed terms of reference and delegated powers of the Joint Committee are:

- I. to promote joint working in the delivery of the Service through:
 - facilitating constructive partnership working;
 - engaging with key interested bodies and stakeholders when appropriate; and
 - carrying out such other activities calculated to facilitate, or which are conducive to the successful delivery of the Service; and
- II. to oversee the management of the Service and ensure that the Service is provided and performs in accordance with the expectations of the Partner Authorities as reflected in the Full Business Case, Inter Authority Agreement and agreed Annual Business and Commissioning Plans;
- III. to approve the budget for the Service on an annual basis’;
- IV. to approve the business plan for the Service on an annual basis;
- V. to monitor and manage the risks associated with the Service;
- VI. to ratify requests from the Service for additional budget funding from individual Councils;
- VII. to approve the staff structure of the Service;
- VIII. to appoint the Chief Officer of the Service;
- IX. to decide on disciplinary action against the Chief Officer; and
- X. where required, to determine or arrange for the determination of appeals in relation to Human Resources matters.

The following matters are specifically reserved for individual Cabinet decision:

- I. approval of inter-Council partnership governance arrangements;
- II. increase of budget over agreed Council contributions;
- III. procuring the necessary audit and assurance checks; and
- IV. termination of the Partnership

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

Raising educational achievements has been a priority for Denbighshire during the existence of the last Corporate Plan. Discussions with Members and stakeholders around the content of the new Corporate Plan and the current consultation document has this as a priority for the next 5 years.

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

The recommendations included in this report have no associated cost pressures and there are no implications for other service areas.

7. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment Screening been undertaken?

Detailed consultations were carried out with all stakeholders during the creation of the Full Business Case. Subsequent detailed consultations have also taken place with staff affected by these changes. The Legal Department has been consulted on the Terms of Reference and the broader implications of this report.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications to the recommendations within this report.

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

If the Joint Committee was not established, taking full cognisance of the legal advice received, then the governance model could be the subject of challenge, especially as it will be responsible for the employment of staff. The development of clear Terms of Reference and rules around membership will enable the Joint Committee to be in a clear and strong position to govern the new entity effectively. Not agreeing to these recommendations may weaken the governance model that has been agreed at the Full Business Case stage.

10. Power to make the Decision

S101 Local Government Act 1972

S20 Local Government Act 2000

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2002

Legal officers both within Gwynedd, the host Authority, and Denbighshire, have advised on the need for, and the wording of the Terms of Reference and delegated functions.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 4th September 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Hugh Evans

Report Author: Tom Booty, Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager

Title: West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP)

1. What is the report about?

This report provides further details of the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP), originally presented to Cabinet Briefing on 5th December 2011.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

£16,695,276 has been allocated by Welsh Government to deliver this project, with no requirement for capital funding from Denbighshire County Council. Cabinet consideration of the project is required in line with our Financial Regulations and Project Management Methodology.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet recommend the project to Council for approval to deliver the project and delegate the following powers to the Project Board (see section 4.7 below):

- i. provide the strategic guidance and direction for the action-focused delivery of the overall project;
- ii. oversee the running and monitoring of the project to ensure that it is delivered to time and to budget;
- iii. allocate funding as necessary for each of the work teams within the parameters of the budget delegated on an annual basis from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage;
- iv. monitor the project risk register.

4. Report details.

4.1 West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP)

The WRHIP aims to transform an area within the heart of West Rhyl, creating a new open space around which homes facing the green space will be remodelled or refurbished, with the possibility of some new housing. This will address the negative associations the area currently has, and improve investor confidence to create a

stable, sustainable housing market where the private sector invests without the need for ongoing public sector subsidy. Full details of the scheme are provided in:

- Appendix 1 – Project Brief – West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project
- Appendix 2 – WRHIP Block Plan
- Appendix 3 – Artist’s Impression of Green Space

The WRHIP is a partnership project between Denbighshire County Council, Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. It is a continuation of the work already ongoing in West Rhyl under the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area (NWCRA), which is why a significant number of properties required for the delivery of this project have already been acquired with Welsh Government funding.

4.2 The Green Space

The investment centres around a new green space that will be created as part of the project. The creation of this green space responds to a long-standing community aspiration – evidenced in numerous consultation exercises over the years – to create a new green space in the heart of West Rhyl. The new green space is also the key element in transforming the way the area looks and is perceived. No designs exist yet, as it is the intention to develop the use and design of this space in partnership with the local community.

4.3 The Acquisition Programme

The project will acquire the properties around the planned new green space and work with Pennaf/Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and private sector developers to remodel and/or refurbish existing houses and build new homes and attract and retain economically active people. We will be seeking to acquire the properties by agreement, but acknowledge that we anticipate the use compulsory purchase powers to ensure that the properties required to deliver the project are brought into public ownership (please reference accompanying report on CPO).

Clearly most of the housing is currently occupied, and as part of this project we will be funding a Resettlement Officer whose role will be to assist residents identify and relocate to new accommodation. We will be seeking to relocate residents to the community of their choice, and the compensation package offered through the scheme should ensure that all reasonable costs of the move and disruption suffered are covered.

4.4 The type of housing to be created

Where large houses are retained, many will be remodelled to adapt them to single occupancy, family housing. Where smaller houses are retained (2/3 bedrooms), these will be refurbished to a high standard to create desirable homes for couples and small families. Where new homes are constructed by the private sector, we will be encouraging them to develop homes that will be attractive to families. In most instances we expect this to be three bedroom homes with gardens and off street parking. In all cases, be it remodelling, refurbishment or new build, we will be seeking to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the homes and reduce the requirement for ongoing maintenance to ensure their affordability.

Whilst it is recognised that proposed changes to the Welfare system may increase the demand for single occupancy households, a key objective of this project will be to reduce the number of such accommodation. Despite the Welfare Reform programme, this is still considered to be the right approach as it is the oversupply of this particular type of accommodation that is causing the imbalance in the housing market and creating the concentration of social and economic deprivation. That said, it is recognised that other parts of Rhyl beyond the project area will be impacted by the reform programme, and officers involved in delivering the project will be working with other relevant officers to try and ensure that the wider Rhyl area provides a balanced housing market.

4.5 Delivery Programme

An outline programme for the delivery of the individual blocks is attached:

- Appendix 4 – WRHIP Programme Plan – Jul 12

4.6 Project Management

A dedicated Denbighshire Project Manager has been appointed to coordinate delivery of the project. Under his direction a project team and various themed working groups have already been established. Progress of the project will be monitored through the processes and documentation associated with Denbighshire's Project Management Methodology.

4.7 Governance Arrangements

A Project Board has been established and the inaugural meeting of this group took place in July 2012. This is a high level, partnership board with membership drawn from the 3 key partners – Denbighshire County Council, Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. Draft Terms of Reference, including details of membership, are attached as:

- Appendix 5 – WRHIP Terms of Reference

Denbighshire County Council membership of this Board is:

- Corporate Director – Economic & Community Ambition (*currently represented on the Board by Mohammed Mehmet*)
- Leader of Denbighshire County Council
- Lead Member for Regeneration (*currently same individual as above*)
- Rhyl West Ward Members (x 2)

The WRHIP Board will have the overall responsibility for the delivery of the project – both in overseeing operational delivery and in its fiscal management – as outlined in section 3 above. Effectively this will mean the Board will oversee the property acquisition programme, including the oversight of any required compulsory purchase process. The Board will authorise all spend on the project relating to individual elements such as property acquisition, although the day to day delivery of the project will be managed by the Project Manager in association with the Project Team

(referenced in section 4.6 above). The Project Board would have the authority to agree an acquisition above market value if they considered that this represented value for money in terms of officer time saved in prolonged negotiations and/or avoidance of the requirement to take compulsory purchase action. Similarly the Project Board would have the authority to change the scope of the project, for example by removing some properties from the acquisition programme, if for example funding were reduced or the acquisition programme costs escalated due to market pressures.

4.8 Conclusion

This is a bold, ambitious and expensive project, but given that previous public sector programmes and grant schemes have failed to regenerate the area, it is considered the best way of creating the lasting change the area so clearly requires. Addressing these long-standing issues will also help create a more positive impression of the town overall and thereby have more far-reaching regeneration benefits.

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

This project contributes to the proposed corporate priorities:

5.1: Priority 1 – Developing the Local Economy and Our Communities

By creating a more balanced community the project will reduce deprivation in this part of West Rhyl – one of the key outcomes of this priority. It will also address the negative associations of the area, boost private sector confidence in Rhyl, and stimulate further private sector investment and confidence in Rhyl creating new jobs and business opportunities.

5.2: Priority 6 – Ensuring access to good quality housing

This project will directly impact on the priority outcome of “*offering a range of types and forms of housing...to meet the needs of individuals and families*”.

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

The costs (extracted from Appendix 1 - Project Brief – West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project) are summarised below:

Please provide details of the capital funding requirement (not including amount already spent):				
Enter details of cost element below:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	All Years Total
Property acquisition & demolition	£6,269,276	£5,843,000	£250,000	£12,362,276
Planning & Design	£100,000	£500,000	£0	£600,000
Urban Park Construction and landscaping	£0	£0	£2,620,000	£2,620,000
Neighbourhood Management	£15,000	£15,000	£10,000	£40,000
Communication	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000
Staff Costs	£214,000	£184,000	£100,000	£498,000
Gap Fund Grants/Contingency	£0	£80,000	£420,000	£500,000
Total Project costs	£6,623,276	£6,647,000	£3,425,000	£16,695,276

Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources					
Enter details of funding source	To date	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL
WG – Centrally Retained Capital	0	£5,000,000	£5,000,000	0	£10,000,000
WG - NWCRA	£6,583,950	£1,623,276	£1,747,000	£3,425,000*	£13,279,226
TOTAL	£6,583,950	£6,623,276	£6,647,000	£3,425,000	£23,279,226

* funding for 2014/15 is not yet confirmed from NWCRA

As illustrated in the table above, the funding for the WRHIP is being provided by Welsh Government from a combination of Centrally Retained Capital Fund and funding from the North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area (NWCRA). This funding has been allocated specifically for this project and is not available to be spent outside Rhyl or on another project.

Post-project delivery, there may be an ongoing revenue implication in relation to maintenance of the green space that will be created. Options of how to address this and ensure the space is well maintained will be considered as a key element of the design and planning process.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The proposal for the green space arose from the detailed analysis and extensive consultation undertaken by the consultants DPP Shape in 2010 as part of their commission to prepare a Masterplan for West Rhyl. For details of subsequent consultation please see:

- Appendix 6 – Summary of Community Consultation & Communication

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This is clearly an ambitious and complex project. The risk register shows a number of risks which are deemed ‘amber’ and must therefore be subject to close scrutiny by the project board. It is fully funded by external sources and the budget appears sufficient for the proposed scale of the project. The nature of the project means that should any element overspend other elements can be reduced to compensate and as such there should be little risk of the Council needing to become financially involved. Its current exposure is limited to staff time for a couple of members of staff.

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

As the table in section 6 illustrates, the project is being delivered with external funding. There is a risk (detailed in the Risk Register) that the money is not forthcoming in future years (2014/15 funding not yet confirmed), or that changes in

the property market means the project will be under-funded. Whilst it is considered that the likelihood of this is low, in any case the council's financial exposure is low because the project is externally funded. If such a scenario did happen, the Project Board would have the authority to reduce the scope of the project in order to ensure that key outcomes and benefits are still delivered.

In a worse case scenario where a reduction in funding or rise in costs mean that the project would be undeliverable, the property held could be sold on the open market and some of the costs recovered. Such a decision would go beyond the scope of the Project Board and would need Council authority to close the project in this way.

Further project risks are detailed in:

- Appendix 7: WRHIP Risk Register

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 2 Local Government Act 2000

Sections 226 & 227 Town and Country planning Act 1990

Section 111 Local Government Act 1972

PROJECT BRIEF



The Project Brief is the first document developed to introduce a project. It should expand the initial concept or idea to broadly define the scope of the proposed project (objectives, outcomes and outputs), and provide an estimate of the resourcing time and costs associated with progressing the initiative.

If you require assistance completing this form please contact the Programme & Projects Team at projects@denbighshire.gov.uk or on extension 6076.

Project/Activity Name:	West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project
Programme:	Rhyl Going Forward – Neighbourhoods & Places
Workstream:	West Rhyl Regeneration

Head of Service:	Peter McHugh	Lead member:	Hugh Evans
Service Area:	Housing & Regeneration	LM Portfolio:	Regeneration
Form completed by:	Peter McDermott	Date:	9 th July 2012

PROJECT TYPE

Please categorise your project type. Mark **one** box only.

This Project Brief is for a work programme or block allocation (ie a collection of smaller works managed coherently together e.g. maintenance schemes, grant schemes, highway maintenance, etc)	
The project scored 0 to 4 and is categorised as SMALL	
The project scored between 5 and 10 and is categorised as MEDIUM	
The project scored over 10 and is categorised as LARGE	X

Please complete the scoring matrix below to evidence your categorisation. This **is not** required if you have categorised the activity as a work programme or block allocation.

Criteria:	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	
What is the total cost of the project?	Up to £50K OR Up to £150K (construction)	£50K to £150K OR £150K to £1mill (construction)	Over £150K OR Over £1 million (construction)	2
How long will it take to develop and implement the project?	Up to 3 months	3 to 12 months	Over 12 months	2
Which stakeholders are involved?	Mainly internal	Internal & external	Stakeholder opposition	2
Has Denbighshire done this sort of project before?	Many times	Once or twice	Never	2
What is the reputational risk to Denbighshire if we make significant mistakes in project delivery or the project fails?	Low	Medium	High	2
What is the financial risk to Denbighshire if we make significant mistakes in project delivery or the project fails?	Low	Medium	High	2
Total Score:				12

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section should provide a brief description of the project/activity you propose to undertake and the reason it is required. You should assume that the reader has no background knowledge.

Aim & Outcome

This project aims to transform an area within the heart of West Rhyl, creating a new open space around which homes facing the green space will be remodelled or refurbished. This will address the negative associations the area currently has, and improve investor confidence to create a stable, sustainable housing market where the private sector invests without the need for ongoing public sector subsidy.

The Green Space

The investment centres around a new green space that will be created as part of the project. The creation of this green space responds to a long-standing community aspiration – evidenced in numerous consultation exercises over the years – to create a new green space in the heart of West Rhyl. The new green space is also the key element in transforming the way the area looks and is perceived, and should generate value in the surrounding properties in the same way Victorian and Edwardian Squares did for a previous generation. The area identified through the analysis and consultation is the block bounded by Aquarium Street, Abbey Street, Gronant Street and John Street. No designs exist yet, as it is the intention to develop the use and design of this space in partnership with the local community.

The Acquisition Programme

The project will acquire the properties around the planned new green space and work with Pennaf/Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and private sector developers to remodel and/or refurbish existing houses and build new homes and attract and retain economically active people. Many properties have already been acquired as part of the North Wales Coast Regeneration Area (NWCRA), and work is ongoing to continue this acquisition programme. We will be seeking to acquire the properties by agreement, but acknowledge that we anticipate the use compulsory purchase powers to ensure that the properties required to deliver the project are brought into public ownership.

Clearly most of the housing is currently occupied, and as part of this project we will be funding a Resettlement Officer whose role will be to assist residents identify and relocate to new accommodation. We have already a successful track record in achieving this type of relocation as 46 properties have already been acquired and residents relocated through the NWCRA. We will be seeking to relocate residents to the community of their choice, and the compensation package offered through the scheme should ensure that all reasonable costs of the move and disruption suffered are covered. Work to date on housing needs in the area indicate that the vast majority of residents wish to remain in Rhyl and at this stage we are reasonably confident that this can be accommodated within existing housing stock in the area. Thus fears about migrating “the problem” to other communities seems unfounded.

The type of housing to be created

Where large houses are retained, many will be remodelled to adapt them to single occupancy, family housing. In many cases this will mean reducing the size of the buildings, probably by demolishing the “outriggers” at the back of the properties. This approach will have a number of benefits:

- Reduce the number of houses in multiple occupation and with small, one bedroom flats;
- Reduce the homes to a sensible size for family housing (3 or 4 bedrooms, occasionally some 5 bedrooms);

- Remove the possibility of the houses being re-converted to multi-occupancy in the future;
- Create space at the rear of the properties for off street parking, waste storage and gardens;

Where smaller houses are retained (2/3 bedrooms), these will be refurbished to a high standard to create desirable homes for couples and small families.

Where new homes are constructed by the private sector, we will be encouraging them to develop homes that will be attractive to families. In most instances we expect this to be three bedroom homes with gardens and off street parking.

In all cases, be it remodelling, refurbishment or new build, we will be seeking to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the homes and reduce the requirement for ongoing maintenance to ensure their affordability.

The Specifics

Map 1 (attached) illustrates how the project area has been divided into six blocks:

- **Block One:** consisting of 2-36 (evens) Gronant St, 3-29 (odds) Aquarium Street, 13-15 (odds) John St, 26-38 (evens) Abbey St (scheduled for demolition 06/12). The properties in this block will be acquired and demolished to create the green space.
- **Block Two:** consisting of 3-31 (odds) Gronant St. These properties will be acquired and refurbished by Pennaf/Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and marketed as “Homebuy” properties, whereby residents will own majority of equity in the home.
- **Block Three:** consisting of 2-16 (evens) Aquarium St. The plan is here is to seek a private sector development partner in association with block 5. The presumption here is in favour of retaining the properties but remodelling them to reduce the floorspace and create good quality, large (4/5 bedrooms) family homes with gardens and off street parking at the rear. Other options may be considered depending on the response and interest from the private sector on the wider site (blocks 3 and 5). It is envisaged that the homes created through this scheme will be sold for owner occupation.
- **Block Four:** consisting of 14-24 (evens) John St. As with block 3, the intention here is to seek a private sector development partner to remodel these homes. The existing properties in this block are even larger than those in Block 3, and have limited opportunity to create amenity space to the rear. As such, the remodelling of these homes would most likely include some conversion to good quality apartments (2/3 bedroom) as well as single occupancy, family housing. Because of the smaller scale and nature of the proposals for this block, it is envisaged that the selection process for this block will be separate to that for Block 3/5, although the processes may run concurrently. It is envisaged that the homes created through this scheme will be sold for owner occupation.
- **Block Five:** consisting of 1-11 (odds) John Street, 18 Aquarium St, 50-57 West Parade. This is a significant site which fronts onto West Parade. With the exception of the properties on John Street the site has already been acquired through the NWCRA and the properties demolished. The proposal here is for a mixed use, new build development. Whilst housing is likely to form a significant element for the scheme, given the location on the sea front uses could also include hotel, leisure, offices or retail. We will be seeking a private sector partner (in conjunction with Block 3), and as such the end uses and form of the development will be determined through market viability and the planning process. It is envisaged that the homes created through this scheme will be sold for owner occupation.

- **Block Six:** consisting of 3-41 (odds) Abbey St, 10-24 (evens) Abbey St, 8-12 Hope Place. Given the diversity of type and tenure of housing in this area, a more opportunist approach will be taken. We will still be acquiring property in this block, and as and when a “cluster” of properties have been brought into public ownership the most appropriate scheme for that site will be considered. This could be a mix of remodelling and refurbishment, and could be for either owner occupation or Registered Social Landlord (RSL) accommodation. Either way, we will be seeking in the first instance to convert properties into single occupancy, family housing, but where this is not practical or achievable we will convert into apartments with good space standards.

In total the project will be looking to acquire 113, although 42 of these properties have already been acquired through earlier phases of the NWCRA.

The Funding Mechanisms

The project funding provides for the acquisition of all the properties within the blocks detailed above, but does not include for any refurbishment or development costs. For the blocks where we will be working with a private sector partner, the cost of new build and remodelling/refurbishment will be met by the private sector under the auspices of a Development Agreement. This will cap the level of developer profit that can be made and will detail the arrangements for the transfer of property ownership from public to private and the financial transaction associated with this. No detailed arrangements in this regard have been developed yet as these will be subject to detailed discussion and negotiation through the developer selection process, although the general principle that the refurbishment costs will be offset by the capital value of the property prevails.

The properties remodelled and/or refurbished by RSL's will be subject to separate arrangements, but the principles remain the same and the refurbishment funded by the RSL's.

Project Management

A dedicated Project Manager has been appointed to coordinate delivery of the project. Under his direction a project team and various themed working groups have already been established. The first meeting of the Project Board is anticipated in early Aug 2012. Progress of the project will be monitored through the processes and documentation associated with Denbighshire's Project Management Methodology.

Conclusion

This is a bold, ambitious and expensive project, but given that previous public sector programmes and grant schemes have failed to regenerate the area, it is considered the best way of creating the lasting change the area so clearly requires. Addressing these long-standing issues will also help create a more positive impression of the town overall and thereby have more far-reaching regeneration benefits.

OUT OF SCOPE

If this Project Brief is approved and a Business Case is to be developed, please detail any elements (eg. activities, functions, services, geographic areas) which will be specifically excluded from the project. Note that in-scope activity should have been defined in the Background Information section above.

Any other properties in West Rhyl **not** included in the six blocks described in the section Background Information above are **outside** the scope of this project.

OUTPUT

An output is what is physically created by the project eg a new or refurbished building, a policy or strategy document, a re-structured organisation or service, an event, a new software system installed, etc.

FOR WORK PROGRAMMES/BLOCK ALLOCATIONS YOU MUST ATTACH A SCHEDULE OF THE WORKS PROPOSED

- New Green Space (4500m2)
- Reduction of HMO units within the area currently approx. 34 with an estimated 182 accommodation units
- Remodelled homes 14 (radically altered to create single occupancy or better proportioned apartments)
- Refurbished homes 31 (refurbished internally and externally to improve quality of accommodation)
- New build homes to be determined in discussions with developer

OUTCOME

An outcome is what happens, or what should happen, as a consequence of delivering the output eg improved educational attainment, safer working practices, cheaper or more efficient service delivery, etc.

- A more balanced housing offer
- Improved appearance and perception of the area
- Ongoing private sector investment

INTER-DEPENDENCIES

Please provide further information if this project or activity will have dependencies with other projects, service reviews or council activities.

The following initiatives/projects are not contained within the scope of the WRHIP, but will be closely monitored to ensure that they coordinate and compliment the project:

- Neighbourhood Management
- SPG (Supplementary Planning Guidance)
- HMO Quality Improvement
- Supported Living Strategy
- Community Land Trust
- W. Rhyl Community Seeds

OVERARCHING AIMS / CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This section should identify how the project/activity supports Denbighshire's corporate priorities

Regeneration and Economic Development
Local Housing Strategy (West Rhyl identified as focus for action)
The Big Plan (Regeneration of Rhyl).

TIMESCALES

This section should outline the forecast timescales for the activity.

See attached Project Schedule

COLLABORATION

Is this a collaboration project?				Yes	X	No	
If yes, collaboration partner:	Conwy only		Flintshire only		Wrexham only		
	Conwy & Flintshire		Flintshire & Wrexham		Conwy, Flintshire & Wrexham		
	All North Wales		NHS		Other		X
If other please comment:	<p>Key Partners:</p> <p>Welsh Government Pennaf Housing Association (Clwyd Alyn Housing Association)</p> <p>Other Partners:</p> <p>Local community and property owners Police, Fire Service Voluntary sector groups Local community groups</p>						

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

If appropriate, please indicate the geographic area where project activity will take place. Note that more than one area can be ticked. If the project activity is internal to the organisation (eg service reviews, policy or strategy development, etc) please tick the corresponding box.

Geographic Area:	Rhyl	X	Prestatyn		Elwy	
	Denbigh		Ruthin		Dee Valley	
	All Denbighshire		Internal to organisation		Other	
If other please comment:						

CAPITAL COSTS

The capital cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed. Note that even some non-construction projects may have a requirement for capital costs. For example, to fund the acquisition of new ICT hardware or undertaking alterations to buildings.

- Any costs relating to ICT infrastructure and equipment should have been provided by ICT department.
- Any costs that relate to construction should have been provided by Design & Development or Building Services.

At this stage it is acceptable to present a cost range.

Estimated project capital cost or cost range	£23,279,226
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Please provide details of any capital funding that has already been spent on the project:	
Enter details of cost element below:	Total
Purchase & demolition costs to date*	£6,583,950
TOTAL	£6,583,950

Please provide details of the capital funding requirement (not including amount already spent):				
Enter details of cost element below:	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	All Years Total
Property acquisition & demolition	£6,269,276	£5,843,000	£250,000	£12,362,276
Planning & Design	£100,000	£500,000	£0	£600,000
Urban Park Construction and landscaping	£0	£0	£2,620,000	£2,620,000
Neighbourhood Management	£15,000	£15,000	£10,000	£40,000
Communication	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000
Staff Costs	£214,000	£184,000	£100,000	£498,000
Gap Fund Grants/Contingency	£0	£80,000	£420,000	£500,000
Total Project costs	£6,623,276	£6,647,000	£3,425,000	£16,695,276

Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources					
Enter details of funding source	To date	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL
WG – Centrally Retained Capital	0	£5,000,000	£5,000,000	0	£10,000,000
WG - NWCRA	£6,583,950	£1,623,276	£1,747,000	£3,425,000*	£13,279,226
TOTAL	£6,583,950	£6,623,276	£6,647,000	£3,425,000	£23,279,226

* funding for 2014/15 is not yet confirmed from NWCRA

If necessary, please use the box below to provide any further details in relation to the capital funding information you have provided (eg any assumptions made, initial indications from funding bodies, etc).

<p>The Welsh Government Funding for this project has already been confirmed and allocated by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Costs above relate to public sector investment. The project will generate further (as yet un-quantified) private sector investment not included above relating to the investment in the refurbishment and new build elements of the scheme.</p>

From the public sector investment detailed above it is also anticipated that a capital receipt of approximately £1,050,000 will return to the public sector (Welsh Government) via the sale of **Block Two** Gronant St South £300,000, and **Block Five** John St East/ West Parade £750,000

Staff costs and project revenue costs outlined above relate to key staff employed to deliver the project, including DCC Surveyor to undertake property acquisitions and a Resettlement Officer to help residents move. The costs above do not include the costs of the West Rhyl Project Coordinator (Peter McDermott) and the Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager (Tom Booty) who are both funded by Denbighshire.

REVENUE COSTS

The revenue cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed. Please indicate below the expected revenue impact of the project or activity.

What is the impact of this project (once it has been delivered) in terms of the DCC revenue requirement for:	increase	neutral	decrease	not known
• staff costs (salaries and associated)?		✓		
• energy costs (heating, lighting, ICT, etc)?		✓		
• other property related costs (rental, insurance, etc)?		✓		
• ongoing ICT costs (licences, etc)		✓		
• mileage of Denbighshire fleet vehicles?		✓		
• mileage for business travel by Denbighshire employees using their personal vehicles?		✓		
OVERALL REVENUE REQUIREMENT		✓		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND WORK PROGS:

Will this project have a significant impact on reducing an existing building maintenance backlog?	Yes		No	✓
Is this project creating a new facility (ie not replacing an existing facility) which will require additional maintenance/servicing funding?	Yes	✓	No	

If necessary, please use the box below to provide any further details in relation to the revenue funding information you have provided (eg any assumptions made, estimates of potential revenue savings, income that may be generated by the project to offset revenue expenditure, etc).

Additional revenue costs only required for the duration of the project, and would include Property Services for valuation and acquisition works, Legal for conveyancing, etc. Costs for this will be contained within the project budget.

Post-project delivery, there may be an ongoing revenue implication in relation to maintenance of the green space that will be created.

There will be no revenue/maintenance implications in relation to the housing that have been remodelled/refurbished as these will be either privately owned or RSL owned.

EQUALITIES IMPACT

The Council has a duty to ensure compliance with the Equalities Act (2010) which is intended to protect individuals from unfair treatment and promote a fair and more equal society. The following section is designed to assess the possible equalities impact of the proposed project or activity. If you require further guidance on or assistance with completing this section please contact Denbighshire's Corporate Equalities Officer:

karen.beattie@denbighshire.gov.uk

What is the expected impact of this project/activity in terms of the following equality groups:	positive	neutral	negative	not known
• Age (younger and older people)	✓			
• Disability (physical, vision, hearing impairments, learning difficulties, mental health)	✓			
• Gender reassignment		✓		
• Marriage or civil partnership		✓		
• Race (including migrant workers, gypsy and travellers)		✓		
• Religion/Belief		✓		
• Sex including male, female, transgender)		✓		
• Sexual Orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender))		✓		
• Relationships between groups may require clarification		✓		
• Welsh Language and/or culture		✓		

If you have indicated that the project or activity may have an impact on equalities (positive or negative) you may be required to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). Please contact the Corporate Equalities Officer for further information.

PRIVACY IMPACT

The Council has a duty to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998) whereby we are obliged to protect any personal information held about individuals, and the Freedom of Information Act (2000) which provides access by individuals to official information. The following section is designed to identify projects or activity that may involve dealing with the personal details of individuals (eg software systems that hold data about school pupils or social services clients). If you require further guidance on or assistance with completing this section please contact Denbighshire's Information Technology Security Officer:

kelly.waterfield@denbighshire.gov.uk

Does this project/activity involve dealing with the personal details of individuals?	Yes	✓	No	
If yes please comment:	Relocation programme will involve dealing with and processing the personal details of individuals.			

If you have answered yes to this question you may be required to complete a Privacy Impact Assessment. Please contact the Information Technology Security Officer for further information.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure compliance with the habitats regulations (as amended in 2007) and the biodiversity duties contained within the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). The following section is designed to assess the possible biodiversity impact of the proposed project or activity. If you require further guidance on or assistance with completing this section please contact Denbighshire's Biodiversity Officer:

kate.taylor@denbighshire.gov.uk

Will this project impact on a habitat that supports living organisms (plant or animal)?	Yes	✓	No	
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If you have answered yes to the above question, please complete all the following biodiversity sections. If answered no please leave blank.

THREATENED/PROTECTED SPECIES		Yes	✓	No	
Will this project impact on any protected or threatened species as defined in Denbighshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)?					
If yes please comment:	Bat Colonies are possible. Will consult with DCC Biodiversity Officer. Overall the creation of a new green space is an opportunity to improve biodiversity				

If you have answered yes to this question you should consult with Denbighshire's Biodiversity Officer to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

ALL SPECIES (including threatened/protected)	increase	neutral	decrease	not known
What is the expected impact of this project in terms of:				
the number of plant species present?				✓
the number of animal species present?				✓

CARBON IMPACT

The Council has a duty to ensure compliance with the Climate Change Act (2008) which commits us to reducing our carbon emissions by 34% by 2020 (using a 1990 baseline). The following section is designed to assess the possible carbon impact of the proposed project or activity. If you require further guidance on or assistance with completing this section please contact Denbighshire's Climate Change Officer:

helen.burkhalter@denbighshire.gov.uk

What is the expected impact of this project in terms of:	increase	neutral	decrease	not known
• energy use for Denbighshire County Council buildings (electricity, gas, oil, LPG)?		✓		
• mileage of Denbighshire fleet vehicles?		✓		
• tonnes of business waste produced by Denbighshire County Council?		✓		
• mileage for business travel by employees using their personal vehicles?		✓		

VERIFICATION:

Head of Service (or above):

I certify that:

- The project will address a service need and deliver benefits
- The project makes a necessary contribution to the overall strategy of the organisation
- The estimated cost can be justified by the anticipated improvement in services

And that I have assigned the following individuals into the key project roles:

Project Sponsor:	Peter McHugh	Position:	
Project Manager:	Peter McDermott	Position:	

Signature:	<i>Insert electronic signature</i>	Position:	
Name:		Date:	

Signatures should be electronic and the final version of the Project Brief pdf'd before submission.

Final version of this Project Brief should be submitted to:

***Programme & Project Team
Business Planning and Performance
County Hall, Ruthin***

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RE-DEVELOPMENT

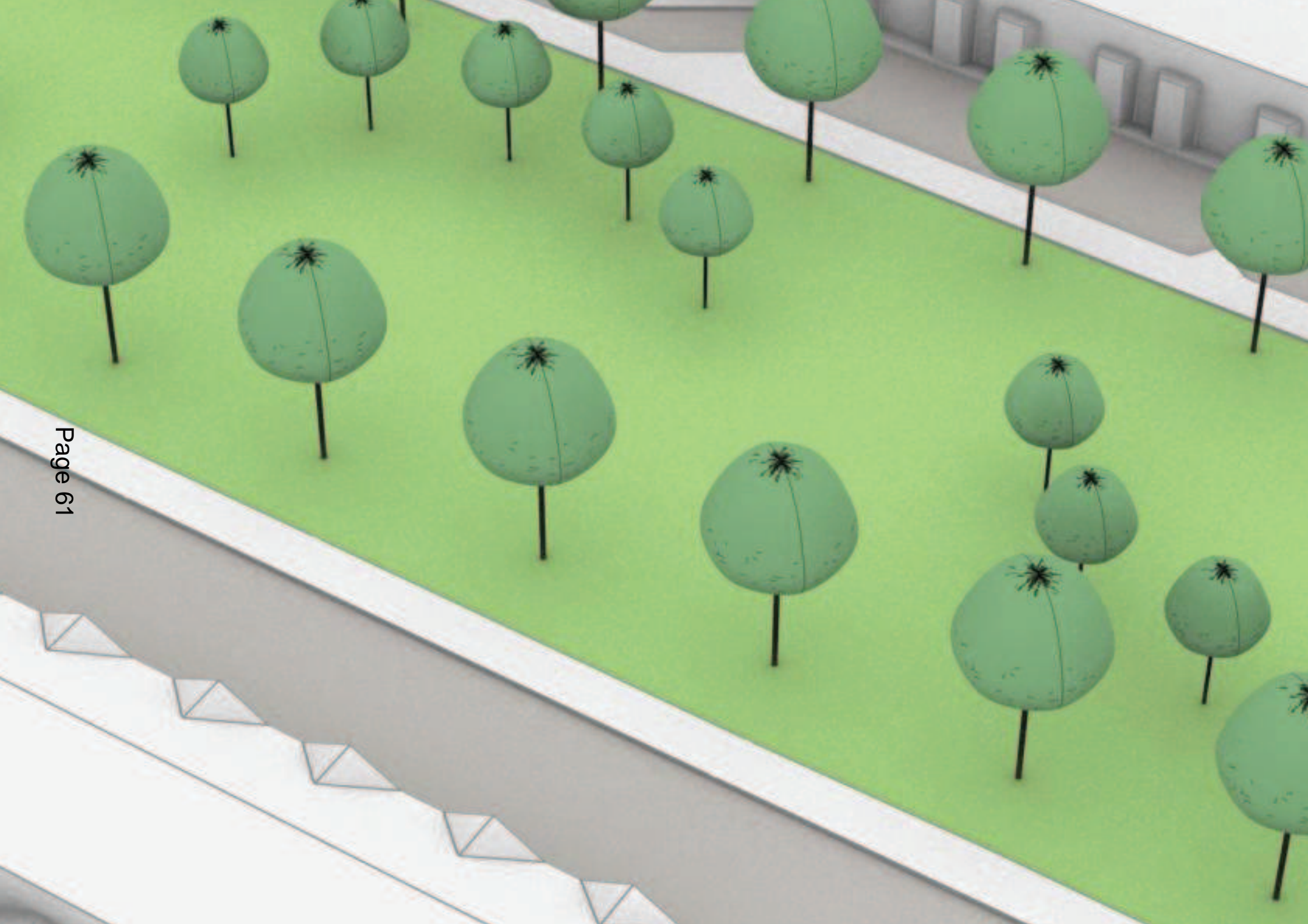
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WEST RHYL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BOARD

- TERMS OF REFERENCE -

Introduction

The North Wales Coast Regeneration Area was established by the Deputy Minister for Regeneration on October 17th 2008. One of the key projects that has been pursued by the Regeneration Area Team over the past 3 years is the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP) which aims to reduce the number of houses in multiple occupation in West Rhyl, increase the range of tenures, improve tenant choice and introduce green space into this highly urban environment. These Terms of Reference refer to the work of the Board that is being established to co-ordinate and manage the project.

Overall Aim

The WRHIP Board will have the overall responsibility for the delivery of the project – both in overseeing operational delivery and in its fiscal management. The Board's role will be to provide the strategic guidance and direction for the action-focused delivery of the overall project and brings together the key stakeholders who can enable change. The Board's Chair, who will be the Welsh Government's Senior Responsible Officer for the project, will monitor progress and report to the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan Delivery Group.

The Board aims to achieve the successful delivery of the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project within the 3 year timetable set out in the WRHIP (Phase 1- Gronant Street/Aquarium Street) Business Justification Case that was approved by Finance Minister in November 2011 and further confirmed in the May 2012 West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project Business Plan.

Phase 1 of the housing improvement scheme will focus on the redevelopment of Gronant Street, parts of Aquarium Street, John Street and Abbey Street, Rhyl enabling the remodelling of unfit housing and the creation of attractive

green space that supports the new demographic that West Rhyl is aiming to attract. The park will be surrounded by quality housing of appropriate type tenure through a programme of acquisition and conversion/ refurbishment

Funding of the order of £17m is required to complete the delivery of Phase 1 of the WRHIP over the period 2012-2015. The WRHIP Programme Board is being established to manage this expenditure which includes a £10m contribution from the Welsh Government's Centrally Retained Capital Fund.

The following will be established:-

- i) A dedicated WRHIP Board, supported by;
- ii) the WRHIP Co-Ordination Team; and
- iii) five work team sub-groups of the Co-Ordination Team that will work on:-
 - a) Property Acquisition
 - b) Resettlement and Supporting People
 - c) Neighbourhood Management
 - d) Planning, Design and Delivery; and
 - e) Communication and Community Liaison.

The aim will be to ensure that all partners work closely together to ensure that activity at all levels is co-ordinated and directed in accordance with the overall aims and objectives of the WRHIP Business Plan.

The Project Board

The Project Board is the strategic partnership for the WRHIP project and it is envisaged that the Board will meet every 3 months. The Board brings together senior representatives of the main organisations involved in the planning and delivery of the project.

The Board's role is to:-

- i) provide the strategic guidance and direction for the action-focused delivery of the overall project;
- ii) oversee the running and monitoring of the project to ensure that it is delivered to time and to budget;
- iii) allocate funding as necessary for each of the work teams within the parameters of the budget delegated on an annual basis from the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage;
- iv) monitor the project risk register.

It is proposed that the WRHIP Board should include representatives from all the main organisation who have the mandate to take decisions on behalf of their organisations on issues affecting the WRHIP project. These include:-

- Project Senior Responsible Officer (WG);
- North Wales Coast Regeneration Area Programme Director (WG);
- Senior Finance Officer (WG);
- Corporate Director - Economic and Community Ambition (DCC);
- Leader of Denbighshire County Council (DCC),
- Lead Member for Regeneration (DCC),
- Rhyl West Ward Members (2 x DCC)
- Chief Executive, Pennaf

The Board will be chaired by the Welsh Government's Senior Responsible Officer or his nominee.

In addition, supporting officers whose role is to advise the Board and prepare policy and project design options may attend from time to time

Decision Making Arrangements

The principles of adding value and mutuality underpin the work of the Board as it faces the challenges of improving the housing offer and amenity of West

Rhyl. In taking its decisions, the Board will, at all times, conduct its business openly and transparently. It will make rational decisions, based upon the principles of consultation, consensus and sustainability. Equally, the Board will acknowledge the principle of subsidiarity where the need for more locally based decisions is appropriate.

Functions of the Board

- To receive reports relating to its role as the Strategic Partnership for the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project and make strategic choices for the area;
- To approve the Project's work programme;
- To approve any amendments to its present constitution or membership;
- To authorise budget .

An agenda indicating the order of business will be circulated to members and other stake holders, no less than five working days prior to the meetings of the Board.

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Partners

The Board's main partners are the Welsh Government, Denbighshire County Council and Pennaf Housing Group. Pennaf is the preferred RSL partner on the basis that it has a substantial local presence in West Rhyl and owns 11 properties within the target intervention area. A summary of the roles and responsibilities of each of the partner organisations within the WRHIP partnership are ascribed below :-

Organisation	Role(s)	Responsibilities
Welsh Government	Strategic Leadership Strategic Project Management Primary Project Funder	Project Monitoring Audit against grant conditions
Pennaf Housing Group (<i>including Clwyd Alyn Housing</i>)	Acquisition/ Land Assembly Acquisition by Agreement	Property Management Affordable Housing Provision.

<i>Association)</i>	Development Planning Property Refurbishment Marketing	
Denbighshire County Council	Acquisition/ Land Assembly Community Engagement Development of Green Space Development Planning Marketing	Neighbourhood Management, Development of Supplementary Planning Guidance and Site Development Briefs, Compulsory Purchase Orders

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Community Consultation and Communication

Date & Time	Topic	Item / Event
16 Jul - 31 Oct 2011	RGF Delivery Plan	Plan and accompanying questionnaire in Rhyl library and on Denbighshire website
18 July 2011	RGF Delivery Plan	ITV Wales report/interview with Tom Booty
23 Aug 2011	RGF Delivery Plan	Article and Editorial in Daily Post
4 Oct & 7 Oct 2011	RGF Delivery Plan	Tom Booty - surgery for Rhyl Town Councillors
24 Oct 2011 11am - 3pm	RGF Delivery Plan	Staffed exhibition in White Rose Centre
26 Oct 2011 6pm	RGF Delivery Plan	Community Meeting at the Wellington Community Centre Plan of proposed green space shown and discussed
27 Oct 2011 4 - 7pm	RGF Delivery Plan	Staffed exhibition in foyer of Morrison's supermarket
14 Nov 2011 1.30-4.30pm	Housing Regeneration & Green Space	DCC and CAHA staff out on Aquarium Street with the step-up bus and door knocking (advertised in the local newspaper). Provided information leaflets and promoted the public event taking place at the town hall. Spoke with current residents and carried out housing needs mapping surveys.
18 Nov 2011 9.30am-12.30pm	Housing Regeneration & Green Space	As above on the 14th November
23 Nov 2011 1.00-5.00pm	Housing Regeneration & Green Space	A public drop-in information afternoon was held at Rhyl Town Hall staffed by DCC and CAHA officers. We provided information on the plans for W.Rhyl and once again carried out housing needs surveys with current residents. This event was advertised in the local newspaper and a leaflet letterbox drop was also carried out the week before.
April 2012	Housing Regeneration & Green Space	Letterbox drop around the whole of Rhyl West 1 ward informing all residents of the regeneration plans. The leaflets included a detailed Q&A section for affected residents around the whole of Rhyl West 1 ward informing all residents of the regeneration plans. The leaflets included a detailed Q&A section for affected residents and a contact number for further discussion, advice and assistance.
9 th May 2012 11am - 4.00pm	RGF Programme, housing regeneration & Community Land Trust	Key officers staffed the open day and launch event for the Foryd Community Centre in West Rhyl. The event included networking with professionals and community residents, but also involved interviews regarding the projects on the local radio station (Point FM) who were broadcasting from the centre.

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Rhyl Going Forward WRHIP Headline

RISK REGISTER

July 2012



LIKELIHOOD	5 Almost certain	5	10	15	20	25
	4 Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	3 Possible	3	6	9	12	15
	2 Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	1 Rare	1	2	3	4	5
		1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
IMPACT						

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Risk No:	Date identified	Date last reviewed	Risk description & Mitigating Action	Risk Owner	L Score	I Score	Risk Score	Risk Trend	RAG Status
1	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Finance – meeting spend profile</p> <p>Risk that the WG funding allocated to the West Rhyl Housing Improvement Area is not spent to profile year on year, resulting in money lost to the programme and the subsequent possibility of not having sufficient funding to complete/deliver the project.</p> <p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project partners agree that 12 Project Application Forms (PAF) would be submitted to Project Board • Priorities in terms of blocks agreed • Work stream priorities agreed 	Peter McDermott	3	4	12	STATIC	AMBER

2	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Timing – Delivering the project on time</p> <p>Risk that we are unable to deliver the project within the tight timescales required.</p> <p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project manager working full-time ▪ Property acquisition block priority agreed ▪ CPO advice continues from Chris Skinner 	Peter McDermott	3	4	12	STATIC	AMBER
3	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Stakeholders - Political Support</p> <p>Risk of Denbighshire County Council not taking ownership of the project both politically and organisationally.</p> <p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Asset Management Group 5th July 2012 • Report to Strategic Investment Group 13th July 2012 • Report to Cabinet by Hugh Evans by 15th August 2012 • Setting up of first Project Board 20th July 2012 with membership made up of senior councillors, local councillors, senior executives from DCC, Clwyd Alyn and Welsh Government • Briefing session for Leader of DCC and Chief Executive of DCC prior to board meeting 19/7/12 	Tom Booty	3	3	9	STATIC	AMBER
4	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Stakeholders - Communication</p> <p>Risk that stakeholders are not well informed about the project's aims, objectives and activities leading to criticism and poor publicity</p>	Tom Booty	3	3	9	STATIC	AMBER

			<p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See activity above (risk 1) ▪ Project team meetings ▪ Work stream groups organised ▪ Draft communications strategy in final stage preparation ▪ Neighbourhood office to open in development area October 2012 						
5	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Staff - Insufficient Staff resources</p> <p>Risk that the project has insufficient staff capacity or capability to deliver this very complex project. Staff may also leave the project</p> <p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of a Housing Lead by Welsh Government • Recruitment of Resettlement Officer by DCC • Engagement of Shelter to act as impartial advisors • Interview dates for Housing Lead July 2012 WG • DCC Surveyor working 100% on the project • Chris Skinner independent advise re CPO engaged 	Tom Booty	3	3	9	STATIC	AMBER
6	17/07/12	17/07/12	<p>Benefits – Project may not deliver anticipated benefits</p> <p>Risk that the project, once delivered, might not deliver its aims for example a renewed confidence in the area. This risk is exacerbated by the proposed Welfare Reform which is likely to increase demand for smaller, one bedroom accommodation.</p> <p>Action since last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attendance at the Welfare Reform Group 	Tom Booty	3	3	9	STATIC	AMBER

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Report To: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 4th September, 2012

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services

Lead Officer: Sally Ellis, Director of Modernisation and Wellbeing

Title: Changes to the Supporting People programme

1 What is the report about?

The report describes recent developments in the proposed arrangements for the Supporting People Programme and seeks Cabinet agreement to Lead Member representation on the Regional Collaborative Committee.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

Following a long process of consultation and negotiation, key changes to the administration of the Supporting People programme are taking place across Wales. These include the beginnings of moves to a new funding distribution formula, and transfer of contracting responsibilities for some services from Welsh Government to local authorities from 1st August, 2012. In addition, new governance arrangements, including Regional Collaborative Committees, with key responsibilities for the Supporting People Programme, are being established across Wales. Cabinet needs to understand the range of issues involved and decide on participation in the North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee.

3 What are the Recommendations?

Cabinet is recommended to

3.1 nominate the Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services to be Denbighshire County Council's elected member representative on the North Wales Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, with the Director of Modernisation and Wellbeing as the delegated official in her absence.

3.2 refer the impact of the new Supporting People arrangements on the delivery and funding of Supporting People services in Denbighshire, for in-depth consideration as part of Scrutiny Work Programmes

4 Report details

Background

4.1 Supporting People is a significant programme providing "housing" related support services to a wide range of vulnerable groups, including people who are homeless, people with mental health needs, learning disabilities, the young & vulnerable, people with substance misuse need, ex-offenders, people fleeing domestic violence and older people. The aim is to enable them to maintain secure housing while developing other aspects of their lives promoting independence. The Supporting People Programme has been evaluated at national level and shown to deliver very positive financial and non financial benefits.

4.2 In 2011/12, Denbighshire received £6.9m of funding via the Supporting People Programme which funded approximately 2404 units of support (maximum capacity including older people warden services) at any one time, across a range of intensities of interventions.

Aylward Review

4.3 An independent review of the Supporting People programme was commissioned by the Welsh Government (WG) and reported in November 2010. This report made 25 recommendations, subsequently accepted by WG.

4.4 The review of the supporting people arrangements included the following key recommendations:

- Creation of a single funding stream (SPG & SPRG) to be paid to local authorities which should continue to be ring fenced (to be called the Supporting People Programme Grant or SPPG)
- Administration of the grant by a local collaborative committee which would include representatives of key stakeholders including providers, probation, health etc. This should be an interim measure prior to a cross boundary approach at a later date ,
- Introduction of regional collaborative, multi-sectorial committees (RCC) with specific roles in the overall governance of the programme
- Distribution of funding via a needs based distribution formula with the Review Team proposing an interim formula
- A Ministerial Advisory Board (Supporting People National Advisory Board) to be established to advise the Minister.

Implications for Denbighshire

- 4.5** Each of the key recommendations above has implications for Denbighshire. The most notable are that
- implementation of the needs based distribution formula referred to above, is anticipated to lead to funding reductions of £1.5m in Denbighshire over a 5 year period, beginning in 12/13. Denbighshire has prepared for how it will approach mitigating this loss, but it remains a very substantial loss of funding, with particular impact likely on adult social care services
 - the development of a single funding stream involves the transfer, to a very tight timescale, of significant additional financial and contracting responsibilities to Denbighshire, previously carried out by WG.
 - the establishment of Regional Collaborative Committees and the Ministerial Advisory Board reduces the role that the Council has previously had, through a local collaborative committee, on administration of the programme. New guidance and changes to grant terms and conditions are also reducing flexibility.

Implementation of the changes

- 4.6** The changes proposed have been controversial in many respects. Local government has been particularly uneasy about the requirement to collaborate regionally while responsibility and accountability for grant money continues to be held at individual local authority level. However, following a lengthy process of consultation and negotiation, Welsh Government have made some amendments to guidance, particularly around the role of the RCC. The WLGA have indicated that as a result of these changes they would be supportive of the new arrangements. Welsh Government have made a commitment that the arrangements outlined in the guidance will be reviewed within the transition year ie in 2013/14 and, with these undertakings in place, WG have moved ahead to implement their proposed changes.
- 4.7** All regions were asked to demonstrate, by 1st August, their “readiness” to establish Regional Collaborative Committees. North Wales has met the criteria set down by WG. Each local authority was asked to indicate that they could administer payments to the providers where contracting responsibilities were transferring from WG. In return for assurances on both counts, WG would maintain payment of grant. Local authorities were further asked to agree, by 14th August, their acceptance of the new grant terms and conditions and the new guidance. Denbighshire has done this though has outstanding concerns which have been formally logged with WG.

The new delivery structure

- 4.8** The main components of the new delivery structure, as set out in the final guidance recently received, is set out in Appendix I. This includes the proposed role for the Regional Collaborative Committee and the “Co-ordinating Local Authority”- which has been agreed as Conwy, for North Wales. It also includes how the individual local authority role is envisaged as fitting with the regional structure- see paras 2.52 to 2.56 attached. The first meeting of the Regional Collaborative Committee has been arranged for 14th September.
- 4.9** There are many unknowns about how the new delivery structure will operate. While Supporting People lead officers have collaborated across the region for some time, no similar multi-sector body, including both commissioners and providers, has existed previously so there is no track record of relationships and trust on which to base collaboration. All stakeholders believe that there are benefits to be gained from cross border working, especially where there are specialized needs. However, there is potential for disagreement about how the new arrangements and guidance are interpreted and the proposed arrangements for delivering consensus and escalation are untried. While Regional Collaborative Committees “do not have executive powers or functions” and are “advisory”, they clearly can exercise considerable power through the way their roles are discharged. This has the potential to expose grant holding bodies to risk in addition to that from reduced funding due to redistribution. This

is particularly so in North Wales as all North Wales authorities stand to lose under redistribution.

4.10 The recommendations to Cabinet set out in paras 3.1 and 3.2 reflect the view that, despite the risks, Denbighshire should participate in the new arrangements and aim to influence delivery from “inside the tent.” The risks are such, however, that the impact of the new arrangements does need careful scrutiny, especially over the next 12 months, as the major changes are introduced.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Regional collaboration and a regional strategy for commissioning and delivering services will contribute towards managing the downsizing of the grant and the protection of front-line services. However we need to ensure final arrangements for RCCs do achieve this effectively.

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

The estimated reduction in SP grant over the next 5 years is projected to be approximately £1.5m for Denbighshire.

7 What consultations have been carried out?

The Welsh Government are has undertaken extensive consultation on the Draft SP guidance which included the first proposals for RCC’s, and a second consultation exercise which closed on 12th June 2012 Welsh Government planned review of the new Guidance/arrangements will include an assessment of how the Programme is meeting the requirements of the Welsh Government Single Equality Scheme and action plan.

8 Chief Finance Officer Statement

The council has been prudent in establishing a reserve to help mitigate the impact of the forthcoming cuts to the Supporting People grant and the implications about the eligibility of some services currently funded that may not be under the new arrangements. The latest proposal in relation to the powers of the regional committees do seem to be contrary to the Review by removing local decision making and introducing overly complicated monitoring and approval procedures. A delay until April 2013 would appear to be a sensible option.

There is also a lack of clarity in Welsh Government guidance about what is eligible expenditure eg administration costs of the programme are currently funded by the grant, but the new guidance does not make it clear how they should be dealt with in future.

And while the Welsh Government requires 3 year plans to be submitted it will only agree funding on a year by year basis making proper planning difficult.

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

The main risks are referred to in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.8 viz redistribution of grant which will lead to a reduction of funding for Denbighshire, lack of clarity in some aspects of the guidance, continuing lack of clarity in some aspects of governance, and the untried nature of the new delivery structure

The Council has established a reserve to help mitigate the impact of loss of SP funding. It has also formally sought reassurance from WG on specific points of guidance so as to reduce potential risks. WG have committed to review the arrangements set out in guidance within the transition year ie in 2013/14.

10 Power to make the Decision

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

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Appendix 1

Extracts from Supporting People Programme Guidance (July 2012)

Regional Collaborative Committees

The aim and overall focus of the Regional Collaborative Committees will be to provide advice to local authorities and other local stakeholders, and through the SPNAB, to the Welsh Ministers on regional and local collaborative delivery of the Supporting People Programme to ensure the most efficient and effective services are delivered. The RCCs will inform and advise the Welsh Ministers on the production of proposed Supporting People Commissioning plans for the allocation of grant against agreed priorities.

The RCCs do not have executive powers or functions.

The Regional Collaborative Committees role

In detail, the role of Regional Collaborative Committees would include:

To advise on:

Regional and local delivery and compliance with national Supporting People Programme Grant Guidance.

Regional and local needs mapping.

The operation of commissioning and procurement practice.

The quality of regional and local services in particular against the Supporting People National Outcomes framework.

Make recommendations to the Welsh Government and Minister on:

Local and regional spend via Supporting People Spend plans against service user group priorities.

Virement of SPPG between service user groups (over 10% of total service user group allocation) within the local and regional Supporting People plan and within the region.

Planning:

To produce the Regional Commissioning Plan including a spend plan which is submitted to Welsh Government for confirmation.

To recommend escalating any issues that cannot be resolved through local and/or regional collaboration to the Welsh Ministers.

- Develop a mechanism/framework whereby service users can be involved in developing, commissioning and reviewing support services. A range of methods to be developed to give everyone the opportunity to be involved and the barriers to involvement should be identified and addressed.
- To ensure local authorities provide appropriate monitoring information of SP spend including timely identification and reporting of underspend.

To develop an awareness of local, regional and national SP services in order to identify opportunities to realise efficiencies by coordinated planning and provision of services.

To liaise with other RCCs in order to identify synergies in service requirements to enable singular commissioning and procurement exercises.

To liaise with other RCCs to provide advice on coordinating commissioning, procurement and funding of cross-region and national service provision.

To ensure regional commissioning plans consider local Health Social Care and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Homelessness strategic objectives.

Administration

- To ensure effective information exchange between local authorities and the RCC and between RCCs (noting confidentiality requirements).
- To receive from the coordinating local authority a register of services that may be commissioned or procured at short notice should funding become available: these may be new services requiring procurement or expansion of existing services.
- To receive monitoring information on complaints and to escalate any issues to Welsh government as appropriate.
- To advise the coordinating local authority and the Welsh Government where the RCC considers that local practice is in breach of the Grant conditions. To also advise Welsh Government on any disputes within the RCC.
- Maintain a record of attendance and correspondence.
- Maintain continuous assessment on the RCC Membership to ensure parity of representation, and awareness of and participation by all SP stakeholders.

Local authority coordinating role

In each region there will be one coordinating local authority that will:

- Collate the proposed regional commissioning plans for the local authorities in that area.
- Organise the RCC meetings.
- Maintain a register of services that may be commissioned or procured at short notice.
- Employ a regional development coordinator funded by Welsh Government.
- Develop and support effective partnership working within the region on Supporting People.
- Support the RCC so that it functions effectively and is appropriately serviced.
- Develop a plan that will incorporate local and regional arrangements and evidence of the outcomes of user involvement to be evaluated and presented to the RCC.

- Ensure dialogue and collaboration between the local and regional levels with the aim to resolve any issues before commissioning and spend plans are put to local authority members.

Membership of the Regional Collaborative Committees

It is imperative that there is equal representation of key groups. The number of local authority members should be equal to the number of landlord and support provider places. The membership of the RCC will be made up of:

- Local authority Cabinet Members (or delegated officials in their absence).
- Health.
- Probation.
- Providers (representing long term and short term services) elected and supported by Cymorth Cymru and Landlords elected and supported by Community Housing Cymru.
- Service user representation.
- Co-opted members at the discretion of the RCC.
- Appropriate local authority officers, the Regional Development Coordinator and Welsh Government officials will also be able to attend the RCCs, but will not have voting rights.

The representation on the RCC championing the service users' voice could be a current service user, ex service user or a person chosen by service users to represent them. The representative(s) must be selected by service users. Arrangements need to be made for service user representatives to be supported in a similar manner to landlord and provider representatives.

During the transition year, further consideration will be given as to how the landlord representation will reflect, for example private landlords.

Priority Setting

The RCCs will develop up to three year rolling Regional Commissioning Plans, which will set out priorities/spend for the region and be reviewed annually. In the transition year, it will be a one year plan. These plans will be built upon local priorities and the co-ordinating local authority will put together the plans for the RCC to review. The RCC will identify regional priorities and any other changes required and then submit the proposed spend plan to the Welsh Government for confirmation.

Local Commissioning Plans must meet the regional priorities identified in the RCC Regional Commissioning Plans. The RCCs will receive sufficient reporting from Local Authorities to enable them to ensure that SPPG is being planned and delivered according to the principles of collaboration. The RCC will be expected, when

appropriate, to advise local authorities when the RCC considers that the use of SPPG at the local authority level appears to put local delivery at stake or not meet priorities.

During the transition period, further guidance will be issued to ensure streamlined presentation of information to RCCs to enable them to carry out their function appropriately. It is accepted that during the first year of operation commissioning plans may be in the development stage.

Meetings

Once established, RCCs will meet a minimum of quarterly. During the first six months of the implementation period, they will meet monthly.

The Chair of the RCC shall be one of the local authority members and shall be appointed annually.

The Vice Chair shall be selected from one of the other agencies and shall be appointed annually.

The RCC may set up task and finish groups at its discretion.

Servicing and resourcing

The Regional Development Coordinator will provide administrative support to the RCC.

Local authorities will provide quarterly reports to the RCC via the Regional Development Coordinator. These should reflect the content of the commissioning plan as well as additional issues the RCC may wish to consider.

SP Managers may attend, participate in and support the work of the RCC.

The Regional Development Coordinator will ensure dialogue and collaboration takes place between the local and regional levels in order to ensure any issues are resolved as early as possible in the planning process.

Local arrangements to support Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs)

As currently happens, local needs analysis and identified priorities for SP services will be determined at this level by the local Supporting People Planning Group. These will feed in to discussions at the RCCs and then into the three year rolling Regional Commissioning Plans. The Welsh Government has recently announced a rationalisation of statutory partnerships and its replacement with an integrated planning and partnership structure. Local Authorities will need to make and retain links as appropriate to other local needs mapping, analysis, planning and commissioning arrangements.

Local Supporting People Planning Groups will:

- Develop local Supporting People Commissioning Plans.
- Ensure Commissioners, Service Providers, and most importantly Service Users, are involved in the planning, development and commissioning of services and service responses that meet identified needs and agreed strategic priorities on a local and regional level.
- Ensure service providers, wider stakeholders and key commissioners are advised and informed on matters relating to the planned development and improvement of services to vulnerable people.

- Ensure the service user experience contributes to project development and service improvements agreed within the Supporting People Commissioning Plan.
- Ensure that commissioning decisions have undergone an Equalities Impact Assessment and that service delivery promotes equality and inclusive outcomes for all citizens.
- Ensure Commissioners, Service Providers and most importantly Service Users assist with the development of local and regional service specifications.

In many areas, links already exist with a wide range of stakeholder groups. Where such links do not exist, local authorities will need to establish and support such arrangements. Where appropriate, for example, where there is limited capacity, local arrangements may be cross boundary with two or more teams working together to maximise resources.

Any future local and regional collaborative arrangements must not lose sight of the option to commission some very local arrangements where these best meet needs. What is essential is that all service developments at local, regional or national level are appropriately aligned to identified local needs and priorities to:

- Aid the development of shared plans and priorities which are supported by evidence of need.
- Aid the development of an integrated and coordinated approach to reduce duplication or fragmentation and help with the development and delivery of high quality, cost effective services.
- Support the development of appropriate links with other local and national policies, strategies, initiatives and funding streams.

During the transition period, all local authority proposed commissioning plans referred to the RCC will have received prior political approval. This will inform the Minister's decision on how to allocate the SPPG funding. Any in year changes to the agreed spend plans of greater than 10% will need to be referred by the RCC to the Welsh Government having gone through the relevant political processes in the local authority. Close collaborative working between the RCCs and local authority is crucial, to reduce significant changes of greater than 10% to funding for specific user groups.

Agenda Item 10

CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

25 SEPTEMBER 2012	
Review of Faith Based Education Provision - item may slip to October as guidance is awaited from the WG on funding methodology	Cllr Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
Ruthin Schools Review – item may slip to October	Cllr Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
Treasury Management Review	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Vulnerable Families Generic Floating Support Project - Contract Award Report	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Katie Newe
Mental Health Homeless Supported Housing Project - Contract Award Report	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Katie Newe
REEMA Properties, Meliden – Building Option and Funding Model	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh
Appointments of Councillors to Outside Bodies	Gary Williams / Rhys Hughes
Bus Services and Reductions. Purpose: to consider recommendations from the Communities Scrutiny Committee	Cllr David Smith (tbc) / Peter Daniels
Bryn y Wal	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Leighton Rees
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
23 OCTOBER 2012	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Highways and Infrastructure Collaboration: Draft Service Design To be considered by Pships Scrutiny on 27 Sep?	Cllr David Smith / Stuart Davies / Danielle Edwards (CCBC)
Regional CCTV	Cllr David Smith / Graham Boase
Future of the Rhyl Sky Tower	Cllr Hugh Evans / Tom Booty
Marine lake, Rhyl: A Strategic Direction	Cllr Hugh Evans / Carol L. Evans
Ocean Plaza Update	Cllr Hugh Evans/Keith Bowler
Cefndy Healthcare: Potential loss of DWP funding and site move	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy / Deborah Holmes-Langstone
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
20 NOVEMBER 2012	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Supporting People Strategy Update and Spend Plan	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Sally Ellis / Jenny Elliott
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator

18 DECEMBER 2012	
Welsh Housing Quality Standards	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh
Financial Update Report	Cllr J Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
15 JANUARY 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
19 FEBRUARY 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
19 MARCH 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
16 APRIL 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
14 MAY 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator

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