

To: Members of the County Council

Date: 20 January 2014

Direct Dial: 01824712589

e-mail: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held at **2.00 pm** on **MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2014** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN LL15 1YN**.

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

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

4 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY (Pages 5 - 6)

To note the civic engagements undertaken by the Chairman of the Council (copy attached).

5 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 3 December 2013.

6 ATTENDANCE BY DR HIGSON, CHAIR OF BOARD, BCUHB

Following Notice of Motion at Council meeting on 5 November, 2013, and subsequent deferral from 3 December Council meeting, Dr Higson, Chair of Board, BCUHB to give a verbal presentation of the future plans for the Board and Health Service across North Wales.

7 BUDGET FOR 2014/2015 (Pages 15 - 28)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy attached) providing an update on the budget setting process and detailing proposals to be approved by County Council to set the Council's revenue budget for 2014/2015.

8 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (Pages 29 - 40)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy attached) for members to note and adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2014.

9 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 41 - 44)

To consider the Council's Forward Work Programme (copy attached).

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Ian Armstrong
Raymond Bartley
Brian Blakeley
Joan Butterfield
Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones
Bill Cowie
Ann Davies
James Davies

Gwyneth Kensler
Geraint Lloyd-Williams
Margaret McCarroll
Jason McLellan
Barry Mellor
Win Mullen-James
Bob Murray
Peter Owen

Meirick Davies
Richard Davies
Stuart Davies
Peter Duffy
Hugh Evans
Peter Evans
Bobby Feeley
Carys Guy
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Martyn Holland
Colin Hughes
Rhys Hughes
Hugh Irving
Alice Jones
Huw Jones
Pat Jones

Dewi Owens
Merfyn Parry
Paul Penlington
Arwel Roberts
Gareth Sandilands
David Simmons
Barbara Smith
David Smith
Bill Tasker
Julian Thompson-Hill
Joe Welch
Cefyn Williams
Cheryl Williams
Eryl Williams
Huw Williams

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Agenda Item 4

Digwyddiadau wedi eu mynychu gan y Cadeirydd / Events attended by Chairman

29.11.13 – 21.01.14

Dyddiad / Date	Digwyddiad / Event	Lleoliad / Location
29.11.13	Parti Nadolig i Ofalwyr Maeth Foster Carers Christmas Party	Rhyl
30.11.13	Ffair Nadolig Sant Cyndeyrn St Kentigern's Christmas Fair	Capel y Waen Waen Chapel
30.11.13	Cydnabod Cyflawniadau Pobl Ifanc Recognise Young People's Achievements Is Gadeirydd wedi mynychu Vice Chair attended	Prestatyn
30.11.13	Cyngerdd Dathlu 25 mlynedd Cor Meibion Dinbych 25 th Anniversary Concert Denbigh Male Voice Choir	Llanelwy St Asaph
04.12.13	Ffair Nadolig - Criw Potensial Christmas Fair - Potensial Programme	Coleg Rhyl Rhyl College
05.12.13	CCB Sant Cyndeyrn St Kentigern AGM	Llanelwy St Asaph
05.12.13	Cyflwyno gwobrau i Ddisgyblion Ysgolion Cynradd Present prizes to Primary School Pupils	Rhuthun Ruthin
05.12.13	Pantomeim 'Aladdin' Pantomime	Rhyl
08.12.13	Oedfa Nadolig Sant Cyndeyrn St Kentigern Christmas Service	Capel y Waen Waen Chapel
10.12.13	Dathliad Nadolig CSDd DCC Christmas Celebration	Llanelwy St Asaph
12.12.13	Cinio Nadolig Elusennol Cadeirydd Conwy Chairman of Conwy's Christmas Charity Lunch	Llandudno
13.12.13	Gwasanaeth Nadolig Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn Christmas Concert	Dinbych Denbigh
18.12.13	Agoriad Swyddogol Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl Official Opening of Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl	Llandegla
16.01.14	Gwasanaeth Dinesig Citizenship Ceremony	Rhuthun Ruthin
17.01.14	Dathliad 'Cynnig' 'Cynnig' Celebration	Dinbych Denbigh

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 3 December 2013 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Raymond Bartley (Chair), Brian Blakeley (Vice-Chair), Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bill Cowie, Ann Davies, James Davies, Meirick Davies, Richard Davies, Stuart Davies, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Holland, Hugh Irving, Alice Jones, Huw Jones, Gwyneth Kensler, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Margaret McCarroll, Jason McLellan, Bob Murray, Dewi Owens, Merfyn Parry, Arwel Roberts, Gareth Sandilands, David Simmons, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Bill Tasker, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, Cefyn Williams, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM), Corporate Director: Economic & Community Ambition (RM), Head of Legal & Democratic Services (GW), Head of Finance and Assets (PMcG), Head of Housing and Community Development (PMcH), HR Services Manager (CR) Employee Relations Specialist (GH), Democratic Services Manager (SP) and Committee Administrator (SLW).

Also present: Director of Ian Jeffcott Associates Ltd.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Armstrong, Peter Duffy, Carys Guy, Colin Hughes, Rhys Hughes, Pat Jones, Barry Mellor, Win Mullen-James, Peter Owen and Paul Penlington

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

A welcome was extended to Councillor Alice Jones on her return to Council.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill informed Council Members, that Councillor Peter Owen had been admitted to hospital the previous day. It was agreed a card would be sent from Members, offering their best wishes and speedy recovery to Councillor Peter Owen and his wife Betty.

The Head of Legal & Democratic Services informed Members that the usual simultaneous translator was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Sandra Williams had kindly stepped in at very short notice but was unable to stay after 2 p.m. due to prior work commitments. Every effort would be made to find a replacement translator for the meeting after 2 p.m.

The Chief Executive referred to Item 7 on the Agenda – Attendance by Dr Higson, BCUHB, which had to be re-scheduled. Dr Higson had previously been invited to today's Council meeting for which he had confirmed his availability for the morning session. Due to the shortlisting of the candidates for the post of Director of Social Services, it had been realised the selection process would continue until past midday. Therefore, there would be insufficient time for Dr Higson to present to Full Council. Dr Higson had, therefore, been invited to the next Council meeting and his confirmation was awaited.

The Chair confirmed that the morning session of the appointment of Director of Social Services would take the meeting to approximately 12.30 p.m. whereupon there would be a 45 minute break and the afternoon session would reconvene thereafter.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters.

4 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

A list of civic engagements undertaken for the Council by the Chair and Vice Chair, for the period 31 October 2013 to 20 November 2013, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 November, 2013 were submitted.

Page 14 – Item 11 – Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies stated that he did not vote against his political group's notice of motion but it had been recorded that he was against it.

The Head of Legal & Democratic Services confirmed he would check the recorded vote sheet from the meeting.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5 November, 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.*

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **resolved** that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds of the likely disclosure of exempt information as disclosed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Chief Executive outlined the purpose of the post and how it would integrate with the Council's management team. The Council's recruitment adviser, Ian Jeffcott, reported on the recruitment process undertaken which included an assessment centre and a special appointment panel of members to shortlist viable candidates for full Council today. The Panel had put forward two candidates for full Council's consideration.

The two candidates gave presentations to Council and responded to set-questions from members of the Council.

The recruitment adviser outlined the results of the tests that had been held as part of the assessment process. A proposition to conduct the vote under the secret ballot procedure was passed by Council in accordance with standing orders and it was:

RESOLVED – *that Nicola Stubbins be appointed to the post of Director of Social Services.*

PART I – THE MEETING RESUMED IN OPEN SESSION

7 ATTENDANCE BY DR HIGSON, CHAIR OF BOARD (BCUHB)

As explained earlier by the Chief Executive, this item had to be deferred to the next Council meeting taking place in January 2014.

8 CAPITAL PLAN

The Lead Member for Finance & Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill introduced the Capital Plan Report 2013 – 2018 (previously circulated) to provide Council with an update regarding the Capital Plan including major projects and the Corporate Plan.

Members attention had been drawn to the fact that the Capital Plan 2013/14 – 2017/18 was last reported to Council in April 2013 when the 2013/14 Budget had been set. Updates were reported to Cabinet on a monthly basis.

Discussion took place and following questions posed by Members, the following were confirmed:-

- Bridge works in St. Asaph were not due for completion until late summer 2014. A block allocation of £1.3million had been provided for the bridge works hence no figure allocated for 2014/2015.
- An overspend had arisen due to the length of time taken to relocate the original tenants of the new Prestatyn Library building. The old library building on Nant Hall Road had been the subject of potential options. A request had been received from a potential tenant who had enquired regarding the lease of a section of the building. The project would go before the Asset Management Group in the New Year.

- At the last Project Board meeting, an allocation of cash had been provided for the Harbour Master to purchase equipment to run the service. The purchase of a 4 x 4 vehicle had not been included within the equipment required.
- The use of reserves would not be for discussion during this meeting. The matter would be discussed at the forthcoming Budget Workshop on 9 December 2013.

RESOLVED that Members noted the latest position on the 2013/14 element of the Capital Plan and the update on major projects.

9 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2014/2015

The Lead Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson Hill, introduced the Revenue Budget 2014/15 Report (previously circulated) to provide an update of the latest budget position for 2014/15 and to approve the saving proposals.

The Welsh Government provided a majority of the Council's funding via the Revenue Support Grant and redistribution of NNDR.

The draft Local Government Settlement for Wales 2014/15 had been published on 16 October, 2013. Denbighshire County Council had the worst settlement in Wales at -4.6%. A damping mechanism had been applied to lessen the impact in 2014/15 but this would then have an impact in 2015/16. Savings of approximately £8.5 million would be required. Savings of £1.7 million were approved in October 2013. A Member Workshop took place on 21 October, 2013 and details of further savings of £4.7 million had been presented.

£6.5 million (76%) of the savings target had been identified. The remaining £2 million savings would be discussed at the next Member Workshop on 9 December 2013 and re-presented at Council for approval in February 2014.

Following discussion, the following queries were raised:-

- In terms of savings proposals by Highways and Environmental Service Waste Management, one proposal had been, as of next winter, that green bin waste collection be stopped from 1 November until end of March. It would allow vehicles and staff to be allocated to other areas when a vast majority of people tend not to use their green bin waste collection.
- A Task and Finish Group of Service Users and Staff to ascertain the best solution for £50,000 savings. All Service Users and families would be informed of any future changes.
- Adult Mental Health would be dealt with largely through the NHS. Delivery of savings would be difficult without impacting on front line.
- Welfare Rights – each method of speaking or dealing with a client came at a cost. Savings were to be analysed.
- School improvement and inclusion in relation to music and arts – William Mathias Centre to be responsible for entire remit. William Mathias provide peripatetic music to schools within Denbighshire. Within the service level

agreement, there was a need to know the William Mathias organisation were creating opportunities and providing value for money. Whilst efficiency savings would be part of the review, it was about strengthening and not diminishing provision.

- Regarding the provision of the yellow bus. The bus would not be replaced and the service was to go out to contract.
- Consultation would be taking place regarding the prospective closure of Ysgol Llanbedr. The reason the data was shown as split over 2 financial years had been on the assumption consultation, with the recommendation to close the school, would be carried forward as part of the savings in 2014/2015 and part in 2015/2016. If the recommendation to close the school were not carried forward then the saving would be deleted from the system.

***RESOLVED** that Members noted the latest budget position for 2014/15 and to approve the savings proposals listed.*

10 NORTH WALES GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (GTANA)

The Lead Member for Customers and Communities presented the North Wales Regional Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Report (GTANA) (previously circulated) to provide information regarding the GTANA undertaken by Bangor University.

The North Wales County Councils of Denbighshire, Flintshire, Conwy, Ynys Môn, and Gwynedd jointly commissioned Bangor University to undertake research to assess unmet accommodation need to Gypsies and Travellers.

The collaborative approach had been in line with Welsh Government guidance which urged “local authorities to work in a regional capacity and share the legal, moral, financial and political responsibility to address the accommodation inequality experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller community in Wales” (Travelling to a Better Future, Welsh Government).

The Bangor University Report recommended that collaboratively, the partaking Local Authorities identified and developed three or four transit sites across the region each accommodating up to seven caravans. In terms of static provision, it was identified that Denbighshire County Council (DCC) should make provision for two residential pitches, (each of which could accommodate up to 4 caravans) and one transit pitch which could accommodate up to 7 caravans on a short term basis – to be developed on a sub-regional basis with Conwy County Borough Council.

The advice received from DCC Legal Services was that the GTANA be adopted as it had identified an accommodation need within Denbighshire which the Council would be obliged to respond to. This requirement upon local authorities was to be further strengthened by Welsh Government in the forthcoming White Paper whereby Local Authorities were to be mandated to provide sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community where evidence showed a need existed. It was important for the Council to open up a dialogue with the Gypsy and Traveller community to ensure their needs would be met by the proposed sites that may be offered.

Should the Council decide to develop site provision there could be a capital cost including land acquisition and provision of services. A Welsh Government Grant provision could be applied for but these were limited and were subject to a bidding process.

Ongoing management and supervisory responsibilities would need to be considered and built into the site appraisal process. Options for site management included whether it was possible to host the service in-house, outsource or develop a collaborative approach. There would also be the possibility of the Gypsy and Traveller Community purchasing their own sites and Denbighshire County Council could assist in identifying suitable sites within the context of the Local Development Plan. No site locations had yet been identified, but any site would be supported by a business case.

The GTANA Report had been presented at Scrutiny Committee on 17 October 2013, but had been rejected on a split decision. Feedback from the Members had recommended more detail on the current costs of dealing with illegal encampments and costs relating to the provision of pitches in line with the GTANA. Receipt of the cost information would have proved useful in assisting Members during decision making.

Discussion took place and the following points were raised by Members:

- The need for legal encampments had been questioned, due to the fact that if the schemes were to go ahead, there would be issues as to the location of the sites.
- If Denbighshire were not to agree to the recommendation of these sites, what would be the consequences?

The Head of Housing and Community Development (HH&CD) responded:

- The fact there had been a number of illegal encampments indicated the need for legal sites within the county. There would likely be an increase in illegal Gypsy and Traveller encampments the longer it took to set up legal sites.
- The Welsh Government had stated it was the responsibility of the individual Local Authorities as to the need within their county. Denbighshire together with the other North Wales Local Authorities utilised Bangor University to provide independent evidence which disclosed there had been a need for sites and the Welsh Government then anticipated the North Wales Councils to act on evidence provided by the Report.
- New legislation would be expected to be passed as law in the summer of 2014.
- Dialogue with the Gypsy and Traveller Community would be paramount to ensure the sites provided would be fit for purpose.
- Any recommendations of sites would be subject to the full planning process.

The Chief Executive clarified the issue would be that Denbighshire had a responsibility to provide sites but if Members were to reject the recommendation the Council would be challenged.

Councillor Stuart Davies requested a recorded vote for the first part of the recommendation (3.1 of the report) which was agreed by a number of Members.

A recorded vote was taken and accordingly the following Members voted to approve recommendation 3.1 of the report:

Councillors Raymond Bartley, Brian Blakeley, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bill Cowie, Ann Davies, Hugh Evans, Bobby Feeley, Martyn Holland, Hugh Irving, Margaret McCarrol, Jason McLellan, Dewi Owens, Gareth Sandilands, David Simmons, Barbara Smith, David Smith, Bill Tasker, Julian Thompson-Hill, Cheryl Williams, Eryl Williams and Huw Williams.

The following Members voted against the recommendation 3.1 of the report:

Councillors Meirick Lloyd Davies, Richard Davies, Stuart Davies, Peter Evans, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Bob Murray, Merfyn Parry, Joe Welch and Cefyn Williams.

The following Members abstained from the vote:

Councillors Alice Jones, Gwyneth Kensler and Arwel Roberts.

RESOLVED that Council approves the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Report Recommendations from Bangor University in respect of:

- (i) *Denbighshire County Council shall be required to provide 2 residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers (each of which could accommodate up to 4 caravans) and one transit pitch which could accommodate up to 7 caravans on a short term basis – to be developed on a sub-regional basis with Conwy County Borough Council; and*
- (ii) *Council supports the proposed composition and remit of the Steering Group, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report to Council, to drive the recommendations forward and prepare a business plan accordingly.*

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Hugh Evans put forward the following Notice of Motion for the consideration of Full Council:

“Denbighshire County Council is concerned about the prospect of a Local Government Review because it could undermine service provision to its residents, affect staff morale and end up costing more to implement than it saves.

Nevertheless, the council recognises that in the light of recent comments from the First Minister and members of the Public Services Commission a Local Government re-organisation appears inevitable.

If there is to be a re-organisation of Local Government in North Wales, then the Council would advocate a three Council solution as the most appropriate for residents in the region. The Council also calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that the Political representation of North Wales is not reduced”.

Discussion took place and the Notice of Motion was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Hugh Evans that in the event of a Local Government re-organisation, the Council would advocate a three Council solution and to call on the Welsh Government to ensure that the Political representation of North Wales was not reduced.

12 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal & Democratic Services introduced the Council's Forward Work Programme (previously circulated).

The Council meeting originally scheduled for 4 February, 2014 to be moved to the Council Briefing date of 27 January.

The Welsh Government will be debating changes on 28 January and we need to adopt by the end January 2014.

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

The meeting concluded at 3.40 p.m.

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 27th January 2014

Lead Member/Officer: Julian Thompson-Hill/Paul McGrady

Report Author: Paul McGrady, Head of Finance & Assets

Title: Budget 2014/15

1. What is the report about?

The report provides an update of the budget setting process and details the proposals to set the council's revenue budget for 2014/15.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

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

3. What are the Recommendations? That Council approves the budget proposal for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 1.

That Council approves an increase of 3.5% in the level of Council Tax for 2014/15

4. Report details

Analysis of the Draft Local Government Settlement and the consequences for the council indicated that savings of approximately £8.5m would be required. This was confirmed in the Final Settlement received in December.

The budget process has so far resulted in savings of £1.7m for 2014/15 being approved by County Council in September (Phase 1) and £4.7m (Phase 2) on 3rd December. The details of these savings are enclosed as Appendix 2.

The Phase 1 savings were items that had been proposed as part of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Service Challenge process and had been debated accordingly. Phase 2 savings were presented to a member budget workshop on 21st October and each proposal was presented by lead cabinet members, providing details of the saving, the impact and an assessment of risk. This was the second of three budget workshops held to inform the debate around the 2014/15 budget. Following the workshop, elected members were invited by the Lead Member for Finance & Assets and the Head of Finance & Assets to comment on any of the proposals prior to the council meeting in December.

Phases 1 and 2 identified savings of £6.459m, leaving a gap of approximately £2.0m to find. This gap was the focus of a third budget workshop held on December 9th.

The event was attended by 31 members. The papers presented at the workshop were circulated in advance to all members and have been published on Modern.gov and are therefore available to all members to access.

The key theme of the workshop was to present details and options to be considered to bridge the £2m budget gap for 2014/15.

The key information presented included:

- An update of the in-year position of social care and education budgets
- Analysis of school funding
- Options to increase school budgets
- Review of balances and reserves
- Corporate Plan update
- Council Tax options
- Additional Savings Proposals
- A recommendation to balance the budget

Appendix 1 shows the details of the proposals to bridge the £2m gap. The additional saving proposals for 2014/15 relate to bringing forward savings previously identified for 2015/16 and total £395k. Of this, £95k relates to bringing forward restructures in Business Planning & Performance and £300k is the proposed removal of the budgeted contribution to balances one year earlier than originally planned. The recommendation included a proposal to use a general balances as part of the budget in 2014/15. Although the workshop was an informal event, there was general acceptance of the recommendation to balance the budget with further debate required around the level of Council Tax increase.

Final budget proposals and the level of Council Tax for 2014/15 will have to be agreed by County Council in February 2014. At the latest budget workshop, some views were expressed informally about what the level of Council Tax increase should be. The options and implications are set out in the table below:

Increase	Gross Increase	C/Tax Benefit	Net Increase	Additional Income
%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2.75%	1,119.31	-279.83	839.48	-228.95
3.00%	1,221.06	-305.27	915.80	-152.63
3.50%	1,424.57	-356.14	1,068.43	0.00
4.00%	1,628.08	-407.02	1,221.06	152.63

The table shows that at a 3.5% increase, the budget is balanced. At the budget workshop there was debate around the level of Council Tax with some members requesting consideration of a lower level.

Appendix 1 shows the savings proposals and it is clear that services will find it difficult to deliver any further savings in 2014/15 at this stage. This would leave balances as the only source of funding to fill any gap left by a lower Council Tax.

The proposals in Appendix 1 already include the use of £500k of balances and deleting the budget that 'tops up' our balances each year. The importance of appropriate levels of balances has been highlighted over the past year with major flooding events in Ruthin, St. Asaph and Rhyl and county wide problems with snow as well as an unexpected major claim from our previous insurance company. In each case we have been able to respond appropriately in the knowledge that funds are available to pay for any response and subsequent works. With uncertainties around the future of local government and increasing incidents of bad weather, reducing balances further is not the most desirable course of action.

The use of balances also does not solve the underlying issue – it merely uses cash to temporarily plug a permanent hole in the Council's finances and so defers the problem to another day. The budget for 2014/15 does not allow for any service specific cost pressures. Inflation has been built into the budget assumptions corporately to include items such as energy, pay and additional employer's pension costs. Investment in priorities is proposed at a level of £750k. The delivery of the Corporate Plan is dependent on both budget and cash resources to facilitate Prudential Borrowing. The proposed allocation of investment funding for 2014/15 is:

	£'000
Modernising Education/21st Century Schools	650
Highways - Road Improvements	100
	<hr/>
	750

The investment in education includes £318k of savings agreed with schools as part of the Phase 2 budget savings. The allocation to Highways is match-funding to the allocation provided by Welsh Government to facilitate borrowing for road improvements.

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

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

The budget proposals contain £750k funding for 21st Century Schools, Modernising Education and improving Highways in line with the Corporate Plan

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

The saving target for 2014/15 is £8.5m. The council's net revenue budget will be £187m compared to £191m in 2012/13. The cash reduction in the council's revenue settlement from Welsh Government is -4.6%.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Prior to approval by County Council, the savings agreed so far have been discussed with Heads of Service and Lead Members, presented to member budget workshops and have been circulated to staff. The final proposals to balance the budget have been discussed in detail at a member workshop and members have been given the opportunity to raise issues prior to the final report going to Council. The Corporate Governance Committee has been provided with regular updates as it has an oversight role to the budget process. Cabinet agreed to recommend the proposals in this report to Council at its meeting on 14th January 2014.

This is the third formal report with budget recommendations. The previous two have also been through workshops, Cabinet and full Council and been reviewed by the Corporate Governance Committee.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The council faces significant financial challenges over the coming years. The budget as proposed is realistic and deliverable. It makes sufficient savings to balance our position, protects front line services from major reductions and allows investment of £750k into Council priorities.

The use of balances as proposed is not ideal, but gives the Council some breathing space to develop further savings proposals for 2015/16. The Council will still have sufficient balances to deal with any reasonable contingencies.

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

If the budget is not agreed within the relevant timescale then the Council will be breaking the law. This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver the agreed budget strategy will put further pressure on services in the current and future financial years. Effective budget monitoring and control and early reporting of variances will help ensure that the financial strategy is achieved.

The budget process and medium term financial plan assumptions are risks identified both in the corporate and departmental risk registers. The corporate risk register and mitigating actions is regularly reviewed by CET.

10. Power to make the Decision

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

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Additional Budget Savings 2014/15
14 January 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Additional Budget Savings 2014/15

Contact: Paul McGrady

Updated: 14 January 2014

1. What type of proposal / decision is being assessed?

Other

2. What is the purpose of this proposal / decision, and what change (to staff or the community) will occur as a result of its implementation?

Sets out required savings for 2014/15

3. Does this proposal / decision require an equality impact assessment? If no, please explain why.

*Please note: if the proposal will have an impact on people (staff or the community) then an equality impact assessment **must** be undertaken*

Yes	Most of the proposals are of a technical nature and do not affect any groups with protected characteristics. The only proposal that may impact on specific groups is the proposal to increase Council Tax.
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

Workshops undertaken with Councillors. There is no requirement to publicly consult on Council Tax proposals.

5. Will this proposal / decision have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

No

- 6. Will this proposal / decision have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?**

Council Tax is not based on any of the protected characteristics as it is a property based tax. It is possible that older people or those with disability may be on lower incomes and therefore may face problems with payment. This is offset by the means tested Council Tax benefits available to all and the additional pensioner grant for Council Tax made available by the WG for 2014/15

- 7. Has the proposal / decision been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate negative impact? If no, please explain why.**

No	See 6 above
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- 8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?**

No	
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Action(s)	Owner	By when?
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
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9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal / decision will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	as part of the 2015/16 budget process
---------------------	---------------------------------------

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Paul McGrady	14/01/14

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.

Appendix 1 Budget Proposal 2014/15
County Council January 2014

Proposal to Finalise Revenue Budget 2014/15

	<u>£'000</u>
Budget Shortfall 2014/15	-2,000
Pensions	
Revised assumptions around pension costs. Regulations are changing from April allowing staff to elect to pay in less and receive a smaller pension. Employer's contributions would also reduce. Saving is based on actuarial assumption on level of take-up.	300
Funding School Protection	
Passport the additional Deprivation Grant included in the Settlement to schools as well as additional corporate investment of £322k in school infrastructure through the Corporate Plan. The proposal means the council does not need to increase the general revenue budget as previously assumed.	577
Budgeted Contribution to Balances	
A budgeted contribution to balances of £300k was due to be deleted as a budget saving in 2015/16. It is proposed to bring this forward to 2014/15.	300 *
Council Tax	
Assume Council Tax is increased by 3.5%. The additional income raised is affected by the Council Tax Benefit system which reduces the sum by approximately 25%.	228
Sub Total	<u>1,405</u>
Service Savings Brought Forward from 2015/16	
Business Planning & Performance	
The Head of Service has proposed that two savings scheduled for 2015/16 could be brought forward. These are:	
<i><u>Partnerships & Communities Restructure (Phase 2)</u></i>	
This involves the deletion of one post and the transfer of a commissioning post to grant funding. The transfer will require WG approval.	68 *
<i><u>Improvement Team Restructure (Phase 2)</u></i>	
Deletion of a post.	27 *
Total Service Savings Brought Forward	<u>95</u>
Total of Proposals	<u>1,500</u>
Use of Council's General Balances	500 *
Budget Shortfall 2014/15	<u>0</u>

Note - those items marked * will have an impact on 2015/16. Bringing savings of £395k forward increases the saving requirement by the same amount in 2015/16. Use of balances means that £500k will have to be funded in 2015/16. Bringing savings forward and using balances therefore creates an additional pressure of £896k in 2015/16.

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APPENDIX 2 : PHASE 1 & 2 SAVING PROPOSALS 2014/15

Service Area	Description	Phase 1		Phase 2	
		Savings Agreed		Savings Agreed	
		2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
CORPORATE EFFICIENCIES					
Reduce Contingency for balances and impact of Recession	Phase out budget provision over 3 years	300			
Workforce Efficiencies	Includes Removal of Essential Car User Allowance	363			
Modernising the Council	Agreed target per 2013/14 Budget only - further projects being developed and will be apportioned to Services	300			
Removal of one-off funds	Social Care Additional Funds in 12/13			905	
Carbon Reduction Commitment	Dropping out of payment scheme			150	
Capital Financing Budget	Repayment of loans to generate ongoing revenue saving			250	
Single Status	Scheme now fully implemented, no additional budget needed			315	
Property Running Costs	Energy efficiency, NDRR reductions			120	
Insurance Premiums	Negotiated reductions in some premiums			20	
Inflation Budget	Balance of 2013/14 allocation			142	
LDP contribution	Reduce Corporate contribution to LDP from £25k p.a to £15k p.a			10	
		963	1,912	0	
SERVICE EFFICIENCIES					
Communication, Marketing & Leisure					
Modernise Library Service Provision	Better use of space eg Gallery, Museum, TIC, location and suitability of some buildings etc	30			
Scala	Reduced Council subsidy	12			
Clwyd Leisure	Reduced Council subsidy	50			
ECTARC	Reduced Council subsidy	10	20		
Ruthin Craft Centre	Reduce Council's financial support	20			
Llangollen Pavilion	Reduce Council's financial support	25			
Youth Services	Reconfiguration of elements of the service		40		
		147	60	0	
Highways & Environmental Services					
Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Contracts currently being tendered - increased competition likely to drive down prices	27			
Environmental Services	Other Small savings	10			
WAG Waste Target Pressures	Increase in Landfill Tax costs of collection etc	-50			
Reduced subsidy of School Meal Service	Increased take up of meals	50			
Management Restructure	Integration of Environment & Highways into one structure		400		
Emergency Planning	Savings arising from joint service with Flintshire		30		
Waste Management	Efficiencies from investment in transfer station and reduced contribution to Sustainable Waste Management Grant reserve		200		
Fleet Efficiencies	Reduction in vehicle numbers		80		
Building Cleaning	Renegotiation of Contracts		100		
		37	810	0	
Planning and Public Protection					
Review Pest Control	Only carry out statutory part of function	20			
Review of Planning Policy Service	Reduce LDP contribution	10	10		
Review of CCTV service	Reduction of overtime costs and collaborative project	0	65		
Review of Management	Management Restructure	30			
		60	75	0	
Adults & Business Services					
Cefndy Healthcare	Planned reduction in Council subsidy	31			
Impact of investment in reablement	Reduced need for care services as more people are able to live independently for longer	75			
Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	Less people needing residential care due to preventative services and more independent living opportunities	150			
Reablement Intervention	Reduce need for care services through targeted intervention	13			
Telecare	Regional partnership will reduce running costs	10			
Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	Process improvements to reduce admin and other costs	90			
Social Care Regional Board - Procurement Hub	Better commissioning of high cost placements	18			
Service Managers	Streamline Management structure		60		
Day & Work Opportunities	Modernise Day & Work Opportunities (Learning Disability)		50		
Mental Health Services	Reduce management commitment within service		46		
Welfare Rights Service	Channel Shift		50		
		387	231	0	
School Improvement & Inclusion					
Special Education	Review of Recoupment and Out of County Placements		200		
Pupil Support	University related fees		8		
ABA	Specific budget no longer required		25		
Training	20% reduction in budget		6		
Outreach	Budget Re-alignment		5		
Music & Arts	Review of Service Provision		52		
		0	296	0	
Customers & Education Support					
Supplies & Services	Targeted reduction in spend		30		
		0	30	0	
Children's Services					
Budget used to fund external placements for looked after Children to reflect revised demand	Currently exceptionally high due to type of placements. These will change as certain individuals become adults	64			
West Rhyi Young Peoples Project	Reduce / remove grant funding	41			
Social Care Regional Board - Procurement Hub	Better commissioning of high cost placements	17			
Legislative changes	Cost implications of Southwark Judgement and other legislative changes				
Outcome Agreement	Funding no longer needed in CS		69		
Tir Na Nog	Reconfigure service provision		64		
Staffing Budgets	Adjust budgets to account for staff turnover		195		
		122	328	0	
Housing & Community Development					
Various small savings					
Review of Economic & Business Development	Review of Management Structure	20	30	40	
Non HRA	Review of commissioning		10	10	
		20	40	50	
Finance & Assets					
Property Services	Management Restructure and review of process / admin		100	50	
Finance	Includes not replacing vacant posts and reduction in hours		75	75	
Internal Audit	Not replacing vacant post and reduction in hours		25		
		0	200	125	
HR					
Training	Re provision of service		10	15	
Occupational Health	Review of service		3		
Lead Business Partner	Efficiency saving		3		
Capital Financing	Investment repaid following 2010 Restructure		12		
		0	28	15	
Legal & Democratic Services					
Registration of Electors	Capacity within the budget for canvassers fees		30		
Registrar	Improved efficiencies within the service		20		
Civics	Reduction in resource available for civic events		5		
Legal Library	Reduce expenditure on publications		8		
Administration	Review administration provision		20		
		0	83	0	
Business Planning & Performance					
Improvement Team	Delete Vacant Manager Post		54		
Partnership & Communities Team	Delete Performance Officer Post		45		
Programme Office	Reduce Core Funding		13		
Partnership & Communities Team	Restructure Phase 2 (net savings)			0	
		0	112	0	
Schools					
School Reorganisation	Non-pupil related elements of budget (Area 2)		150		
School Reorganisation	Saving related to Formula Review for Middle Schools		80		
Schools	Release of Non-delegated contingency fund		200		
School Reorganisation	Non-pupil related elements of budget (Area 1)		88	62	
		0	518	62	
Total Service Savings		773	2,611	252	
Total Council Savings		1,736	4,723	252	
Total Savings Identified Phases 1 & 2			6,459	252	
Includes Modernisation Targets of			300		

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Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 27th January 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Julian Thompson Hill / Paul McGrady

Report Author: Rod Urquhart

Title: Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2014/15

1. What is the report about?

The adoption of the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2014.

The inclusion of additional funding received from Welsh Government of circa £90k to help support the shortfall in funding of the scheme for 2014/15.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provisions to abolish council tax benefit in its current form across the UK. From 31 March 2013 council tax benefit ceased and the responsibility for providing support for council tax and the funding associated with it, has been passed to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government, in partnership with local authorities in Wales, introduced a new scheme to provide council tax support which was adopted by the Council in January 2013.

The Welsh Government has now finalised both sets of regulations on 14th January 2014 and the new Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and amendments Regulations 2014 are required to be adopted by 31st January 2013.

During 2013/14 the Welsh Government introduced an initiative that gave additional funding to pensioners, who did not qualify for Council Tax Support. This grant was offset against their Council Tax liability. Denbighshire County Council awarded £132k worth of grants, in most cases this resulted in a refund for overpaid Council Tax being paid to the customer.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2014.

That members approve the 3 discretionary elements of the scheme, shown in section 4.1, are continued in 2014/15.

That members approve the allocation of the £90k additional funding, provided by the Welsh Government, to help support the shortfall in continuing with the prescribed scheme in 2014/15.

4. Report details.

The Proposed Scheme 2014/15

In considering the development of a new scheme for 2014/15 the Welsh Government agreed that the amended scheme should observe the following parameters:

- To continue with a single nationally defined scheme to providing a consistent level of support to claimants across Wales. The maximum level of support is set at 100%.
- To continue providing a small number of discretionary elements, similar to those available under the current scheme, allowing local authorities to respond to their differing local circumstances (provided that the costs of any local variation are locally funded);
- To continue to be based on a reform of the previous Council Tax Benefit system, until 2015-16 so that operational risks are managed and that support can continue to be provided.
- Where possible, simplify the existing complex arrangements.
- To remove the sunset clause within the scheme that limits its lifecycle to one year.
- To include additional Welfare Benefit Payments such as Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Universal Credit (UC) and Armed Forces Independence Payments.

4.1 Discretionary Elements for Council decision

- a) The ability to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks given to people after they return to work, when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit for at least 26 weeks
- b) Discretion to disregard part or the whole amount of War Disablement pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income
- c) The ability to backdate the application of Council Tax Support awards for working age customers more than the standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.

- 4.2** The Welsh Government has allocated a further £90k funding, which is not ring fenced as they are no longer supporting the additional grant towards pensioners. Initial projections show we are facing a shortfall in funding for the 2014/15 scheme of circa £480k and it is strongly suggested the additional grant is used to offset this deficit.

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

Adopting this scheme will help vulnerable people, ensuring they live as independently as possible.

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

There was a loss of grant income through the changes to the Council Tax Benefits system. In 2013/14 the Council will receive £9.167m funding for Council Tax Support from the Welsh Government. However current expenditure is £9.366m with a forecast for 2013/14 around £9.4m. This gives a shortfall of around £233k for the current year.

This shortfall may either increase or decrease dependant on the levels of Council Tax charged for 2014/15 and / or any further caseload fluctuations. Some initial modelling work has been undertaken and is shown in Appendix A to this report.

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

The Welsh Government has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment at a national level on its proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

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

Not applicable as this is an extension of the current scheme, which was consulted on in 2012.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The scheme is effectively unchanged from last year's and so will not have any additional impact on residents. However, the Welsh Government has not provided enough funding to pay for the scheme as it currently operates and the risk of increased caseload also rests with the Council.

The Welsh Government has also abolished its scheme to give additional support to pensioners that is not means tested (ie all pensioners qualify regardless of income level). Although the Council has made provision in its budget for an additional budget to offset the extra costs of the Council Tax Scheme, we still do not know what the additional take up will be.

Using the funds from the former pensioner scheme to contribute to this budget will reduce the risk to the Council.

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

There are risks to the Council in not adopting this scheme, in that Denbighshire CC would then have to adopt the default scheme, which may increase the cost.

11. Power to make the Decision

- Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Default Scheme)(Wales) Regulations 2013.
- Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

<Abolition of The Council Tax Reduction
Scheme (Pensioners Grant 2014/15)>
15 Jan 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

<Title of the proposal being assessed>

Contact: <Rod Urquhart Revenues and Benefits

Updated: <15.01.2014

1. What type of proposal / decision is being assessed?

Other

2. What is the purpose of this proposal / decision, and what change (to staff or the community) will occur as a result of its implementation?

<The Welsh Government has abolished the Pensioner Grant for 2014/15 and subsequent years and has allocated some funding (£90,000) to the Local Authority to spend how it wishes.

For 2013/14 the Welsh Government allocated a total of £4million to help pensioners who were on partial Council Tax Support, up to a maximum of £100. The Total spent in Denbighshire was £132,000. This grant was means tested.

In many cases the Council Taxpayer was given a refund from their Council Tax as they had fully paid the amounts due.

There is a projected shortfall in continuing with the National Scheme of approximately £480,000 for 2014/15, if the number of claimants remain at the same level. It is proposed that the additional £90,000 funding is allocated to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs so that the scheme for all groups remains the same as is currently in place.

3. Does this proposal / decision require an equality impact assessment? If no, please explain why.

*Please note: if the proposal will have an impact on people (staff or the community) then an equality impact assessment **must** be undertaken*

No

<The decision to abolish the scheme has been made by the Welsh Government and putting the additional funding towards the cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme will benefit all recipients, irrespective of age, gender, race or disability.

4. **Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken**

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

<Type here>

5. **Will this proposal / decision have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?**

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

<Please summarise any likely positive impact and identify which protected characteristics will benefit>

6. **Will this proposal / decision have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender-reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation)?**

<Please summarise any disproportionate negative impact and identify which protected characteristics will be affected>

7. **Has the proposal / decision been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate negative impact? If no, please explain why.**

<Please Select> <If yes, please provide detail>

8. **Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?**

<Please Select> <If yes please complete the table below. If no, please explain here>

Action(s)	Owner	By when?
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
<Please describe>	<Enter Name>	<DD.MM.YY>
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9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal / decision will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	<15.10.2014
--------------	-------------

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
<Rod Urquhart	<15.01.2014

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.

Ctax Projection 2014/15

No increase in Ctax levels

2 % Increase in claims 3 % Increase in claims 2 % Decrease in claims 3 % Decrease in claims

Current claims	10823	11039	11148	10607	10498
Current Expenditure	£9,365,635	£9,552,996.71	£9,646,653.54	£9,178,369.39	£9,084,712.56
Average expenditure per claim	£865.35	£865.35	£865.35	£865.35	£865.35
Baseline Funding	£9,167,000	£9,167,000	£9,167,000	£9,167,000	£9,167,000
Shortfall / Surplus	£198,635	£385,997	£479,654	£11,369	-£82,287
2014/15 Expenditure with a Ctax Increase of 2%		£9,744,056.65	£9,839,586.61	£9,361,936.78	£9,266,406.81
Average expenditure per claim		£882.66	£882.66	£882.66	£882.66
Shortfall / Surplus		£577,056.65	£672,586.61	£194,936.78	£99,406.81
2014/15 Expenditure with a Ctax Increase of 3%		£9,839,586.61	£9,936,053.15	£9,453,720.47	£9,357,253.94
Average expenditure per claim		£891.31	£891.31	£891.31	£891.31
Shortfall / Surplus		£672,586.61	£769,053.15	£286,720.47	£190,253.94
2014/15 Expenditure with a Ctax Increase of 4.5%		£9,982,881.56	£10,080,752.95	£9,591,396.01	£9,493,524.62
Average expenditure per claim		£904.29	£904.29	£904.29	£904.29
Shortfall / Surplus		£815,881.56	£913,752.95	£424,396.01	£326,524.62

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County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
Council Briefing 4 February	1	Social Media Training (Requires an hour – first on agenda if possible)	A short session for members on the use of social media	N/A	Sue License / Eleri Woolford
	2	Modernisation (2 hours requested)	To give a presentation to Members on the Modernisation programme	N/A	Julie Horman
	3	Denbighshire Talented Athlete Grant	To provide information and seek support for the continuation of the grant	N/A	Cllr Huw Jones / Rhian Roberts
	4	North Wales Residual Waste Project (TBC)	To discuss arrangements for the disposal of the council's residual waste.	N/A	Cllr David Smith / Steve Parker / Jim Espley
25 February	1	Council Tax setting 2014 / 15 and Associated Matters	To approve the level of Council tax and associated matters	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Local Housing Strategy	To agree the Local Housing Strategy	Yes	Cllr Hugh Irving / Peter McHugh / Sue Lewis
	3	Capital Plan	To set the budget for the year 2014/2015	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady / Richard Weigh

County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	4	North Wales Police – Force Communications Centre (FCC)	Superintendent Alex Goss to give a presentation to increase knowledge of the FCC function and accessibility and possible visits to the FCC if required by Members.	N/A	Superintendent Alex Goss / Jane Pearson, Command Team Secretary. Supt Goss requested he be first on Agenda !!
	5	Contract Procedure Rules: Revised	To consider revisions to the CPRs	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Lisa Jones Deferred from 3 December meeting at request of SLT
	6	Flexible Working Policy Statement	To consider and approve the Flexible Working Policy Statement	Yes	Cllr Barbara Smith / Sally Ellis
	7	Rhyl New School Project	To approve the Business Case	Yes	Cllr Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	8	North Wales Residual Waste Project	To approve the contractual arrangements for the disposal of the Council's residual waste, via a 25 year contract	Yes	Cllr David Smith / Steve Parker / Jim Espley
	9	Revision of the Absence Policy	To consider amendments to the Council's absence policy	Yes	Cllr Barbara Smith / Julie Worrall

County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
8 April	1	Arrangements for the Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Council	To agree the nominations for the civic roles.	No	Gary Williams
Council Briefing 28 April	1	Natural Resources Wales	To introduce the new arrangements now that NRW has been established and to share their corporate priorities and discuss how they impact on the council	N/A	Rebecca Maxwell
	2	Financial Inclusion Anti-Poverty (FIAP) Project	To inform all members of the project's aims and objectives	N/A	Cllr. Hugh Irving/Sarah Lamberton
	3	New North East Wales marketing area for tourism in Wales	Verbal report to inform all members of the replacement of 2 current marketing areas/ introduce the new brand / moving forward and business buy in		Vicki Shenton-Morris / Fiona Dolben
13 May ANNUAL MEETING	1	Appointment of the Chair of Council	To appoint the Chair of Council for the 2014 / 15 municipal year	Yes	Gary Williams
	2	Appointment of the Vice Chair of Council	To appoint the Vice Chair of Council for the 2014 / 15 municipal year	Yes	Gary Williams
	3	Annual Report of the Scrutiny	To consider the Annual	Yes	Rhian Evans / Steve

County Council Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Council Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		Committees	Report		Price
September 2014	1	Capital Plan	To discuss previous years outturn and update of 5 months of current year	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady / Richard Weigh

Note for officers – Full Council Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>January</i>	13 January	<i>February</i>	11 February	<i>April</i>	25 March

Updated 15/1/2014 – SP

Council Work Programme.doc