



To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 30 November 2012

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **9.30 am** on **THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER 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 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 25th October 2012 (Copy enclosed).

5 REVIEW OF HERITAGE AND ARTS ASSETS (Pages 17 - 24)

To consider the progress to date in realising efficiencies with respect to the County's Heritage and Arts assets and the strategies developed with a view to ensuring their future viability.

6 SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 25 - 40)

The purpose of proposing the report is to consult with members on the changes proposed to Supporting People services and on allocation of the new Supporting People Programme Grant.

7 COMMUNITY COVENANT WITH THE ARMED FORCES (Pages 41 - 52)

Consultation, discussion and formulation of the terms of the Community Covenant with the Armed Forces, before presenting to County Council for formal signing.

8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 53 - 66)

To consider a report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinator (copy enclosed) seeking a review of the Committee's Forward Work Programme and updating members on relevant issues.

9 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

James Davies
Peter Evans
Carys Guy-Davies
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Rhys Hughes
Win Mullen-James

Bob Murray
Joe Welch
Cefyn Williams
Cheryl Williams
Huw Williams

COPIES TO:

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 25 October 2012 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Huw Hilditch-Roberts (Chair), Win Mullen-James, Bob Murray, Joe Welch, Cefyn Williams, Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams.

Councillors Raymond Bartley, Joan Butterfield, Meirick Lloyd Davies, Martyn Holland and Dewi Owens attended as Observers

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Learning and Communities (HW), Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure (SD), Head of Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services (GB), Section Manager–Network Management (TT), Section Manager: Traffic Transportation (MJ), Development Control Manager (PM), Democratic Services Manager (SP), Democratic Services Officer (RH) and Administrative Officer (CW).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Davies, Peter Evans, Carys Guy-Davies and Rhys Hughes

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No items were raised which in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 13th September, 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – *that the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.*

5 REVIEW OF HIGHWAY VERGE GRASS CUTTING 2012

A copy of a report by the Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure, circulated with the agenda, reviewed the grass cutting programme for 2012, assessed the effectiveness of the recommendations put forward by the Committee for 2012 and enabled the formulation of recommendations for next year's programme ensuring that Denbighshire's communities were tidy and safe for residents, businesses and

visitors. A copy of "Life on the Edge", Roadside Verges Project, Protecting Denbighshire's Wildflowers was circulated at the meeting.

The Section Manager–Network Management summarised the report which outlined the Council's grass cutting regime, highlighted the grass cutting issues from 2012 and provided details pertaining to the Contract. He responded to Members questions and explained that a grass cutting regime had been agreed and adopted whereby the first cut would be a reduced treatment on rural roads within the AONB to ensure safety levels, and elsewhere there would be a uniform cut of 1 metre wide swathe with wider treatment in areas such as junctions, visibility splays etc, to ensure visibility was not compromised. Areas which had posed challenges in 2012, and details of grass cutting issues, had been summarised in the report.

It was explained that representations expressing concern had been received from the North Wales Wildlife Trust, and the need to balance compliance with legislative requirements and the expectations of the public was highlighted. It was confirmed that a meeting would be convened between the Lead Member, officers and North Wales Wildlife Trust to discuss the issues raised.

The 2010 contract had been extended to include non principal roads for the last two years with work being undertaken by a single external contractor. Due to issues highlighted last year work had been undertaken with the Contractor to improve matters. In reply to concerns raised regarding the standard a quality of the cut, it was explained that following a successful first cut standards had deteriorated due to the wet summer and the associated increase in grass growth, and customers had been kept informed via the Customer Services section as to progress, however, this had become more difficult as the programme slipped.

As the standard contract contained no financial penalty clauses for the completion of work outside agreed timescales no action could be taken. The contractor could be notified of a failure and afforded the opportunity to address problems within an agreed time period rather than incurring loss of income. Members expressed the view that the contract be reviewed and re-tendered for next year, however, this could result in cost increases. The Contractor had undergone a management restructuring and assurances had been provided about the future management of the contract. Improvements introduced after 2011 had not worked as well as anticipated, mainly due to weather conditions, and further difficulties encountered by the Contractor in meeting the Council's needs. With regard to the need to clarify the Council's legal requirements and limitations to comply with legislation in relation to grass and hedge cutting, the Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure agreed that a fact sheet detailing the Council's obligations be circulated to Members and the information published on the intranet.

In reply to questions from Councillor H.O. Williams, the Section Manager–Network Management confirmed that, following consultation with Local Members and local Communities, a schedule for grass cutting for roads within the AONB had been circulated. The charging rates for grass and hedge cutting were outlined, which included the different rates charged for areas such as junctions where difficulties could be encountered. It was confirmed that the criteria for grass cutting in urban areas differed from rural areas and was in most instances undertaken in house.

The following responses were provided to questions and issues raised by Members:-

- the officers concurred with the view expressed that response time scales for complaints lodged through the CRM system could be reviewed.
- details of expressions of interest in the contract were outlined, and it was confirmed that the contract schedule and details had been set by the Council and were essentially quality based and lead.
- it was explained that the Council did possess powers to serve Enforcement Notice's on the owners of hedges which had not been cut and posed a danger or hazard to the public. Reference was made to the Highway Act 1980 and the relevant Enforcement Powers which enabled the Council to undertake the work and charge the landowners accordingly.
- a re-tendering process could be undertaken. However, this could incur financial implications for the Council if a higher rate of charges was submitted by contractor.
- problems had been encountered as a result of the equipment utilised by the Contractor being too large or unsuitable for use on narrow lanes and roads. An assurance was provided that in cases where work had not been undertaken due to unsuitable equipment, the work would be carried out at a future date.
- the officers responded to questions from Members and agreed to provide an information report on the grass and hedge cutting regime adopted within the Towns and urban areas of the County.
- support for the biodiversity approach was expressed by Councillor M.L. Holland, however, he emphasised the importance of the safety element in determining the grass and hedge cutting regime. He also highlighted the importance of consultation with the respective Community Councils, and Member input, when considering future contract arrangements.

The Chair highlighted the need to review the contract and for the provision of evidence and clarification regarding its current and future requirements, expectations and details of its matrix. Reference was made to the importance of securing a robust contract and Service Level Agreement to ensure that performance standards met expectations. He outlined the significance of consulting with the community and engaging Members in the composition of the contract, particular reference being made to the need to clarify issues in respect of AONB and biodiversity requirements.

The Corporate Director: Customers referred to the previous decisions taken with regard to the procurement of the current contract, and outlined the timescales for securing a contract for the coming year. The Section Manager–Network Management expressed his support for the decisions taken previously and was confident that the issues raised by the North Wales Wildlife trust could be resolved. He agreed that further information pertaining to the operation and matrix of the current contract could be provided and work could be undertaken to procure a new contract with in put from Members.

The Committee supported the view that the contract be reviewed and that Councillors W. Mullen-James, J.S. Welch and H.O. Williams, together with the Lead Member, provide Member in put with regard to the process. Members agreed that

a further progress report be submitted to the January, 2013 meeting of the Committee.

During the ensuing discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – *that the Communities Scrutiny Committee:-*

(a) receives the report and notes the progress and success of the overall cutting regime put in place for 2012.

(b) agrees that the officers, Lead Member and Members identified meet to review the matrix of the existing Contract utilising the evidence and statistics available, and

(c) an information update report be submitted to the January, 2013 meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to inform the Committee of the outcome of these discussions.

6 PREPARATION FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE FOR THE 2012-2013 SEASON

A copy of report by the Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure, which detailed the preparation for the 2012/2013 Winter Maintenance Programme, provided information regarding the delivery of safer routes for the County's residents and on keeping the County open for business during adverse weather conditions, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Section Manager–Network Management provided a detailed summary of the report which included issues pertaining to the following key areas and issues:-

- No changes made to the Council's approach in preparing for winter maintenance.
- The retention of the services of Agricultural Contractors.
- Salt stocks levels at Depots at Bodelwyddan, Corwen and Ruthin
- Arrangements for salt heaping and salt bin replenishment.
- Rota arrangements for forecasting and supervision.
- Details of the communication strategy developed in conjunction with the Public Relations Team and Customer Services.
- Contingency arrangements with officers and staff in both Countryside Services and Public Realm.

The officers informed the Committee that they were confident that satisfactory winter maintenance arrangements were in place, and that there was a significant budget allocated to ensure that the service could properly cope with adverse weather. There was also a separate contingency for any particularly severe problems although this had not been drawn on in recent years.

The provision of the Winter Maintenance service was a Statutory requirement under Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 111 Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003. The extent of the requirement to meet the duty had been a matter of debate. However, it had been accepted that the Council's published gritting routes provided at least the minimum provision expected. Additional provision would depend on the availability of resource and regular discussions were held with stakeholders to ascertain the best approach to be adopted.

- In response to a question from Councillor R.M. Murray, it was explained that the recommendation in the code of practice states that vehicles should not exceed 30 mph while gritting. He confirmed that the vehicles were calibrated and fitted with trackers, and that there were various settings for spreading in relation to road widths.
- The Joint Head of Highways and infrastructure outlined the Authority's Statutory Duty to treat adopted roads. It was explained that other Directorates, such as Lifelong Learning and social Services, had made arrangements in respect of their own services and properties, however, a contingency plan was in place to deal with emergencies.
- An outline of the salt stock levels within the County, as required by the Welsh Government, was provided by the officers. The officers assured Members that, unless there were extreme weather conditions resulting in a national shortage of salt supplies, they were confident that there would be sufficient supplies in Denbighshire.
- It was confirmed that two small gritting machines had been purchased to treat areas within the Towns.
- Details of legislation relating to drivers working hours, and work rota's for drivers, was provided by the Section Manager–Network Management. It was agreed that further details pertaining the agreement with Unions in respect of drivers' hours could be provided.
- Members were informed that private contractors could be utilised for winter maintenance purposes if required.
- It was confirmed that there would be a charge to replenish salt stocks in salt bins on school sites.
- Pavements in towns, such as those in shopping areas, would be treated following the completion of work on the main arterial network which would receive priority.
- With regard to the treatment of roads leading to homes for the elderly, unadopted roads, car parks and pavements in towns, the Section Manager–Network Management confirmed that Public Realm staff would be utilised to assist with snow clearance and the spreading of salt and grit when available. He outlined the difficulties which could be encountered in providing winter maintenance services to areas outside the designated responsibility of the Authority. The Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure confirmed that officers would liaise with Social Services to ensure that there was sufficient contingency for dealing with winter weather around housing developments for the elderly and vulnerable groups.
- The schedule for gritting and winter maintenance would be made available and included on the web-site when finalised.
- Members were informed that if the situation arose where salt placed in salt bins or salt heaps was being misused then the appropriate action would be taken, such as the addition of coloring to salt supplies.
- Confirmation was provided that a Denbighshire emergency telephone number was available.

During the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that clarification be provided outlining details of the areas of responsibility for winter maintenance with regard to the respective Directorates. The Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure confirmed

that there would be a focus on the priorities emanating from the adopted highway network and other areas raised would be referred to SLT for consideration.

RESOLVED – *that the Communities Scrutiny Committee:-*

(a) agrees that the Winter Maintenance preparations were sufficient for the winter conditions anticipated.

(b) confirms that the contingency arrangements for more severe conditions were also adequate, and

(c) request that clarification be provided outlining details of the areas of responsibility for winter maintenance with regard to the respective Directorates.

7 PROGRESS WITH HIGHWAYS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE WORK AND MAJOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

A copy of report by the Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure, which detailed the progress to date with the highways maintenance programme and outlined the mechanism and potential funding streams for large scale infrastructure investment within Denbighshire, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. An information report which detailed the mechanism and potential funding streams for large scale infrastructure investment within Denbighshire had been included as Appendix 1.

The Section Manager–Network Management explained that work had commenced on the draft programme for next year and he would be attending Area Group meetings to discuss the proposals. The Chair informed Members that the Strategic Investment Group had recently considered a report on Welsh Government investment and funding with regard to highways, and requested a consistent risk assessment across the highways infrastructure to enable the prioritisation of expenditure.

The report detailed progress of the 2012/13 Capital Maintenance programme. Improving the condition of roads remained a priority and Denbighshire had committed £1,400,000 in 2012/2013, with the specific intention of targeting the County roads which had been the subject of complaints or potential risks. There had been an allocation of £2,022,000, Welsh Government Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) funding, and this had been focused mainly on the A and B roads within the County. The entire programme had been linked to addressing specific issues identified as part of the more technical surveys such as SCRIM, an assessment of skidding resistance.

The resurfacing programme had been split into three main categories of traditional bituminous resurfacing, microasphalt and Surface Dressing. Details of the schemes, together with, programmed works and schemes currently being undertaken, had been summarised in the report. Over the remaining months of the financial year approximately twelve remaining schemes had been scheduled into the programme which was currently within budget.

Bad weather had hampered work on some of the bridges and this work would now be deferred into 2013/14. Details of work progressed and schemes completed

within the current financial year had been outlined in the report, together with, the inclusion of a list of bridge strengthening and refurbishment works.

In reply to questions from Members, it was explained that the 2013/14 Capital Maintenance Programme would be finalised by January, 2013. Work would be funded jointly between the LGBI and Denbighshire's own resources, at present funding had been estimated at around £3.5 million for the overall programme, which included bridges and street lighting. A detailed programme would be required for submission to the Welsh Government by December, 2012 and this would be communicated to all elected Members, Town and Community Councils and put on the website. The report outlined the consultation process adopted and highlighted the main associated risks. It was confirmed that the review cycle period for work undertaken on highways could now be identified following long term financial commitment.

Councillor R.M. Murray referred to problems relating to resurfacing work undertaken on the Coast Road between Rhyl and Prestatyn. He also expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the Group Manager: Change Programme, Business Support and Tourism in his supervisory role. The Section Manager–Network Management provided details of the work undertaken and the supervisory role of the Council. He confirmed that any failures relating to the standard or quality of work would be addressed by the contractor under the warranty and he agreed to examine the areas of concern raised by Members.

In reply to concerns raised by Councillor W. Mullen-James, it was explained that repair and improvement works relating to the condition of the road surface on the A 547 between Rhuddlan and Abergele would require significant investment. The costs incurred in cleaning mud deposited on the highway, which renders them in a dangerous condition, could be charged to the perpetrator if they do not undertake the work themselves. With regard to the issue of clearing leaves from the highway, the need to strike a balance between safety and expenditure would be significant.

In response to a question from Councillor J. Welch, the Section Manager–Network Management explained that a two year programme of scheduled highway improvements was currently being developed in line with the Welsh Government funding through the local government borrowing initiative. The Joint Head of Highways and Infrastructure highlighted the need for caution when producing a draft programme of work. He stressed the need to balance the ability to deliver against expectancy levels, and ensure the delivery of services in line with the resources available.

The Section Manager–Network Management replied to concerns raised by Councillor C.H. Williams and explained that it was anticipated that scour works on bridges, not undertaken in the summer due to high water levels, would be undertaken next summer if water levels permitted. Details of the gully emptying schedule were outlined for Members.

The Chair summarised the areas of concern and issues raised by Members which included the:-

- clearance of mud deposited on highways, particularly farm and field entrances.
- carry over plan for the undertaking of bridge works.
- production of a 2 year forward work programme plan, with an outline of the background and history to be presented to the Area Member Groups.
- management of expectations of the highway maintenance work programme, including communication, particular reference to Town and Community Councils.

The Section Manager: Traffic Transportation referred to Appendix 1 to the report and explained that the TAIH North Wales Regional Transport Plan (RTP) was the mechanism for the identification, development and delivery of major transport infrastructure schemes. It included the six North Wales Local Authorities with Denbighshire being represented by the Lead Member for Public Realm and the Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

The RTP transport policy objectives and priorities aligned with the objectives in the Wales Transport Strategy. Associated with the RTP was the annual capital funding from the Welsh Government which was termed Regional Transport Consortia Grant (RTCG). TAIH collated bids for RTCG from the six authorities as part of an annual bidding process, together with bids for Region-wide projects. All projects receiving RTCG would be included in the RTP programme and each project independently assessed to check compliance with the RTP transport policy objectives and priorities. Projects not meeting the transport policy would not be included in the programme. Approximately £4.5 million of RTCG would be available for the TAIH region per annum, although this could be reduced to under £4.0 million the next two years. Details of Denbighshire projects funded from the RTCG in recent years had been included in the report. It was confirmed that there had been examples where the Welsh Government had funded relief road projects. Only 18 months of the current 5 year programme remained and preparations would need to be made for the next 5 year programme which would commence in 2014. Details of the consultation process with Members was outlined

Members were informed that Taith provided an important source of funding for the Council and this would become more prevalent as regional working increased. The importance of ensuring their benefit was maximised was highlighted. Any projects funded by the Regional Transport Consortia Grant would be subject to a robust project management methodology to ensure any risks associated with an individual project were managed appropriately.

The officers provided the following responses to issues and matters raised by Members:-

- Details of capital funding, maintenance and future up keep costs for cycle paths were outlined by the Section Manager: Traffic Transportation.
- There were currently no plans pertaining to the Lower Denbigh Road from St Asaph to Denbigh. However, the views of Members would be sought through the consultation process with regard to the preparations for the forthcoming 5 year plan.
- It was explained that it was the intention to extend the Vale of Clwyd Cycle Way through to Ruthin, which would provide a link to the North and South of the Colomendy Business Park.

- Discussions had taken place with the Strategic Directors in Conwy County Borough Council regarding the clearance of sand from the cycle path on the Conwy side of the Harbour development. It was confirmed that consideration had been given to the provision of screening and discussions in respect of this matter were on going. It was agreed that a progress report be provided in respect of this matter.
- With regard to the forthcoming Eisteddfod to be held in Denbigh, it was confirmed that liaison meetings of the Strategic Group, chaired by the Corporate Director: Customers, had been held to consider access arrangements. Sub-Groups had been set up which included the Safety Advisory Group which incorporated areas relating to Emergency Planning and Traffic Plan arrangements.

Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – *that the Communities Scrutiny Committee notes the:-*

- (a) contents of the report and Appendix 1.*
- (b) progress to date and confirms the proposed strategy for going forward.*
- (c) involvement of the Council in the strategic infrastructure development, and*
- (d) issues and areas of concern raised by Members and agrees the actions highlighted.*

8 BRINGING PLANNING CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

The Development Control Manager (DCM) introduced a report on the way the Development Control and Compliance Team consulted and engaged with the community on planning proposals. The DCM outlined the current approach to consultation and communication and advised that the team now wanted to develop their practices further and had drawn up draft service standards for planning consultation and community engagement.

Councillors Huw Williams queried whether some town and community council members would benefit from training on planning matters and related code of conduct issues such as when to declare personal interests. The DCM reported that further training on those issues would be helpful and would be supported by the service. Councillor Martyn Holland suggested that neighbouring town and community councils could join together for joint training, for example, suggesting that the three community councils in his ward could be invited to do so, a suggestion that the Head of Planning and Public Protection Services (HPPPS) supported.

Members of the Committee praised the department for the level and standard of interaction with town and community councils and for improved interaction with members generally. The HPPPS thanked the Committee for their comments but stated that the service still intended to secure further improvements.

RESOLVED – *That the Communities Scrutiny Committee:*

- (a) Supports the arrangements currently used by the Planning service to liaise with town and community councils;*

(b) Supports the draft information guide which sets out proposed service standard for the planning consultation and community engagement; and

(c) Congratulates Planning staff for their proactive approach to community engagement.

9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Officer (DSO) introduced a report on the committee's forward work programme. He advised that a report on a review of day care services in the north of the county had been deferred until January when relevant financial information would be available.

Councillor Joan Butterfield stated that members in the north of the county were of the view that the report was urgently required. The Corporate Director: Customers (CDC) responded by suggesting that the report could be received in December rather than January; and a report on Etape be deferred until January to make room on the agenda. However, this would depend on sufficient information being available to justify consideration of the day care services report in December.

The Committee agreed to this approach.

Members also agreed to receive a report on the Supporting People Strategy in February 2013 which would follow the publication of the authority's 3 year spending plans

The Committee agreed to consider the draft Local Housing Strategy in February 2013, and the final strategy document would be considered by the committee around June 2013. However, the committee requested confirmation that there would be sufficient time and opportunity for them to suggest amendments to the draft strategy if they were thought to be needed.

The DSO reminded the committee that a copy of the draft tenancy handbook had been circulated to members of the committee with an invitation to make comments or suggestions on the contents. He also reported that a new draft tenancy agreement was expected to be circulated to the Communities Scrutiny Committee soon. Councillor Butterfield referred to the involvement of registered social landlords and queried whether their views would be taken into consideration and the possible merits of referring the issue to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee was discussed by members, but a referral was not agreed.

The DSO advised that a consultation report on a community covenant with the armed forces would be circulated to members of the committee in November. The Chair requested members to copy their responses to the other members of the committee for information and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above amendments, the Communities Scrutiny Work Programme be approved.*

10 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

No updates from committee representatives on the various Council boards and groups were given.

Meeting ended and 12.40 p.m.

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Report to:	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 December 2012
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Tourism Leisure and Youth
Report Author:	Head of Environmental Services
Title:	Review of Heritage and Arts Assets

1. What is the report about?

To consider the progress to date in realising efficiencies with respect to the County's Heritage and Arts assets and the strategies developed with a view to ensuring their future viability. The aim was to develop a service that would deliver the maximum benefits for local residents, communities, tourists and the Council.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

In November 2010 Tom Booty produced a comprehensive report for the Corporate Executive Team (CET) titled "Review of Heritage Assets and associated arms-length companies". The report analysed the options available to the council, and concluded that there was no easy option for disposal or outsourcing of the assets.

The council therefore decided (instead) to try to get the service into a more sustainable long term position, and the service was transferred to Environmental Services on 1 April 2011, with this outcome in mind. Significant changes have taken place since that time, and even more changes are planned for the future. Now is therefore a good time for members to evaluate the direction of travel.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee

- 3.1 discuss and endorses the operational measures that the Service has put in place, and the direction of travel that is now being followed; and
- 3.2 scrutinises the financial position of the Service in approximately one year's time, when the results from the 2013 season are known.

4. Report details

The heritage assets that are operated by the Council are; Ruthin Gaol, Nant Clwyd y Dre (Ruthin), Plas Newydd (Llangollen), and Rhyl Museum. The heritage portfolio also covers the Council's relationship with the Bodelwyddan Castle Trust.

The collection of artefacts that the Service is responsible for managing totals some 30,000 items. This figure was growing year on year. Previously, any Denbighshire-related item that was of historical interest had been accepted into the collection. From now on the Council is only accepting items that are of outstanding value or outstanding interest.

The Denbighshire collection had not been catalogued properly, and a lot of work is required if we are to secure ongoing museum accreditation (due in April 2013). We will be seeking museum status for the facilities at Plas Newydd and Ruthin Gaol. It is not intended to seek museum status for the display area in Rhyl Library.

The focus going forward is to make sure that the events at our facilities are better attended, and that they generate more revenue than they have in the past. Previously there was very little evaluation or cost benefit analysis of what had been happening.

The other major theme is closer working relationships with local communities and volunteer groups. In the past, the Service had operated largely in isolation.

The appendices to this report set out some of the detailed actions that have now been taken to make the service more viable, whilst achieving the desired outcomes. The results to date include increased visitor numbers and increased revenue levels. The general principles being followed (that were not necessarily being followed previously), include:

- a) Managing the Service through an effective forward plan and reviewing service provision using proper data on visitor numbers, income generation, and consultation outcomes (i.e. improved customer focus).
- b) Building close working arrangements with Bodelwyddan Castle Trust
- c) The increased use of Volunteer Groups in all aspects of service delivery
- d) Improving the management of the Denbighshire collection and developing a meaningful exhibition programme with the collection as its focus.
- e) Wider community engagement; including meetings with Member Area Groups (MAGs), Town Councils and Community Groups.
- f) a shift in emphasis away from a curatorial role, and more towards “running and promoting our visitor attractions”. e.g. we now have a Commercial Manager in post, rather than a museum curator.
- g) The Service still supports important cultural initiatives, e.g. the Edward Pugh Festival and World War 1 (WW1) commemorations etc. The Service also welcomes opportunities to work with the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, and Denbighshire Tourism to develop our contribution to National Eisteddfod 2013
- h) We will continue to develop appropriate education programmes, i.e. after proper consultation with schools and the Council’s Education Department
- i) The Service is now a significant player within Tourism Partnership North Wales and the Destination Denbighshire project. The Service has developed a very close working relationship with Council’s Countryside Department.

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

The new emphasis on visitor attraction fits in very well with the Council’s priority to develop the local economy, i.e. the tourism economy in particular. The Service features in the council’s destination management plan.

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

The aim is to stay within existing budget levels, and to increase income levels, so that money can be reinvested in order to make our sites even more attractive. A summary of the current financial position is included at Appendix 2. We expect the position to improve next year as a result of the initiatives that have now been put in place.

There are no significant legal, equality or ICT impacts. The work being undertaken at our sites will aid biodiversity, e.g. woodland management at Plas Newydd. Friends of the Earth are attempting a project that might result in energy generation from the stream at Plas Newydd

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The new arrangements were developed after extensive consultation with heritage staff, and other departments of the Council. We have an ongoing dialogue with CYMAL, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the Bodellwyddan Castle Trust. We have also consulted with MAGs on the work that is being done

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

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

The main risk is that the expected increases in income levels cannot be delivered. However, all of the measures described in this report are designed to prevent that from happening.

The forward plan includes:

- Implementation of our Volunteer Policy
- A target for increased income of 10% in the 2013 season
- Securing museum accreditation for two of our sites – March 2013
- To have a viable Events Strategy in place by – April 2013
- To develop an improved marketing strategy by – April 2013
- To catalogue the collection properly, and use it as a primary resource for a programme of exhibitions, including exhibits to support the National and International Eisteddfodau etc.

10. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3.4 of the Council's Constitution

Contact Officers:

Environmental Services Group Manager Tel: 01824 712130

Heritage Commercial Manager Tel: 01824 708259

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(NEW INITIATIVES) Communities Scrutiny Committee - 6 Dec.2012**a) Service wide improvements**

Actions Taken	Comments / Detail
Annual Membership	Introduction of an annual membership allow access to Plas Newydd, Ruthin Gaol & NCyD increased the product offer to the visitor
Social Media	Development and use of sites specific Facebook & Twitter pages has allowed promotion & access to a wider audience
Customer feedback	Comprehensive customer surveys have been used for the 1 st time this year. This has given constructive feedback on what we are doing well and on areas for development
Education	Redesigned & delivered educational programme, according to need, following consultation with schools
ICT investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowed more effective use of booking systems for group bookings Meant greater ease of communication between sites & visitors
Shop stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater range of products along with rationalisation of existing old stock resulting in better sales
Staff consultation & training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased staff 'buy in' to service development & reduced anxiety over future Processes for staff management put in place to ensure that DCC policies are applied as appropriate and fairly, increasing confidence in management 'World Host' training start of a more customer focussed approach
Collection management investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in new racking in collection store allows the Ladies of Llangollen's collection to be moved to safe, suitable environment Investment in micro climate controlled cases in Plas Newydd means that collection left on site is kept in suitable conditions Support from Bodelwyddan Castle Director, Dr K. Mason has meant a greater understanding of collection management issues
Weddings & Paranormal bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 weddings were held at Plas Newydd in 2012 (none in 2011). 2 weddings at Plas Newydd & 1 at Ruthin Gaol booked so far for 2013 Paranormal bookings are slightly down on 2011 number (largely due to the current economic climate) but promotional drive to attract paranormal companies has begun and has already resulted in 1 new company making 3 bookings for 2013
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income 2012 season are 4% higher than 2011 season

b) Nant Clwyd y Dre

Actions Taken	Comments / Detail
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding for Lord's Garden Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint project with Countryside Services supporting HLF bid & project management input Consultation with public, Friends, Town Council & Members undertaken Volunteer Coordinator for project recruited. Initial 6th month research phase of project started
Development of Friends & Denbighshire Heritage Services (DHS) relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Friends & DHS meetings held DHS supporting Friends events with Health & Safety advice, providing signage for events Ensured that Friends were included in consultation regarding Lords Garden Project Looking to develop long term plan for effective use of monies raised by Friends.

Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very successful Friends events with Macbeth & choir at Nantclwyd y Dre this year. • 1st 'meet the people of Nantclwyd y Dre' successful
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b) Old Gaol, Ruthin

Actions Taken	Comments / Detail
Events programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased attendance & more effective marketing, in particular at family market • Well thought out & executed events by allowing Heritage Assistants 'freedom' to use their skills in research & delivery
Exhibition & education provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project started to clear double cell in basement to be revamped as secure exhibition area & for use as education work room

b) Plas Newydd site

Actions Taken	Comments / Detail
Development of a ten year Management Plan for the site 2012 -2022, which identifies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas for potential community involvement / future development • a series of objectives which fulfil the criteria of the Green Flag Award. • a management plan covering conservation and maintenance of the grounds
Carry out improvements to the Café & Courtyard area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of "covers" via: new seating, new York stone paving, parasol to cover courtyard. Upgrade tills to provide data on visitor numbers and spend profiles. Agreed service level agreement (SLA) with Catering Services, and improved menu
Maintenance of Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree SLA with Public Realm • Introduce annual tree inspection with follow up programme of work • Apply granite chippings to all pathways • Engage Probationary Service team to assist with maintenance • Develop volunteer group to assist with maintenance (three currently engaged) • Project implemented with Friends of the Earth to create an allotment
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed partnership with Countryside Services to develop Minibus Service calling at Plas Newydd and other sites of interest in the Dee Valley (seasonal) • provide Minibus Service on specific days from the town to Plas (holiday periods) • marketing leaflets to promote site distributed to local hotels ,campsites (& beyond)
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved (and more popular) events programme – e.g. dog show (Educational as well as a fun day) Mazda Car run – over 60 cars visited site on tour of North Wales • Rotary Fete, etc.

b) Collections Management

Actions Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved dialogue with CyMAL to address the issues surrounding the management and storage of the collections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with staff at Bodelyyddan Castle to procure specialist expertise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop funding bid in order to provide additional staffing resource to bring the recording of the collections up to date.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade ICT equipment to avoid duplication of entries and to ensure all records are fully backed up.

Latest financial position.

Communities Scrutiny - 6 December 2012

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2012	
Total Cash Limited budget (£9k service saving was offered-up at start of year)	£ 220,349
Actuals To Date	£ 195,976
Commitments	£ 21,525
Total Expenditure	£ 217,502
Forecast Out-turn	£ 244,991
Forecast Variance (overspend) *	£ 24,642

* we have had a full period of maternity cover to deal with this year.
Also, a senior manager left in June, and has not been replaced.

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Report to:	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	6th December 2012
Lead Member / Officer:	Corporate Director of Modernisation and Wellbeing
Report Authors:	Service Manager, Adult Services and Senior Finance Officer
Title:	Consultation on the Supporting People Spend Plan & Changes to the Supporting People Strategy for 2013 to 2014

1. What is the report about?

The three year spend plan for Supporting People (SP) and changes to the SP Strategy including the implications for Denbighshire County Council of changes to the SP Programme across Wales.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To consult with Members on updates to the SP Strategy and 3 year spend plan. Cabinet has requested that Scrutiny consider the impact of the National changes on DCC as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme. Further detail will be provided in 2013 as implications of the new arrangements become clearer.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Scrutiny notes the tight reporting timescales and comments on the 3 year spend plan and changes to the SP strategy for 13/14, as part of the consultation process.

4. Report details.

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. In Denbighshire, Supporting People funds a wide range of services including elements of sheltered housing, extra care, women’s refuges, community living schemes for people with learning disabilities and schemes for homeless people.

Current Position.

- 4.2** Changes to the administration of the SP programme are taking place across Wales. These include a new funding distribution formula, and transfer of contracting responsibilities for some services from Welsh Government to local authorities. In addition, new governance arrangements, including Regional Collaborative Committees (RCC), with key responsibilities for the SP Programme, have now been established across Wales.
- 4.3** The RCC has responsibility to make recommendations on local and regional spend to the Minister who would then make the resource decision. Therefore the Minister would be involved in decisions on local and regional spend on SP services and virement of funding between the local and regional plans within the region

Implications for Denbighshire

- 4.4** The 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. The rate of cut is 4% (£273k in 12/13), 4% in 13/14 (£276k) plus 5% in each of 14/15, 15/16 plus 16/17. Denbighshire has begun to prepare 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 establishment of Regional Collaborative Committees reduces the role that the Council has previously had. New guidance and changes to grant terms and conditions are also reducing flexibility.

The RCC delivery structure

- 4.5** There are many unknowns about how the new delivery structure will operate, 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. 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.
- 4.6** Recommendations made to Cabinet on 4th September were that, despite identified 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.

Changes to the SP strategy 2013/14

4.7 Details of the changes are included in appendix 1 pages 2 and 3 and are highlighted in yellow for ease of identification. A new 3 year rolling strategy will need to be developed during 2013 to mirror the new 3 year spend plan and this will set out how the projected deficit in 2014/15 and 2015/16 will be managed.

The 3 year spend plan

4.8 The grant calculations and impact of the spending reduction for 2012/13 and subsequent 4 years are shown in Appendix 2.

4.9 The overall reduction of 4% in 13/14 equates to £276k and proposals will be put to the RCC for reductions to be found within PDSI (£125K) (which has a reduced demand) uncommitted resources from 12/13 (£109k) and learning disability services (£42k).

4.10 The 3 year spend plan also requires the reporting of 2014/15 and 2015/16. The obligatory levels of savings are again detailed in Appendix 2. Though WG requires a 3 year spend plan (13/14 to 15/16) it is DCC's intention to be clear at this stage about Year 1 (13/14) but to state that more time is needed to develop proposals for 14/15 and 15/16. We believe other North Wales authorities will do the same. It is also DCC's proposal that a more even distribution of the cut is applied as all cuts to date have been taken from former SPG services (essentially those funding community care related services). The required levels of savings have been broken down into the previously categorised SPG, SPRG and WAG SPRG projects. These reductions are required in order to balance the indicated grant funding for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

4.11 All projects are subject to a review process. As this develops, the reviews may help inform other options to deliver the required level of savings. All reviews will consider the eligibility of services, "strategic relevance to fund" and performance against contracts and outcomes.

4.12 The 2012/13 and 2013/14 Spend Plans are included in Appendix 3.

4.13 The time scales for reporting the financial information to the RCC is included in Appendix 4.

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.

This will have an impact on the Social Care and Housing budgets. The final impact is unclear but is £167k in 13/14 and could be around £133k in 14/15 and £126k in 15/16.

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

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Consultation on SP Programme Arrangements and guidance

The Welsh Government has undertaken extensive consultation on the proposals for RCC's. The WG planned review of the new arrangements will include an assessment of how the Programme is meeting the requirements of the WG Single Equality Scheme and action plan.

Consultation on Denbighshire's SP strategy and Spend plan

The Supporting People Planning Group held 3 meetings during the development of this report and considered "Strategic Priority to Fund" commissioning tools, Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) data, outcomes reports, supply map information and feedback from stakeholders and consultation meetings.

A consultation event for current support providers was held in July 2012 and feedback reported to the SP Planning.

A final consultation event with providers & stakeholders will take place early in December. The final document will be submitted to the Supporting People Planning Group on 10th December 2012 and to Cabinet for approval on 18th December 2012.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The reductions in grant funding and the implications on the Supporting People programme - and the wider impact on other social care budgets will continue to be carefully managed. The council has been prudent and made some financial provision to dampen the impact of funding reductions but the programme and the services it funds will have to be kept under review to ensure expenditure does not exceed the allocated funding. The establishment of a regional structure to manage Supporting People is at an early stage and the full implications of this will become clearer over the coming months.

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

The proposals to manage the reduction in grant funding in 2013/14 are reasonable. Any in-year shortfall in social care budgets could be met from the reserve established to manage the planned grant cuts. The proposal to distribute grant reductions equally over all SP services spreads the impact more evenly but does pose risks within the context of a regional committee with potentially differing views around priorities within the overall SP funding. A more even distribution of cuts means the impact upon the council generally is more manageable and would provide more flexibility in use of the SP reserve to deal with the issue.

10. Power to make the Decision

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

Contact Officer:

Business Service Manager
Tel: 01824 706556

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SP Strategy Changes 13/14

Section 5: Proposed Actions 2013 – 2014

5.1 Actions for the Community Safety & Homelessness funding portfolios 2013-14

5.1.1 Redistribution	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.1.1 Determine the long term Strategic Priority to Fund of all services in the light of a likely reduction in funding for Denbighshire resulting from the geographical redistribution of Supporting People funding across Wales.	Review existing funding
5.1.2 Domestic Abuse	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.2.1 Review Domestic Abuse floating support services in the light of findings from the possible new county wide service (see c above) & Denbighshire's "move on" framework to inform future strategic priority to fund (SPTF)	N/A (within existing Supporting People (SP) Team resources)
5.1.3 Ex Offenders	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.3.1 Implement the findings of a North Wales Supporting People Planning Group regional review of ex-offender services at a local level. This will consider provision for women ex-offenders.	Review existing services if required.
5.1.4 Families	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.4.1 Establish robust systemic links between Supporting People services for Families and Integrated Family Support Services at both strategic and operational levels.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)
5.1.5 Young People	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.5.1 Review all Young People's accommodation based services with a focus on outcomes and rent levels (Carried forward from 2012/13)	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)
5.1.5.2 Continue to seek to develop a 24 hour staffed Young People project subject to securing appropriate accommodation.	Plans are in place for the building of a supported housing project in Denbigh. Commissioning of support services for this project will take place as the project develops. Long term funding is already allocated and this will progress in the next 1-2 years.
5.1.5.3 Review the effectiveness of Y Dyfodol's new dispersed model of supported housing following embedding of the new service model.	N/A (within existing SP Team resources)
5.1.5.4 In anticipation of the end of temporary recycled funding for the Nacro Symud Ymlaen 24Hour provision, to determine future service specification and revenue funding for the property n partnership Clwyd Alyn Housing	To be funded with Housing Services and Children and Family Services.

Association e.g. as a jointly commissioned small assessment centre for young homeless people as described in the Denbighshire County Council Young People's Housing and Support Action Plan	
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5.1.6 Homelessness	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.6.1 Consider the implications for housing related support services of Housing Services review of the accommodation requirements of Gypsies & travellers to ensure that needs are addressed through inclusive service responses.	07/03/2012 SPPG agreed that this action should be carried forward to 2013-2014 pending the completion of Housing Service' review.
5.1.6.2 Monitor and review the impact of welfare reforms and benefit cuts and liaise with Denbighshire County Council Housing Services' project with to mitigate the effects of these changes for residents in housing need.	Consultation has taken place with Housing around the House Share Scheme

5.1.7 Substance Misuse (Homelessness Prevention and Community Safety)	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.1.7.1 Implement the Regional SP Strategy for people with Substance Misuse needs when published.	Review existing services if required

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

5.2.1 Regeneration	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.2.1.1 Review the potential need for additional capacity for existing floating support services.	This action will be carried forward to 2013-14.

5.2.2 Redistribution	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.2.2.1 Determine the long term Strategic Priority to Fund of all services in the light of a likely reduction in funding for Denbighshire resulting from the geographical redistribution of Supporting People funding across Wales.	Review existing funding

5.2.3 Mental Health (Community Care)	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.2.3.1 Continue to seek to develop a 24 hour staffed Mental Health project subject to securing appropriate accommodation. Utilise Telecare where possible and appropriate & tie service into the "Move-on" Framework	Long term funding already allocated
5.2.3.2 To contribute to achieving the outcome detailed in Denbighshire's Big Plan to: <i>"provide effective preventative support services to vulnerable individuals and families, including those with mental health problems, to ensure their housing needs are met. People with mental health needs will be more effectively supported to live independently, in their own homes."</i>	Existing Resources
5.2.3.3 To investigate the potential for improving information sharing and the coordination of accommodation based services for people with Mental Health needs given the	

absence of a system similar to Swansea City Council's "OASIS" (Opportunities for Accommodation and Support in Swansea) service in North Wales.	
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5.2.4 Older People	
Action 2013 – 2014	Finance
5.2.4.1 To develop an Older peoples accommodation and support strategy in collaboration between the Supporting People team and Housing Services to commence in 2012-13 and complete in 2013-14.	Existing Resources

APPENDIX 2

Grant Funding	2012/2013 £	2013/2014 £	2014/2015 £	2015/2016 £	2016/2017 £	
SPG						
SPRG						
SPRG - ASP						
Total	6,725,544	6,449,793	6,127,303	5,820,938	5,529,891	
£ Reduction	272,929	275,751	322,490	306,365	291,047	1,468,582
Budget Reduction Assumptions	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	
Impact on Funding & Reserves						
INCOME						
SP Grant	6,725,544	6,449,793	6,127,303	5,820,938	5,529,891	
Additional Funding	30,531	30,531	30,531	30,531	30,531	
TOTAL INCOME	6,756,075	6,480,324	6,157,834	5,851,469	5,560,422	
Reduction Funded by:						
Reduced PDSI funding:		125,000				
Uncommitted Resources		109,049				
Learning Disability		41,702				
Total Reduction:		275,751				

% GRANT REDUCTIONS - 2014/15			
			£
SPG - DCC	41.22%		132,944
SPG - External Providers	11.92%		38,425
SPRG	17.45%		56,289
WAG SPRG	29.41%		94,833
TOTAL REDUCTION REQUIRED:			322,490

% GRANT REDUCTIONS - 2015/16			
			£
SPG - DCC	41.22%		126,296
SPG - External Providers	11.92%		36,503
SPRG	17.45%		53,474
WAG SPRG	29.41%		90,091
TOTAL REDUCTION REQUIRED:			306,365

Time Scales for Reporting

Annex A

Supporting People Spend Plan Timetable for the Transition Year – 2012/13

Please note: Commissioning Plans including the spend plan will need to be prepared on an annual basis.

Date	Action	Actionee
August 2012	Local authorities SP Teams prepare proposed Spend Plan in consultation with stakeholders for August 2012 – March 2013 based upon indicative figures given.	LA SP Team
August 2012	Local authorities SP Teams finalise local SPPG proposed Spend Plans for the transition year for local authority political approval.	LA
August 2012 (and monthly thereafter)	First payment of SPPG to local authorities (1/8 th of remaining grant) on or near the final working day of the calendar month.	WG
September 2012	Local authorities forward proposed Spend Plans to the co-ordinating local authority for their RCC.	LA
September 2012	Co-ordinating local authority collates each proposed Spend Plan and produces a draft Regional Plan.	LA
September 2012	RCC consider draft Regional Plan. RCC forward draft Regional Plan to Welsh Government for consideration, advising whether agreed by RCC or in exceptional cases advising of areas of contention.	RCC
Sept/Oct 2012	Welsh Government considers Regional Spend Plans and decides on allocation of funds.	WG
	<i>The Welsh Government recognise that this is a challenging timeframe. Whilst delays may occur, Regional Spend Plans should be agreed and in place no later than mid October 2012</i>	

Supporting People Spend Plan Timetable – 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Date	Action	Actionee
Oct/Nov 2012	Local authorities SP Teams prepare proposed Spend Plan in consultation with stakeholders for the next three financial years (2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16).	LA
December 2012	Welsh Government to issue indicative forward allocations to local authorities.	WG
December 2012	Local authorities SP Teams submit local SPPG proposed Commissioning Plans, including spend plan, for the following three year period for local authority political approval.	LA
December 2012	Following political approval, Local authorities forward proposed Commissioning Plans to the co-ordinating local authority for their RCC.	LA
January 2013	Co-ordinating local authority collates each proposed Commissioning Plan and produces a draft Regional Plan.	LA
January 2013	RCC consider draft Regional Commissioning Plan. RCC forward draft Regional Commissioning Plan to Welsh Government for consideration advising whether agreed by RCC or in exceptional cases advising of areas of contention.	RCC
February 2013	Welsh Government budgets are confirmed.	WG

February 2013	Welsh Government considers Regional Spend Plan and decides on allocation of funds.	WG
March 2013	Welsh Government issues 2013/14 offer packs to local authorities.	WG
	For the 2013/14 Spend Plan, the timescales above should be adhered to.	

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Report To: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 December 2012

Lead Officer: Corporate Director - Customers

Report Author: Community Engagement Manager

Title: Armed Services Covenant

1. What is the report about?

All Welsh local authorities have been asked (by the WLGA and others) to sign a community covenant with the Armed Forces which seeks to establish a commitment of care to serving Service personnel, their families and veterans. The aims of the Covenant are to encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area and increase awareness and understanding amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community.

This Report contains a draft Covenant defining what we can offer Armed Services personnel in order to ensure they do not suffer any disadvantage when accessing public services.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Council in September of this year unanimously endorsed Denbighshire having a community covenant with the Armed Services and asked Scrutiny to satisfy itself on the measures Denbighshire wished to adopt.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Scrutiny discuss, comment and agree the range of Services offered to the Armed Services prior to arrangements to formally launch the Covenant at a future Council meeting with representatives of the Armed Forces and interested representatives of the community present.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces community. It is intended to complement the national Armed Forces covenant which outlines the moral obligation between the nation, the government and the armed forces, at a local level.

The principle aims of a Community Covenant are to:

- ❖ encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces Community in their area

- ❖ nurture public understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community
- ❖ recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community
- ❖ encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into social life
- ❖ to encourage the Armed Forces Community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects or other forms of engagement.

Furthermore the following principles have been enshrined in the Armed Forces Act 2011

- recognising the unique nature of Service
- ensuring that there is no disadvantage
- allowing special treatment where justified e.g. in the case of injured personnel.

4.2 In Wales, there are estimated to be at least a quarter of a million members of the Armed Forces Community, which includes serving personnel, reservists and cadets as well as their families and ex-service personnel. To maintain a high profile, 'Champions' for veterans and Armed Forces personnel have been established in every Health Board and Trust in Wales. We are currently reviewing the role of 'Champions' within the Council so will defer any decision to appoint an 'Armed Services Champion' until the review has been concluded.

5. Suggested Measures to be adopted by Denbighshire

5.1 It is important to underpin the ethos that the Armed Forces are not disadvantaged when accessing Denbighshire Services; however the Council must also be careful that we are not actively discriminating in their favour to the detriment of other groups in society unless positive discrimination is already enshrined in legislation.

5.2 The suggested Measures are as follows:

- ❖ Denbighshire County Council will offer Council Tax discount to Forces personnel who have second homes in Denbighshire but live in MOD accommodation. (We currently have no properties in this position).
- ❖ Families of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. Denbighshire will ensure that the needs of the children of these families are taken into account and School places will be allocated to children and their families in advance of the approaching school year if accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) letter declaring a return date.

- ❖ Service personnel who are registered to vote in Denbighshire and have a postal vote with a BPFO address will be given priority at any given election and sent en masse to the Electoral Services Department at Rushmoor Borough Council in Hampshire coordinator for all local authorities in the UK.
- ❖ Serving Armed Forces personnel will be offered discounted entry to Council operated Leisure Centres and its facilities.
- ❖ Veterans, single persons and/or families are already a priority on discharge from the forces in line with the Homelessness Act 2002. Denbighshire's Homelessness Services will prioritise decisions on ALL veterans, including those injured/disabled/NFA (No fixed abode), or disadvantaged due to relationship breakdown or inability to sustain a tenancy, or on release from hospital, or with vulnerability e.g. mental health, and enhance the service by proactively trawling local estate agents to identify a suitable property.
- ❖ Denbighshire will offer proactive housing advice and assistance with prevention deposits/bond etc payable to facilitate uptake of accommodation. We will offer support to include financial inclusion - assistance with energy efficiency, budgeting, sourcing furniture, credit union, access to training and employment through the enhanced housing options protocol.
- ❖ Denbighshire's new Allocations policy gives highest medical points for injured/disabled veterans, therefore promoting access to suitable and affordable accommodation for veterans and their families.
- ❖ Service personnel and veterans will receive priority for 'Homebuy', dependent on their individual financial circumstances and lenders borrowing rules.
- ❖ Denbighshire County Council's Partnerships and Communities Team will be the designated liaison officers with the Armed Services and the community in meeting the aims of the Covenant.
- ❖ The Council will regularly review its services in relation to the Covenant and implement improved delivery of services to the Armed Services community.

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

The formal signing of the covenant demonstrates our commitment to 'getting closer to our community' and along with the Royal Welsh Regiment receiving the Freedom of the County, underpins our relationship with the Armed Forces community and veterans residing in Denbighshire.

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

It is anticipated that any costs, subject to their agreement will be borne by the individual Service.

The Ministry of Defence has made available a Community Covenant Grant Scheme to deliver financial support to projects at a local level which strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live. £30m is available from the MOD until 2015, however it is envisaged that bids will be for smaller amounts of funding to support local projects that deliver tangible benefits.

8. What consultations have been carried out?

We have been in contact with neighbouring authorities and the Health Board who have either adopted the Covenant or are in the process of considering its adoption. The Council has had formal approaches from the Welsh Government and the UK Government's Welsh Affairs Select Committee seeking our endorsement. We have also responded to approaches by service organisations such as the Royal British Legion who are monitoring local authorities' approach to the adoption of a Covenant.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are of the view that the council should adopt the principle that the armed services should not be disadvantaged when accessing our public services. It also advocated that we should not actively discriminate in favour of Armed Services personnel to the detriment of other groups unless it was underpinned by legislation.

Cabinet have endorsed the principles of the Covenant with a recommendation that it be formally ratified by Council.

Council formally endorsed the Covenant at its meeting in September 2012.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The costs associated with delivering the Covenant should be contained within existing budgets

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

Failure to formally adopt the Covenant will reflect negatively on our commitment to 'getting closer to the community'.

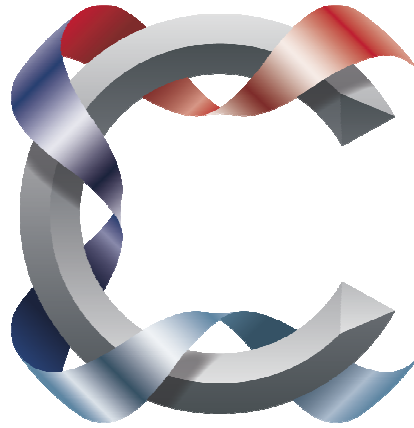
11. Power to make the Decision

Council has requested Communities Scrutiny to discuss and agree the 'basket' of Services offered to the Armed Services Community.

Contact Officer:

Community Engagement Manager

Tel: 01824 70 6146



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF DENBIGHSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN DENBIGHSHIRE

We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Signed:

Signed:

Name:

Name:

Position Held:

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Signed on behalf of Denbighshire County Council

Date:

Signed:

Name

Position Held:

Signed on behalf of Armed Forces Charities

SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Denbighshire

And

Denbighshire County Council

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.2 The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Denbighshire and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Denbighshire

2.3 For Denbighshire County Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures

4.1 Specific Measures to be taken in ensuring Denbighshire supports the Armed Services in a tangible way.

- ❖ Denbighshire County Council will offer Council Tax discount to Forces personnel who have second homes in Denbighshire but live in MOD accommodation.
- ❖ Families of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. Denbighshire will ensure that the needs of the children of these families are taken into account and School places will be allocated to children and their families in advance of the approaching school year if accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) letter declaring a return date.
- ❖ Service personnel who are registered to vote in Denbighshire and have a postal vote with a BPFO address will be given priority at any given election and sent en masse to the Electoral Services Department at Rushmoor Borough Council in Hampshire coordinator for all local authorities in the UK.
- ❖ Serving Armed Forces personnel will be offered discounted entry to Council operated Leisure Centres and its facilities.
- ❖ Veterans, single persons and/or families are already priority on discharge from the forces in line with the Homelessness Act 2002. Denbighshire's Homelessness services will prioritise decisions on ALL veterans, including those injured/disabled/NFA (No fixed abode), or disadvantaged due to relationship breakdown or inability to sustain a tenancy, or on release from hospital, or with vulnerability e.g. mental health and enhance the service by proactively trawling local estate agents to identify a suitable property.
- ❖ Denbighshire will offer proactive housing advice and assistance with prevention deposits/bond etc payable to facilitate uptake of accommodation. We will offer support to include financial inclusion - assistance with energy efficiency, budgeting, sourcing furniture, credit union, access to training and employment through the enhanced housing options protocol.
- ❖ Denbighshire's new Allocations policy gives highest medical points for injured/disabled veterans, therefore promoting access to suitable and affordable accommodation for veterans and their families.

- ❖ Service personnel and veterans will receive priority for 'Homebuy', dependant on their individual financial circumstances and lenders borrowing rules.
- ❖ Denbighshire County Council's Partnerships and Communities Team will be the designated liaison officers with the Armed Services and the community in meeting the aims of the Covenant.
- ❖ The Council will regularly review its services in relation to the Covenant and implement improved delivery of services to the Armed Services community.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of
the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 December 2012

Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator

Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report presents the Communities Scrutiny Committee with its draft forward work programme for members' consideration.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

3. What are the recommendations?

That the Committee considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate

4. Report details.

4.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, whilst the rules of procedure for scrutiny committees are laid out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

4.2 Denbighshire County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.

4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The objective of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.

4.4 The Committee is requested to consider its draft work programme for future meetings as detailed in appendix 1 and approve, revise or amend it as it deems appropriate taking into consideration:

- issues raised by members of the Committee
- matters referred to it by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group
- relevance to the Committee's/Council's/community priorities

- the Council's Corporate Plan and the Director of Social Services' Annual Report
 - meeting workload
 - timeliness
 - outcomes
 - key issues and information to be included in reports
 - officers and/or lead Cabinet members who should be invited (having regard to whether their attendance is necessary or would add value)
 - questions to be put to officers/lead Cabinet members
- 4.5 In addition, when considering items for inclusion on the future forward work programme members may also find it helpful to have regard to the following questions when determining a subject's suitability for inclusion:
- what is the issue?
 - who are the stakeholders?
 - what is being looked at elsewhere
 - what does scrutiny need to know? and
 - who may be able to assist?
- 4.6 As mentioned in paragraph 4.2 the Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on the Committee's business agenda they have to formally request the Committee to consider receiving a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested topics. No proposal forms have been received for consideration by the Committee at the current meeting.
- 4.7 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
When deciding on their programme of future work it is useful for scrutiny committees to have regard to Cabinet's scheduled programme of future work. For this purpose a copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.8 Progress on Committee Resolutions
A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 4.9 Review of Day Care Services in the North of the County
As the consultation process on the proposals under consideration with respect to the review of Day Care Services in the north of the county will continue until mid December it is neither appropriate nor possible to provide the Committee with a report summarising the consultation responses at the current meeting. Therefore, the report and

associated information will be presented to the Committee for consideration at its next meeting on 17th January 2013. However, in order that Members are fully conversant with the consultation timetable and the background to the review a separate information report will be circulated to Committee members ahead of the meeting on 6 December.

4.10 Strategic Asset Management

A report on 'Disposal of Council Buildings, Property and Land' was scheduled for presentation to the Committee at the current meeting. However, at a recent Service Challenge meeting it was decided that it would be beneficial for the Council to undertake an overview of its assets and for Members to examine what the Council owns, why it owns them and their location. This review would form the basis of a discussion on the future direction of Council asset ownership. Consequently, with the Chair's agreement, the original report has been withdrawn from the current meeting's business agenda. It will be replaced with a report on 'Strategic Asset Management'. Officers are requesting that this report be presented to the Committee at its January meeting (see Appendix 1). However, this meeting already has the optimum number of reports i.e. 4 on its business agenda. Members are therefore asked to consider this request.

4.11 School Transport

The Committee some time ago requested an information report on school transport (see the 'Information/Consultation Reports' section on Appendix 1 attached). It was originally intended that this report would be circulated to Committee members in December 2012, following the presentation of an Internal Audit report on 'Home to School Transport' to the Council's Corporate Governance Committee on 14 November 2012. The scope of the Internal Audit report encompassed both Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council's home to school transport services and can be viewed on the Council's website by following the link below:

<http://mgintranet/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=4535&Ver=4&LL=0>

- 4.12 As the information requested by the Committee is specific to Denbighshire and requires some detailed research and data Transport officers, due to workload pressures for the foreseeable future, are seeking the Committee's permission to defer the presentation of the information report until the spring of 2013. The Committee is asked to consider this request.

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

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual

development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council in monitoring and reviewing policy issues.

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

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

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

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

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

9. Power to make the decision

Article 6.3.7 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work.

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Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Note: Items entered in italics have not been approved for submission by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
17 January 2013	1 Town Plans	To review the effectiveness of town plans in beginning to deliver their objectives	The development of economically viable and sustainable towns that will boost the local economy and improve outcomes for local businesses and resident and attract visitors to the area	Mark Dixon	June 2012
	2 Etape Cymru 2012	To provide a detailed analysis of the impact of the 2012 event on the local community, local businesses and participants along with the benefits realised/impact on the wider local economy and Denbighshire as a whole	An evaluation of the impact of the event and any benefits realised or detrimental effects caused by it will enable recommendations to be made with respect to the arrangements for any future major events	Ruth Williams/Mark Dixon	March 2012
	3 Rhyl Going Forward Programme	(i) To evaluate and monitor the Programme's progress and achievements in delivering its anticipated outcomes; and (ii) identify any slippages with the Programme's delivery	Ensuring that the Programme: (i) has sufficient capacity, resources and the necessary commitment to deliver the intended outcomes for the Rhyl area; (ii) supports the future vision for Rhyl, and is conducive with the wider regeneration agenda for Denbighshire; and (iii) delivers a viable, sustainable future for the area and county in general, with improved long-term employment prospects and	Tom Booty	September 2012

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered	
			outcomes for residents			
	4	Review of Day Care Services in the north of the County	To consider the responses received to the public consultation on the preferred option for the future delivery of day care services in the north of the county	Formulation of recommendations with respect to future delivery of day care services in the area and additional uses for day care centres	Phil Gilroy	July 2012
	5	<i>Strategic Asset Management</i>	<i>To inform members on how the Council manages its property portfolio and seek the Committee's input into how it can best do this going forward given the increasing pressures on the Council's finances.</i>	<i>The development of an affordable and sustainable corporate asset portfolio</i>	<i>Paul McGrady/David Lorey/Chris Davies</i>	<i>Rescheduled from December 2012</i>
28 February	1	Supporting People Strategy Update	As per Cabinet's request to consider the impact of the new Supporting People arrangements on the delivery and funding of Supporting People services in Denbighshire following the publishing of local authorities' 3 Year Spend Plans.	Identification of pressures caused by the new arrangements for the Supporting People Programme and potential solutions to alleviate any pressures identified	Sally Ellis/Jenny Elliot	October 2012
	2	Local Housing Strategy Update	To review the draft version of the revised the Local Housing Strategy, which provides strategic direction for the provision of housing in Denbighshire for the next 5 years.	Members contribute to developing an effective and viable Local Housing Strategy	Sue Lewis	October 2012
	3	Management of allocation of Section 106 Commuted Sums for open space	To monitor the effectiveness of the management arrangements and funds received and	Effective management of the commuted sums and CIL schemes will assist with the	Graham Boase/Angela Loftus	July 2011 (rescheduled June 2012)

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		provision and Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL)	committed (report to include the time limits applicable to each commuted sum)	Council to deliver the regeneration priority and to bring the Council closer to the community		
	4	Control of Caravan Sites	To present the proposed standard conditions and procedures developed by the Working Group for the purpose of controlling and monitoring caravan sites in both Denbighshire and Conwy as well as the feedback received at the Operators' Seminar	The development of a robust and collaborative approach to ensure that tourist sites contribute to the local economy and the delivery of the regeneration corporate priority	Graham Boase/Neil Jones (CCBC)	July 2011 (rescheduled June 2012)
	5	Getting Closer to the Community Programme	Presentation of draft proposals on alternative forums and methods for engaging and consulting with residents to replace the former Community Forum meetings	The development of inclusive engagement/consultative methods/fora that will ensure local citizens actively engage with the Council and its partner organisations	Hywyn Williams/David Davies/Amanda Brookes	April 2012
18 April	1	Rhyl Going Forward Programme	To evaluate and monitor the Programme's progress and achievements in delivering its anticipated outcomes; and (ii) identify any slippages with the Programme's delivery	Ensuring that the Programme: (i) has sufficient capacity, resources and the necessary commitment to deliver the intended outcomes for the Rhyl area; (ii) supports the future vision for Rhyl, and is conducive with the wider regeneration agenda for Denbighshire; and (iii) delivers a viable, sustainable future for the area and county in general, with improved long-term	Tom Booty	September 2012

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			employment prospects and outcomes for residents		
May/June	1 Local Housing Strategy	To consider the final version of the revised the Local Housing Strategy, which provides strategic direction for the provision of housing in Denbighshire for the next 5 years.	Members contribute to developing an effective and viable Local Housing Strategy	Sue Lewis	October 2012
July	1 Rhyl Going Forward Programme	To evaluate and monitor the Programme's progress and achievements in delivering its anticipated outcomes; and (ii) identify any slippages with the Programme's delivery	Ensuring that the Programme: (i) has sufficient capacity, resources and the necessary commitment to deliver the intended outcomes for the Rhyl area; (ii) supports the future vision for Rhyl, and is conducive with the wider regeneration agenda for Denbighshire; and (iii) delivers a viable, sustainable future for the area and county in general, with improved long-term employment prospects and outcomes for residents	Tom Booty	September 2012

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
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Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

The Quality and Provision of Community and Education Facilities	To outline the extent and quality of community and education facilities across the county (including sports grounds and village halls and the assistance the Council can give local groups/communities to maintain and access community facilities)	That all residents have access to good quality and affordable community/education facilities within a reasonable distance of their local community	Hywyn Williams/Jamie Groves/Diane Hesketh	May 2011
Community Sustainability	To detail actions being taken by the Council with a view ensuring the sustainability of Denbighshire's urban and rural areas	Identification of measures and actions to improve the quality of life of local citizens by ensuring the viability of the County's diverse communities which will contribute to the regeneration of communities and the area and assist the local economy	Hywyn Williams/Mark Dixon	May 2011
Waste Management Provision for Business and Schools	To detail the provision available to businesses and schools in the County with respect to waste management/recycling	To ensure that the majority of schools and businesses in the County are accessing the recycling services available with respect to the disposal of waste and are not incurring excessive costs in their attempt to recycle their waste	Steve Parker/Ken Thompson	May 2011
<i>Access to the Countryside</i>	<i>New Committee post May to decide whether to proceed with this subject and to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		<i>Mark Dixon/Huw Rees</i>	<i>May 2011</i>
<i>Transfer of Services to Town Councils</i>	<i>New Committee post May to decide whether to proceed with this subject and to scope the purpose and expected outcomes</i>		<i>Hywyn Williams /Paul Mead</i>	<i>May 2011</i>

For future years

Information/Consultation Reports

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Page 58

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Consultation (December 2012)	To consult on the draft new tenancy agreement	Formulation of recommendations with respect to the new agreement and handbook for submission to Cabinet	Peter McHugh	February 2012 (transferred from Performance Scrutiny Committee July 2012)
Information (December 2012 following publication of audit report) [possible deferral to the spring of 2013 (May)]	School Transport [to be shared with education coopted members]	Information on the costs of school transport in Denbighshire, number of bus/taxi routes operated, number of pupils on each hired bus/taxi, any services under utilised and any services carrying children to schools which are not the nearest school (unless they are Welsh medium or faith-based schools) and which are not recharged to parents	Peter Daniels	June 2012
Information (January 2012)	Grass Cutting Contract Update	An update report to inform the Committee of the work undertaken by the working group of members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee and Council officers which will meet in December to develop the terms of the Council's grass cutting contracts.	Tim Towers	October 2012

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
17 January 2013	3 January 2013	28 February 2013	14 February 2013	18 April	4 April

Communities Scrutiny Work Programme.doc
 28/11/12 RhE

CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

18 DECEMBER 2012	
Welsh Housing Quality Standards	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Construction Procurement Project North Wales	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Nina Ruddle
Highways & Infrastructure Collaboration	Cllr David Smith / Hywyn Williams / Stuart Davies / Danielle Edwards (CCBC)
Rhyl Front Projects (including Sky Tower)	Cllr Hugh Evans / Tom Booty
Gas Servicing – Council Housing Stock	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh / Linda Cherryl
Supporting People Strategy Update and Spend Plan	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Sally Ellis / Anne Hughes-Jones
Supported Lodgings and Nightstop	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Gary Major
Community Fund	Rebecca Maxwell
National Procurement Service	Paul McGrady
Pension Auto-enrolment	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
15 JANUARY 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Budget Proposals	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
BCU response to the consultation on "Healthcare in North Wales is changing"	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Sally Ellis
Items from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
19 FEBRUARY 2013	
Financial Update Report	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
Contract Award – Personal Advisor Service	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Rhian Allen
Cefndy Healthcare: Potential loss of DWP funding and site move	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy / Deborah Holmes-Langstone
Annual Report on the Housing Revenue Account / Housing Rent Increases	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh
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

Updated 23/11/2012

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
25 October 2012	5. Review of Highway Verge Grass Cutting 2012	<p>RESOLVED – that the Communities Scrutiny Committee:-</p> <p>(a) receives the report and notes the progress and success of the overall cutting regime put in place for 2012.</p> <p>(b) agrees that the officers, Lead Member and Members identified meet to review the matrix of the existing Contract utilising the evidence and statistics available, and</p> <p>(c) an information update report be submitted to the January, 2013 meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to inform the Committee of the outcome of these discussions.</p>	(c) Information report scheduled into the Committee's work programme to advise members of the work done by the working group established to develop the terms of the Council's grass cutting contracts.
	6. Preparation for Winter Maintenance for the 2012/13 Season	<p>RESOLVED – that the Communities Scrutiny Committee:-</p> <p>(a) agrees that the Winter Maintenance preparations were sufficient for the winter conditions anticipated.</p> <p>(b) confirms that the contingency arrangements for more severe conditions were also adequate, and</p> <p>(c) request that clarification be provided outlining details of the areas of responsibility for winter maintenance with regard to the respective Directorates.</p>	(c) This information will be circulated separately

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