

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 28 March 2014

Direct Dial: 01824 712554

e-mail: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **9.30 am** on **THURSDAY, 3 APRIL 2014** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS 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 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 6 March, 2014 (copy enclosed).

5 TOWN AND AREA PLANS (QUARTERLY REPORT) (Pages 15 - 112)

To consider a report by the Economic & Business Development Manager (copy enclosed) for Members to monitor the Council's performance to date in delivering its town plans and their benefit to the towns themselves and outlying communities.

9.35 a.m. – 10.10 a.m.

6 CONCEPT DESIGN OF GREEN SPACE - WRHIP (Pages 113 - 144)

To consider a report by the Economic & Business Development Manager / West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project Manager (copy enclosed) for a pre-decision scrutiny of the design proposals and the consultation process with respect to the design.

10.10 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.

~~~~~ **BREAK (10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)** ~~~~~

**7 HIGHWAY GRASS VERGE CUTTING POLICY & PROGRAMME 2014/2015 (Pages 145 - 156)**

To consider a report by the Strategic Highways Manager / Section Manager Network Management (copy enclosed) for Members to examine the Council's Policy and grass cutting programme for the forthcoming season.

**11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

**8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 157 - 170)**

To consider a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator (copy enclosed) seeking a review of the committee's forward work programme and updating members on relevant issues.

**11.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.**

**9 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

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

**11.50 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Councillors**

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts  
(Chair)

Councillor Carys Guy (Vice-Chair)

James Davies  
Peter Evans  
Rhys Hughes  
Win Mullen-James  
Bob Murray

Joe Welch  
Cefyn Williams  
Cheryl Williams  
Huw Williams

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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, 6 March 2014 at 9.30 am.

### PRESENT

Councillors James Davies, Peter Evans, Carys Guy (Vice-Chair), Huw Hilditch-Roberts (Chair), Rhys Hughes, Bob Murray, Cefyn Williams and Huw Williams.

Lead Member Councillor David Smith and Councillor Alice Jones, attended at the Committee's request.

Councillors J.R. Bartley, M.Ll. Davies, G.M. Kensler, A. Roberts and E.W. Williams attended as Observers.

### ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Economic and Community Ambition (RM), Head of Housing and Community Development (PM), Section Manager: Traffic and Transportation (MJ), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE), Senior Community Safety Enforcement Officer (TW-E), Planning and Public Protection Administrator (KB) and Administrative Officer (CW).

#### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Win Mullen-James, Joe Welch and Cheryl Williams

#### 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

#### 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014 were submitted.

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

#### 5 PARKING POLICY AND PARKING AND TRAFFIC REVIEW SCOPING EXERCISE

A copy of a report by the Head of Highways and Environmental Services (HHES), which provided an overview of the draft new parking policy and detailed the scoping exercise carried out to assess options for conducting a Traffic and Parking Review (TPR) for the main towns across Denbighshire, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Section Manager: Traffic and Transportation (SMTT) introduced the follow up report to the one submitted in November, 2013, Appendix A, when it had been agreed that the parking policy be reviewed and a scoping exercise be undertaken to assess the options for a TPR.

Some items in the existing Policy, Appendix B, were still relevant with some having been superseded due to subsequent developments. The new policy, Appendix C, adopted an approach which recognised the role that effective management of parking could play in supporting the local economy. A well-managed parking regime could have a positive effect in assisting a retail centre. The ten priorities in the new policy had been listed in the report.

It was explained that Action 5.1d in the “Economic and Community Ambition Strategy” had been to carry out a TPR for the main towns across Denbighshire. The exercise had resulted in the development of a suggested methodology for the TPR which had been incorporated in Appendix D. Feedback received from the Economic and Community Ambition Board had been incorporated in the methodology.

The CDECA and Head of Housing and Community Development (HHCD) provided details of the review and its significance in identifying the needs of the residents, local businesses, and its importance in promoting and supporting the local economy.

The TPR had been proposed to evaluate how parking and traffic management could contribute towards the Corporate Priority of developing the local economy, and it had been recognised that parking provision alone could not influence the viability and vibrancy of town centres. The importance of good signage, provision of safe access for pedestrians, cyclists, passenger transport and those with impaired mobility had also been highlighted. It was noted that traffic congestion or a parking “free for all” could potentially create an unattractive, unsafe and unwelcoming environment.

Details of the data provided by present pay and display meters had been outlined, and it was explained that a current lack of data in certain areas had made it more difficult to evaluate and assess the costs involved. The proposed starting point for the TPR had been included in the report, with the final stage being to identify potential solutions to try and improve the influence of traffic and parking management in town centres. A summary of the costs had been incorporated in the report.

Members were informed that the parking policy review would need to be undertaken within existing service budgets, with the effect on costs and income levels requiring assessment during the reviews. The current budget pressure,

primarily relating to Prestatyn and Rhyl car parks, would need to be considered as part of the reviews. An Equality Impact Assessment document had been included as Appendix E.

Members discussed the contents of the report in detail and the following actions and issues were identified:-

- the need to liaise with Town Councils on the most appropriate days to earmark as 'free parking days' to ensure the County does not incur substantial income losses.
- it being important to ensure that all pay and display meters collect relevant and useful data to enable the Council to use it effectively.
- a need for car parks to have clear signage for short and long term stays and that all signage is current and up to date.
- that coach parking provision in towns be incorporated as part of the review.
- the need to explore parking provision in the County's rural areas, particularly in tourist areas.
- Maintenance issues and the number of pot holes in car parks which required attention.

During the ensuing discussion, Members requested that a progress report on the Parking Review be included in the Committee's Forward Work Programme for October, 2014.

**RESOLVED** – that, subject to the consideration of the above points and inclusions to the report, the Committee:-

*(a) endorsed the introduction of the new parking policy as drafted in Appendix C to the report.*

*(b) supported the suggested approach for conducting traffic and parking review for the towns listed in the report, and*

*(c) requested that the findings of the traffic and parking review be reported to the Committee in the autumn of 2014.*

## **6 SAFER ROUTES SCHEME**

A copy of a report by the Head of Highways and Environmental Services (HHES), which detailed the Safe Routes in Communities (SRIC) initiative, and provided the background to the initiative as well as the processes involved at the various stages of a project funded by the Welsh Government's SRIC Grant, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The HHES introduced the report and referred to school related parking problems which were often worse at urban schools. The report highlighted the main aim of SRIC projects, and Appendix A included details of SRIC projects undertaken since 2006. The report summarised the administrative process for the SRIC schemes undertaken, which included the production of a Travel Plan by the respective schools/communities,.

Councillor E.A. Jones and Bodelwyddan Town Council had expressed concerns about the management of the Bodelwyddan SRIC project. Councillor E.A. Jones

provided a detailed summary of the problems which had been encountered by residents in Bodelwyddan, particular reference being made to issues arising following the implementation of the traffic calming scheme on Ronaldsway which had it was claimed exacerbated the problems in the area. The view was expressed by Councillor Jones that this had been a complicated scheme in a small area and concerns had been expressed regarding the quality and standard of work, particularly relating to the provision of the speed cushions.

The suggested differences between the agreed scheme and what was implemented were highlighted and included in Appendix B. Only Phase 1 of the scheme had been implemented to date and details were provided of the consultation process adopted. The drop off area had been added following requests received arising from the consultation responses, and had not been communicated to the Town Council's Travel Committee until after the bid had been submitted due to a lack of time. The tight timescale had arisen from the Travel Committee's desire for the scheme to start as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the next funding cycle. The view had been expressed that the Town Council had not engaged fully in the project and that there had been a lack of ownership of the scheme.

Concerns were raised with respect to the Welsh Government's criteria for this Scheme, as the change in criteria had led to confusion with respect to the Scheme. Members noted the problems that had arisen with the Scheme in Bodelwyddan and agreed that clear lines of engagement and communication between the County Council, contractors, Town and Community Councils and the public were crucial if such schemes were to be successfully delivered. They also requested that officers liaise with Councillor E.A. Jones and the Member Area Groups with respect to the specific problems and consequences of the scheme at Bodelwyddan.

Members agreed that a letter be sent by the Chair on the Committee's behalf to the Welsh Government's Minister for Economy, Science and Transport urging her to review the criteria for the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme and restrict in future to safer routes to schools.

**RESOLVED** – that:-

- (a) *subject to the observations provided the Committee supports the continued application for Safe Routes in Communities funding in Denbighshire, and*
- (b) *a letter be sent by the Chair on the Committee's behalf to the Welsh Government's Minister for Economy, Science and Transport urging her to review the criteria for the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme and restrict in future to safer routes to schools.*

## **7 DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

A copy of a report by the Head of Planning and Public Protection (HPPP), which detailed the potential for the Council to introduce additional legal controls over dogs and their owners across the County, had been distributed with the papers for the meeting.

Councillor D.I. Smith introduced the report and informed Members of additional



legal powers available to enforce against irresponsible dog owners, and requested approval to allow officers to progress with a public consultation on introducing Dog Control Orders across the County.

The Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 had been summarised in the report. Dog fouling was a persistent source of complaints and current powers limited the action which could be taken against dog owners who allowed their dogs to foul in certain areas. There was a clear public health and amenity improvement argument for introducing more legal controls, in the form of Dog Control Orders, to address the problem of dog control in a different and more robust way. Dog fouling was currently controlled by the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996, which made it unlawful to fail to pick up faeces after your dog had fouled. However there were exemptions on certain kinds of public land including land used for agriculture or woodlands, rural common land, land that was predominantly marshland, moor or heath and highway land with a speed limit of 40mph or more. No enforcement could currently take place in these areas.

Councillor Smith explained that it was proposed that 3 Dog Control Orders be introduced subject to consultation with City, Town and Community Councils, members of the public and other relevant stakeholders. These Orders included:-

- The Draft Fouling of Land by Dogs (DCC) Order 2014. This would make it unlawful to foul on any land within the administrative area of the Council unless the person had permission from the landowner.
- The Draft Dogs on Lead by Direction (DCC) Order 2014. This would make it unlawful to be in charge of a dog which was not on a lead on any highway or any other land which was clearly signed at every entrance highlighting that dogs must be kept on a lead. The 'other land' areas had been defined at Appendix 1.
- The Draft Dogs Exclusion (DCC) Order 2014. This would make it unlawful for dogs to enter a designated area which was clearly signed at each entrance that dogs were specifically excluded. The consultation would set out exactly which areas could be included as exclusion areas, and had been listed at Appendix 2.

Breaching Orders would result in a criminal offence which could either be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court or the dog owner be afforded the opportunity to pay a FPN of between £75 and £150. The current financial penalty was £75 and the tough enforcement approach to the nonpayment of FPN would continue, with persons choosing not to pay their FPN being prosecuted. Councillor H.O. Williams proposed, and Councillor C.H. Williams seconded, an amendment that FPN's be increased from £75 to £100. The vote was tied and the Chair exercised his casting vote in favor of the recommendation in the report, that FPN's remain at £75, and the amendment was lost.

Details of the consultation process undertaken had been included in the report. The need for additional legal controls in the form of Dog Control Orders had previously been agreed as part of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fouling Strategy. If approval was granted to progress, a 28 day consultation period would take place

with City, Town and Community Councils, County Councillors, members of the public and other identified stakeholders. All responses would be discussed with the Lead Member, and it was emphasised that if the Orders were implemented the enforcement approach would need to be sensitive, proportionate and gradual. This would include the use of verbal warnings, appropriate signage and publicity.

Councillor H.O. Williams requested that consideration be afforded to the possibility of extending enforcement areas beyond rural car park boundaries, such as the one at Moel Famau, to cover footpaths, areas within the AONB and other popular locations utilised by the public. Councillor Smith explained that problems had been encountered regarding the placement of dog waste bins and signage within the AONB.

The Committee supported requests from Members that:-

- the Welsh version of the dog fouling signs be rectified as the translation was incorrect.
- a copy of the letter sent to all Town and Community Councils urging them to buy dog fouling bins and invest in keeping their communities tidy be sent to all county councillors for information.
- a communication be sent to all County Councillors advising them on where dog fouling bags could be obtained so that they could inform their residents.
- the feasibility of sending flyers to all residents with their Council Tax bills outlining the penalties for dog fouling offences be explored.

Details of restrictions relating to dogs on beaches within the County was provided in response to concerns raised by Members. Councillor H.O. Williams proposed, and Councillor C.H. Williams seconded, an amendment that FPN's be increased from £75 to £100. The vote was tied and the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the recommendation in the report, that FPN's remain at £75, and the amendment was lost.

Following further discussion the Committee supported the principle of introducing dog control orders across the County, and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – *that the Committee:-*

- (a) support and agree with the Dog Control Order options put forward in the report,*
- (b) recommends that officers be allowed to progress with a public consultation on the introduction of Dog Control Orders across the County, and*
- (c) recommends that the Fixed Penalty Notices associated with the proposed Dog Control Orders be set at £75.*

## **8 KINGDOM**

A report by the Head of Planning and Public Protection and the Public Protection Manager, which provided a comprehensive update on the environmental crime enforcement activities of Kingdom Security Ltd (KSL), how the service was managed and developed over the last 12 month period, and the associated costs, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Councillor D.I. Smith introduced the report and explained that in October, 2012 the Council had appointed KSL to undertake the important role of the enforcement of environmental crime across the County. KSL were responsible for enforcing against environmental crimes such as littering, dog fouling, fly posting, smoking in an enclosed space and graffiti. Dog fouling had been the most persistent source of complaints, with littering being the source of the greatest number of FPN's served.

The role and remit of KSL officers had been summarised in the report. Member briefings had been sent to all Members and City, Town and Community Councils on a quarterly basis to provide updates on officer activities and the number of FPNs which had been served. Appendix 1 incorporated the latest Member briefing.

Special operations had been undertaken to tackle problematic or 'hot spot' areas for dog fouling, which included early morning and weekend operations at various locations. CCTV had been used to support the operations and a successful week long educational event had been undertaken on Rhyl High Street.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation the KSL representatives provided Members with video footage of a FPN being issued on the Coast Road between Rhyl and Prestatyn.

Financial information and background details pertaining to FPN's had been included in the report. The total number of patrols undertaken across the County and number of warnings and cautions issued had been incorporated in Appendix 2. Members were informed that particulars relating to complaints received since October, 2012, the investigation procedure adopted, consultation process, risks and the steps implemented to address them had also been provided.

Members were provided with the details of the recently launched "bin it to win it" scheme introduced by KSL to provide further incentive to the public to dispose of their litter and dog waste in a responsible manner. Councillor Smith highlighted the importance of maintaining the momentum of the work being undertaken regarding the enforcement of environmental crime in the County.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor R.M. Murray regarding the provision of guidance and clarity in relation to the requirement for KSL officers to wear official uniforms when undertaking their official duties, the KSL representatives explained that casual dress was more conducive when undertaking certain activities, such as those relating to dog fouling offences. The KSL representatives explained that they would be unable to provide a further response to any complaints received pending a full analysis of any associated evidence. Councillor Murray was informed that he would be provided with a detailed response, which could be related to members of public, pending completion of the investigations. Members were provided with an assurance that KSL officers would in future wear official uniforms when undertaking duties in Town Centres.

Details pertaining to the use of body cameras by KSL officers, and the hours during which the officers undertake their duties, were provided for the Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that subject to clarification on the Council's guidelines to the Company with regards to enforcement officers' wearing of uniform, to support the continued approach and partnership with Kingdom Security Ltd. for the enforcement of environmental crime.

## **9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

A copy of a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator, which requested the Committee to review and agree its forward work programme and which provided an update on relevant issues, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Cabinet Forward Work Programme had been included as Appendix 2 and a table summarising recent Committee resolutions, and advising on progress with their implementation, had been attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Committee considered its draft Forward Work Programme for future meetings as in Appendix 1, and the following amendments and additions were agreed:-

(a) A report on the scheduling and quality monitoring processes with respect to Council housing refurbishment work to be included in the Committee's Forward Work Programme for May, 2014. The report to detail the improved scheduling and monitoring of refurbishment work on the Council's housing stock to ensure that future contracts are properly monitored to deliver high quality work in a rational way.

(b) A report on the progress and measures taken to date to deliver the Council's Corporate Communication Strategy be included in the Committee's Forward Work Programme for April, 2014. The report to detail the two way communication between the Council and residents, the press and other media channels, and Councillors. Members felt that effective communication would assist the Authority in transmitting its messages across to residents via all available channels.

The Committee agreed that the respective Lead Members be invited to present the reports.

In response to a question from Councillor T.R. Hughes, the Corporate Director: Economic and Community Ambition explained that issues pertaining to the Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the former North Wales Hospital Site, Denbigh would be presented to Cabinet and the Planning Committee for consideration in due course.

**RESOLVED** – that, subject to the above amendments and agreements, the Work Programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

## **10 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chair reported he had recently attended the following Service Challenge meetings:-

Human Resources:- Work was being undertaken on issues identified.

Education:- Very positive meeting, good leadership with good work being undertaken.

The Committee endorsed a request by the Chair that the list of Members nominated to attend Service Challenge meetings be circulated.

**RESOLVED** – that:-

- (a) the report be received and the contents noted, and*
- (b) the list Members nominated to attend the respective Service Challenge meetings be circulated.*

**Meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.**

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**Report To:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

**Lead Officer:** Leader of the Council & Lead Member for Economic Development / Corporate Director Economic & Community Ambition

**Report Author:** Economic & Business Development Manager

**Title:** Town and Area Plans

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## 1. What is the report about?

The report is about monitoring the Council's performance in delivering its Town Plans and their benefits to the towns themselves and outlying communities.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

The reason for making this report is to identify any slippage in the delivery of the Plans and actions to improve performance and to assist the Council to come closer to its communities.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee considers and provides observations on the progress made with the delivery of Town Plans.

## 4. Report details

### 4.1 Progress on adopted Town Plans

Progress reports are updated on a quarterly basis and the progress report for the Town Plans to the end of the last quarter – December 2013 – were appended with the report presented to Communities Scrutiny on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014. The exception was the Denbigh Performance Management Report which is attached as Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Rhyl Town and Area Plan

The Rhyl Town & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 2. This Plan was approved by the Rhyl MAG on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014, and approval of the plan along with the following priorities will be considered by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

| <b>Priority:</b>                                | <b>Funding Requirement:</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Improvements to street scene                    | £200,000                    |
| Enhancement of key gateways                     | £50,000                     |
| Begin implementation of new way-finding signage | £50,000                     |
| <b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET</b>    | <b>£300,000</b>             |

All the proposed priorities align with the Rhyl Going Forward Programme. The improvements proposed for the street scene in the town centre will enhance the experience of visitors to the town centre and make it a more attractive environment for retailers. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with the highway repairs scheduled for completion during the 2014/15 financial year. Enhancing the appearance of the key gateways to the town and starting to roll out the new way-finding strategy for the town will complement the works proposed for the town centre in enhancing the visitor experience. There are opportunities to use the allocation sought from the Town Plan budget to lever in match funding from bodies such as Arts Council for Wales, Coastal Communities Fund and Visit Wales for eligible investments together with support from Rhyl Town Council for complementary activity, and these will be progressed.

#### 4.3 Denbigh Town and Area Plan

The Denbigh Town & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 3. This Plan was approved by the Denbigh MAG on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014, and approval of the plan along with the following priorities will be considered by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

| Priority:                                      | Funding Requirement: |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Upgrade kitchens at Llandyrnog Sports Pavilion | £2,000               |
| Installation of footpath at Aberwheeler        | £20,000              |
| Installation of footpath on Garn Road, Henllan | £85,000              |
| <b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET</b>   | <b>£107,000</b>      |

The upgrade of the kitchen at Llandyrnog Sports Pavilion is required to bring the facility up to regulation standard which will allow continued use by sports clubs and community groups. Without the upgrade the continued use will not be possible. The installation of the footpaths at Aberwheeler and Henllan are both required to improve pedestrian safety. These works are not in Highways work programme but are a priority for the community.

#### 4.3 Rhuddlan Town and Area Plan

The Rhuddlan Town & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 4. This Plan was approved by the Elwy MAG on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014, and approval of the plan along with the following priorities will be considered by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

| Priority:                                    | Funding Requirement: |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Addressing eyesore properties in Dyserth     | £38,000              |
| Replace play equipment in Dyserth            | £12,000              |
| <b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET</b> | <b>£50,000</b>       |

There are a number of empty and derelict properties on Dyserth High Street, the appearance of which discourage investment in the area. Activity for this priority



might include works to improve the appearance of buildings, but a reasonably significant budget has been requested to enable the potential acquisition of key eyesore properties where discussion to date with owners to undertake works have proved unsuccessful. This priority will involve the Council's Planning and Regulatory Services to ensure that appropriate enforcement activity is taken where required. The play equipment in Dyserth is old and in need of replacement to encourage the community to use the area. Current maintenance arrangements will continue.

#### 4.4 – Spend to date on Town and Area Plans

The tables below outline the allocations made to date against the budget to the end of March 2014. These include the allocations made against the Rhyl, Denbigh and Rhuddlan Area Plans contained in this report.

**Table 1: Current budget against Town Plan Budget**

|                                                             |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total funding budget for Town and Area Plans to 31 Mar 2014 | <b>£1,583,000</b> |
| Allocations to date                                         | <b>£1,332,170</b> |
| Unallocated balance to 31 Mar 2014                          | <b>£250,830</b>   |

**Table 2: Spend to Date and Match Funding**

| Town:              | Town Plan Allocated to date | Town Plan Spent to date | Town Plan Balance | Match Funding to date | Match Funding Forecast | Total Match Funding |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Prestatyn</b>   | £245,000                    | £0                      | £245,000          | £0                    | £7,000                 | £7,000              |
| <b>St Asaph</b>    | £84,800                     | £8,420                  | £76,380           | £0                    | £283,500               | £283,500            |
| <b>Rhuddlan</b>    | £97,000                     | £1,726                  | £95,274           | £700                  | £21,300                | £22,000             |
| <b>Denbigh</b>     | £242,800                    | £50,000                 | £192,800          | £0                    | £561,200               | £561,200            |
| <b>Ruthin</b>      | £169,070                    | £41,420                 | £127,650          | £41,420               | £187,000               | £228,420            |
| <b>Corwen</b>      | £95,000                     | £25,426                 | £69,574           | £18,426               | £52,500                | £70,926             |
| <b>Llangollen</b>  | £98,500                     | £50,000                 | £48,500           | £3,000                | £501,000               | £504,000            |
| <b>Rhyl</b>        | £300,000                    | £0                      | £300,000          | £0                    | £200,000               | £200,000            |
| <b>Bodelwyddan</b> | £0                          | £0                      | £0                | £0                    | £0                     | £0                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>£1,332,170</b>           | <b>£176,992</b>         | <b>£1,155,178</b> | <b>£63,546</b>        | <b>£1,813,500</b>      | <b>£1,877,046</b>   |

The one outstanding Plan now is Bodelwyddan which is currently in development and expected to be presented to Cabinet in early summer.

Following consideration by CET in on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 a review of the impact of Town and Area Plans is scheduled for Apr/May 2014. This review will be undertaken independently of the Economic & Business Development function who have lead responsibility for developing and delivering the plans, and will make a cost/benefit analysis of the projects being prioritised within the plans.

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

The Corporate Plan identifies vibrant and economically active towns and communities as essential components of a strong local economy. The implementation of Town & Area Plans will support implementation of the corporate

priority for improving the local economy and will also assist the Council in meeting its ambition of being closer to the community.

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

See details on spend in section 4 above.

The Town and Area Plans identify issues, actions and priorities developed through consultation with those communities, and should be a key document in influencing the activity and priorities of all Denbighshire Services. As such, whilst Economic and Business Development lead on the development and coordination of the Town and Area Plans, other services across the authority are involved in the delivery of individual actions.

**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.**

Individual Equality Impact Assessments for specific projects or activities detailed within the Town and Area Plans will be developed at the appropriate stage.

**8. What consultations have been carried out?**

Town and Area Plans are developed in partnership with the relevant Town or Community Council. Consultation has been undertaken with DCC Heads of Service, third sector organisations (through DVSC), residents and business community (through some face to face meetings and through web based surveys).

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The expenditure proposed is contained within existing funding allocations. No capital project should start without a proper appraisal and any revenue implications from projects should be contained within existing budgets.

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

There is a risk that the development of the plans will raise expectations and that failure to deliver could damage the Council's reputation with Town and Community Councils and other stakeholders. This will be managed by ongoing involvement and communication with relevant stakeholders about the development and delivery of the plans.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council the power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

Articles 6.1, 6.3.2(c) and 6.3.4(b) sets out Scrutiny's powers with respect to town plans, the county and its inhabitants, and the Council's performance in delivering its objectives.

## Denbigh Town Plan Performance Management

Report for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

### Key

#### Source of funding for delivery of priority actions

|                                                                      |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Service budget                                                       | S |
| 100% external                                                        | X |
| From the corporate priority allocation to match a grant              | M |
| 100% from the corporate priority allocation                          | P |
| Major project which would have to be funded through the capital plan | C |

#### Delivery confidence

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Red</b>    | Successful delivery of the project / programme appears to be unachievable. There are major issues on project / programme definition, schedule, budget required quality or benefits delivery, which at this stage does not appear to be manageable or resolvable. The project/programme may need re-baselining and/or overall viability re-assessed. |
| <b>Orange</b> | Successful delivery of the project/programme is in doubt with major risks or issues apparent in a number of key areas. Urgent action is needed to ensure these are addressed, and whether resolution is feasible.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Yellow</b> | Successful delivery appears probable but significant issues already exist requiring management attention. These appear resolvable at this stage and if addressed promptly, should not present a cost/schedule overrun.                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Green</b>  | Successful delivery of the project/programme to time, cost and quality appears highly likely and there are no major outstanding issues that at this stage appear to threaten delivery significantly                                                                                                                                                 |

## ...for people

| Priority action                                                                               | Led by                                         | How this will be funded | From when this will start | By when this will be complete | Delivery confidence | Notes                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reviewing primary school provision in upper Denbigh                                           | County Council Customers and Education Support | S                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Aug 2012                   | Green               | <b>Complete</b>                                                                                                                                                               |
| Implementing the actions arising from the review of primary school provision in upper Denbigh | County Council Customers and Education Support | S                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Aug 2012                   | Green               | <b>Complete</b>                                                                                                                                                               |
| Reviewing remaining primary provision within Denbigh and the adjoining communities            | County Council Customers and Education Support | S                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2017                   | Green               | It is anticipated that Members during 2014 will be asked to give consideration to the scope of the review for primary provision in the town of Denbigh and surrounding areas. |
| Secure capital funding for improvements to primary and secondary Schools                      | County Council Customers and Education Support | X                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2017                   | Green               | The Council as part of its Corporate Plan has an overall commitment to invest in school buildings. It is expected that options for where                                      |

|                                                                                                                                       |                                 |   |            |             |        |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       |                                 |   |            |             |        | investment may be made beyond the five projects in 21st Century Schools will be considered during 2014.                                                                     |
| Potentially providing housing to enable the conservation of the historic buildings at the former North Wales Hospital                 | Private sector                  | X | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Yellow | Repairs notice served in 2013. A master plan for the site is nearing completion. Phil Ebbrell will provide a more detailed update at 10 Feb MAG meeting                     |
| Providing housing on the former Autoworld site in Smithfield Road to meet the needs of younger people                                 | Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd            | X | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Green  | The work is progressing and is due to be completed March 2014                                                                                                               |
| Considering making the site of the former school in Middle Lane available for a housing development to meet the needs of older people | County Council Housing          | X | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Yellow | Vacant possession is yet to be obtained. The Youth Club are moving to the Hwb in 2014. The Boxing Club have issues with their new premises preventing them from relocating. |
| Providing more allotments                                                                                                             | County Council Finance & Assets | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 |        | This has been found not to be required.<br><br><i>Can this action be</i>                                                                                                    |

**Appendix 1**

|                                                                                |                                                                 |   |            |             |       |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                |                                                                 |   |            |             |       | <i>removed?</i>                                          |
| Supporting businesses to provide family focussed activities and establishments | County Council Housing and Community Development Business Group | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green | Issue to be raised with Business Group. EW to follow up. |

## ...for the community

| Priority action                                                                                     | Led by                                         | How this will be funded | From when this will start | By when this will be complete | Delivery confidence | Notes                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exploring the possibility of getting access to the Communities First programme funding for the area | Upper Denbigh Community Partnership            | X                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Mar 2013                   | Green               | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Ward included in new Communities First area for North Denbighshire                                                           |
| Undertaking a museum feasibility study                                                              | Denbigh Museums Group                          | X                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Mar 2013                   | Green               | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Study complete                                                                                                               |
| Implementing the recommendations of the museum feasibility study                                    | Denbigh Museums Group                          | M                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2017                   | Green               | Premises in which the museum will be located have been secured and the Museums Group are actively seeking funding to move on to the next phase. |
| Improving facilities at the town's Welsh primary school by replacing mobile classrooms with         | County Council Customers and Education Support | C                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2017                   | Green               | The project to improve facilities at Ysgol Twm o'r Nant is progressing and is scheduled to be completed                                         |

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                     |   |            |             |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| permanent buildings                                                                                                                      |                                                     |   |            |             |        | by the summer of 2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Supporting the improvement of the facilities at Denbigh Town Football, Tennis and Cricket clubs and support the development of new clubs | County Council Communication, Marketing and Leisure | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green  | <p>Denbigh Tennis Club has resurfaced the courts with funding from Cadwyn Clwyd and DCC.</p> <p>Denbigh Cricket Club were awarded a Community Chest grant to purchase equipment and sent coaches on qualification courses.</p> <p>Denbigh Town Junior Football Club received a Community Chest grant to set up an U9 team.</p> |
| Looking into the feasibility of providing toilets in Lower Park                                                                          | County Council Environment                          | P | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | <p>A new location needs to be agreed. One location has been suggested but it viability needs checking. However a maintenance agreement needs to be in place before the location can be checked and agreed. DCC do not have the capacity to take on the maintenance. HT to</p>                                                  |



## Appendix 1

|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                     |        |            |             |                 |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                     |        |            |             |                 | contact the groups involved to progress a way forward.                                                                                                          |
| Looking into improving the interior of the town hall                                                                                               | County Council Communication, Marketing and Leisure | C      | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Not yet started | EW to speak to C, M and L                                                                                                                                       |
| Providing a permanent building for the Margaret Morris Centre                                                                                      | County Council Customers and Education Support      | S<br>X | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green           | Options for the provision of a replacement building for the Margaret Morris Centre will be considered alongside proposals for the remodelling of Ysgol Pendref. |
| Providing new facilities for young people to complement the housing development proposed for the former Autoworld site in Smithfield Road          | County Council Communication, Marketing and Leisure | X      | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Green           | The youth club will be based at the new development on Smithfield Road, which will be completed by March 2014                                                   |
| Providing more flexible public transport for people living in outlying communities to make it easier for them to access the facilities in the town | County Council Highways & Transportation            | X      | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 |                 | <i>This has been raised as an issue for the Area Plan – can we remove from the Town Plan?</i>                                                                   |
| Implementing a Designated Public Place Order within the part of the town covered by the                                                            | County Council Planning and Public Protection       | S      | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green           | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Approval for Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places has been given.                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                     |                                                              |   |            |             |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 mph speed limit                                                                                                  |                                                              |   |            |             |                      | Signs have been implemented. It is up to North Wales Police to enforce now.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Consulting on the introduction of a Dog Control Order within the part of the town covered by the 30 mph speed limit | County Council Planning and Public Protection                | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow               | The current situation is that a report for Scrutiny is now being prepared for March 2014. The report will contain the options for consideration in relation to the Dog Control Orders that would be implemented throughout Denbighshire. |
| Providing integrated activities between the schools                                                                 | Denbigh High School<br>Howell's School<br>St Brigid's School | X | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Not yet due to start | <i>Howell's School students suggested this following the consultation exercise. Now that the school has closed should this stay in the action plan?</i>                                                                                  |

## ...for jobs

| Priority action                                                                      | Led by                                        | How this will be funded | From when this will start | By when this will be complete | Delivery confidence | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maximising the regeneration benefits of the redevelopment of Station Yard            | Private sector                                | X                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2014                   | Yellow              | A development brief is to be drawn up by Planning with input from Economic Development. Planning aim to take it to March or April Planning Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Allocating easily accessible land for development at the Colomendy Industrial Estate | County Council Planning and Public Protection | S                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2014                   | Yellow              | Initial discussions have taken place with D Jones Plant Hire with a view to an access road into the land defined in the Local Development Plan for industrial use. D Jones would allow access - but they would need to be compensated for any loss of land (or re-allocated land). In addition, an initial discussion has been had with the Land Agent for which they are open to bids |

|                                                                                         |                                          |   |            |             |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         |                                          |   |            |             |        | - but they have stressed that significant mitigation and screening would be required as it would have an impact upon their clients property. Significant private investment is likely to be required for this to be achievable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Looking into the feasibility of providing a north-south cycle path in the Vale of Clwyd | County Council Highways & Transportation | X | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow | Following the public consultation exercise that was undertaken in Feb 2013 an overwhelming public preference was established to introduce a Vale of Clwyd cyclerooute in the Denbigh area that, where possible, provides opportunities for traffic free cycling. As such a project is being developed to introduce a route between Denbigh and Llanrhaeadr that will in part utilise the former railway line and in part utilise carriageway side verge. The proposed project will be developed incrementally, with an application for the first phase between St David's Lane and Brookhouse Road being submitted to planning during spring 2014. In conjunction with this a bid will be |

|                                                                                                                                            |                                                  |   |            |             |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                            |                                                  |   |            |             |                 | submitted to Welsh Government for funding to construct this phase of the project during 2014/15. DCC's proposal is for subsequent phases of the project to be delivered in a similar fashion to the first phase. |
| Looking into the feasibility of providing a low carbon public transport link to main employment sites in the area and Rhyl railway station | County Council Highways & Transportation         | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2021 | Not yet started | No progress – no funding identified.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Promoting the use of empty shop units                                                                                                      | County Council Housing and Community Development | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green           | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Pop ups obtained and placed in empty shops                                                                                                                                                    |
| Supporting the renovation of a building to provide a deli in Back Row through the Townscape Heritage Initiative                            | County Council Housing and Community Development | X | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green           | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Building renovation is complete and the deli is open                                                                                                                                          |
| Looking into whether a better market and additional events would be of benefit to the town centre                                          | County Council Housing and Community Development | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow          | Potential has been discussed with Tourism Group who were interested in progressing this. EW to progress further                                                                                                  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                  |   |              |             |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Supporting liaison with Howells School to maximise the economic benefit to the town from the spending power of its students and their parents i.e. accommodation and shop opening hours | Business Group                                   | X | 1 Apr 2012   | 31 Mar 2013 | Red    | <b>COMPLETE but not achieved</b><br>Potential discussed with Business Group who thought that retailers would be unlikely to progress this. The school at Howell's is now closed.                                                                                                                            |
| Building a new visitor centre at the castle                                                                                                                                             | Cadw                                             | X | 1 April 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green  | <b>COMPLETE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Looking into how access to the castle and town walls could be improved                                                                                                                  | Denbigh Tourism Group                            | X | 1 Apr 2012   | 31 Mar 2013 | Green  | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Feasibility study completed for the Denbigh Tourism Group, funded by Cadwyn Clwyd                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Carrying out small scale improvements to the signage and access arrangements for the castle and town walls                                                                              | County Council Housing and Community Development | S | 1 Apr 2012   | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | Signage improvements to the castle for pedestrians and cars are complete. Minor environmental works to Broomhill Lane complete. Public Art Consultant in place to look at artwork for Broomhill Lane to promote its use as the primary route between the castle and the town centre. Project expected to be |

## Appendix 1

|                                                             |                                                  |   |            |             |                 |                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             |                                                  |   |            |             |                 | completed by August 2014                         |
| Holding an information workshop for potential B&B operators | County Council Housing and Community Development | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green           | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Agenda item in Tourism Forum  |
| By being flexible about the uses allowed in the town centre | County Council Planning and Public Protection    | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Not yet started | Economic Development to raise this with Planning |

## ...for the place

| Priority actions                                                                                            | Led by                                           | How this will be funded | From when this will start | By when this will be complete | Delivery confidence | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Completing the Townscape Heritage Initiative                                                                | County Council Planning and Public Protection    | X                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Mar 2013                   | Green               | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Initiative completed to the satisfaction of the funding bodies                                                                                                              |
| Providing financial support to town centre businesses that want to smarten up the outside of their premises | County Council Housing and Community Development | X                       | 1 Apr 2012                | 31 Mar 2013                   | Green               | <b>COMPLETE</b><br>Shop owners assisted to improve the appearance of their premises<br><br>A second round of financial support is now available. Applications to be made via the Town Council. |
| Getting prominent untidy sites and buildings such as Gwasg Gee, the Crown Hotel, the former cinema          | County Council Housing and Community Development | S                       | 1 Apr 2013                | 31 Mar 2017                   | Yellow              | Discussions have been held with Tai Clwyd who are looking to purchase the former cinema in Highgate                                                                                            |



|                                                                                                                        |                            |   |            |             |        |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| in Highgate, 102 Vale Street and the former North Wales Hospital back into use through enforcement action if necessary |                            |   |            |             |        | to develop living accommodation. Funding package not complete.<br><br>Hospital update as above<br><br><i>Phil Ebbrell to update on Gwasg Gee and Crown Hotel at MAG 10 Feb</i> |
| Tidying the area around the water feature near Factory Ward car park                                                   | County Council Environment | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Green  | EW to confirm if complete                                                                                                                                                      |
| Cleaning up the principal routes used by visitors such as Rosemary Lane and Broomhill Lane                             | County Council Environment | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow | Work carried out on Broomhill Lane as part of Cadw funded project.<br><br>Rosemary Lane – EW to follow up                                                                      |
| Providing a litter bin near the college                                                                                | County Council Environment | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Green  | <b>COMPLETE</b><br><br>Bins provided by College                                                                                                                                |
| Reviewing the provision of benches including style and number                                                          | County Council Environment | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 |        | Not yet started – EW to follow up.                                                                                                                                             |

|                                                                                               |                                                                                 |   |            |             |        |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Removing time expired temporary notices from lamp posts and telegraph poles                   | County Council Highways & Transportation, and Housing and Community Development | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow | Issue raised with Strategic Highways Manager which will in turn be raised at Environmental Services and Highways team meetings. |
| Monitoring NOx levels and looking into how they could be reduced                              | County Council Planning and Public Protection                                   | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow | EW to follow up with Planning                                                                                                   |
| Rationalising and improving signs in Factory Ward car park and removing all out of date signs | County Council Highways & Transportation                                        | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar 2013 | Yellow | Update required from Highways                                                                                                   |
| Improving the location of visitor signs in Factory Ward car park                              | County Council Housing and Community Development                                | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | As above. An application has been submitted for funding from Cadwyn Clwyd to provide an extra town trail board.                 |
| Providing interpretation of water feature near Factory Ward car park                          | County Council Housing and Community Development                                | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | EW to find out if Cadwyn Clwyd funding would be available.                                                                      |
| Interpreting the story of Rosemary Lane                                                       | County Council Housing and Community Development                                | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | As above                                                                                                                        |
| Correcting the times on                                                                       | County Council                                                                  | S | 1 Apr 2012 | 31 Mar      | Green  | <b>COMPLETE</b>                                                                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                                              |                                          |   |            |             |        |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| the toilet block at Factory Ward car park                                                                                                    | Environment                              |   |            | 2013        |        |                                                              |
| Looking into the feasibility of off street parking on Barker's Well Lane and Rhyl Road                                                       | County Council Highways & Transportation | P | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | Subject to a traffic study report going to Scrutiny in March |
| Looking into the feasibility of improving the road junction at St Mary's (to complement any new use of the former Church Institute building) | County Council Highways & Transportation | P | 1 Apr 2014 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green  | Subject to a traffic study report going to Scrutiny in March |
| Looking into the feasibility of a one way traffic system through the town                                                                    | County Council Highways & Transportation | S | 1 Apr 2014 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green  | Subject to a traffic study report going to Scrutiny in March |
| Looking into the feasibility of better bus stops in the town centre so buses can pull in and won't hold up the traffic                       | County Council Highways & Transportation | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2017 | Green  | Subject to a traffic study report going to Scrutiny in March |
| Looking into the feasibility of signage for alternative routes to town centre                                                                | County Council Highways & Transportation | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar 2014 | Yellow | Subject to a traffic study report going to Scrutiny in March |
| Looking into the feasibility                                                                                                                 | County Council                           | S | 1 Apr 2013 | 31 Mar      | Green  | Application for funding for a                                |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                          |  |  |             |  |                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>of developing the Chapel Street area into a cultural quarter based on the two chapels, Victorian school room, Gwasg Gee, and Ty Thomas Gee and making more of the link between Beatrix Potter and Gwaenynog Hall and accommodating coach parties</p> | <p>Housing and Community Development</p> |  |  | <p>2017</p> |  | <p>feasibility study to be submitted to Cadwyn in February/March</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------|



# Rhyl town & area plan

Looking forward together 2014 – 2020

February 2014 edition

## Introduction

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a strategic aim of being “a high performing council closer to the community”.

To help achieve this aim, the County Council invited the town and community councils and the businesses, community and voluntary sectors in each of its main towns and the smaller outlying communities which relate to them to join together to develop “town plans”. These are living documents which will be subject to regular reviews and will set out:

- the current situation in the towns
- the key challenges and opportunities which they will face over the next decade
- a vision for each town which will provide it with a sustainable future, and
- realistic and achievable actions which will deliver that vision.

A Town Plan was not developed for Rhyl at the same time as those for the other towns in the county because at that point the highest priority was considered to be the development of a strategic framework for the regeneration of the town. As a result, the Rhyl Going Forward Neighbourhood & Places Delivery Plan which outlined all the interventions in sites, buildings and associated neighbourhood management issues in the town was approved by the County Council’s Cabinet in November 2011

The Council has taken the decision to extend all the existing Town Plans to include the surrounding rural areas, it has now also been agreed that a Town Plan should be developed for Rhyl to help to identify priority actions and to align potential funding streams from the public, private and third sectors.

This then is the new Town & Area Plan for Rhyl.



## Section One

### Vision and priorities for Rhyl

The area now known as Rhyl was listed in the Domesday Book 1086 as the settlement of Bren which was scattered amongst sand hills and salt marshes. The Rhuddlan Marsh Embankment Act of 1794 enabled the land to be drained and with the subsequent Enclosure Act of 1813, reclaimed marsh land became available for sale, and Rhyl began to develop one of the newly popular seaside resorts.

The first hotel in Rhyl, the Royal, was built in 1825 and by 1829 a regular steam packet service was running between the town and Liverpool. The town grew steadily through the mid and late 19th Century, particularly in response to the opening of the Stephenson's railway from Chester to Holyhead in 1848. In 1853 there were just 604 houses in the town and by 1881 there were 1,300 houses and shops and a population of 6,028. By 1893, Rhyl was the largest settlement in the former county of Flintshire and the distinctive grid form of the town centre was complete by 1912.

Page 39 Much of central Rhyl is still as it was constructed during the 19th century, and the sea front activities, though much changed, are still focussed on the tourist trade. However, commerce and industry now play an increasing role in the town's economy, as the tourism industry has changed and the town's dependency on this sector has declined.

Today, Rhyl has several important public facilities including three secondary schools, a college, two theatres, a library, a primary health care centre and hospital, harbour and community fire station. Rhyl Golf Club is North Wales' Oldest Golf Club and a Founder Member of the Golf Union of Wales.

The town is the principal conurbation in Denbighshire with a population of **25,149**.



## Where we are now

(The actual figures are shown in the Statistical Appendix.)

It is clear from the statistics that there are large differences between West / South West Rhyl and the rest of the Town in terms of the age structure, housing stock and economic activity.

### People & Community

Compared to the county as a whole, the town of Rhyl has

- a higher percentage of young people under 15 (mainly concentrated in the West and South West Wards)
- a lower proportion of over 65s (although there is a concentration of over 65s in the South and East Wards)
- two wards with a high proportion of over 85s (East and South)
- a higher proportion of people living in Council and Registered Social Landlord housing
- More people living in overcrowded households (mainly concentrated in the Rhyl West Ward)

Compared to the county as a whole, fewer people in the town of Rhyl

- were born in Wales, and
- can speak Welsh.

The Welsh Government uses a formula to measure deprivation called the “Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation”. They have split Wales into 1896 “Lower Super Output Areas” which are usually smaller than County Council wards. Each area is then ranked using a range of data with the most deprived given a score of 1 and the least deprived as score of 1896.

The scores in different years are not directly comparable because the way in which the index is calculated changes over time.

In the 2011 edition of the Index, 11 out of the 16 “Lower Super Output Areas” in the town are considered by the Welsh Government to more deprived than they were in 2005. In the 2011 index, 5 of the LSOAs in Rhyl are ranked as being in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales with three of these being in the town’s West ward. In this ward, properties formerly used for holiday lets have increasingly become a source of low cost residential units. This has led to a concentration of economically inactive and vulnerable people in the ward, putting a strain on public services.



## Jobs

Compared to the county as a whole,

- slightly fewer people of working age who live in Rhyl work in the public sector (although more people in Denbighshire work in this sector than in any other local authority area in Great Britain reflecting the presence of the district general hospital and regional headquarters of various public services),
- more people work in retail
- more people work in tourism related businesses
- a lower percentage of people work in manufacturing
- a higher percentage of people of working age claim Job Seekers' Allowance.

Whilst some industrial estates and business parks have been provided in the town, the most extensive development of this type in the area in recent years has been at St Asaph Business Park which lies 5 miles to the south.

## The Place

- The Town Centre includes a Conservation area and significant architectural designs.
- There is a physical disconnect between the beach and town
- There are a number of prominent vacant units within town centre, some of which are in a poor condition
- The town has extensive sandy beaches and whilst the water quality at Marine Lake would be regarded as "Excellent" using the criteria set out in the new EU Bathing Water Directive, the quality of the water nearest to the mouth of the Clwyd can be adversely affected by material running off fields up river during periods of intense rainfall
- There are easily accessible, attractive coastal paths on two national cycling and walking routes

Vacancy rates for retail premises – November 2013

The vacancy rate for retail premises is substantially higher than the county average and 2.3% higher than at the last count in 2012.

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Rhyl         | 17.4% |
| Denbighshire | 11.5% |

Some of the properties in the town centre have been poorly maintained which detracts from its overall appearance.

## Future challenges and opportunities

### People & Communities

- The number of people aged over 65 and 85 in the East and South wards is higher than average for Denbighshire.
- The number of people in the town increases considerably over the summer months due to the influx of visitors.
- Rhyl will be eligible for community funds from the Gwynt y Mor off shore windfarm once it becomes operational.
- The perception of anti-social behaviour and risk of crime does not reflect the reality. A number of successful police initiatives have seen crime rates fall by up to 25% in some areas.
- Rhyl has successful football and rugby clubs which are important community facilities.
- The town's High school planned is to be completely rebuilt.
- There is a new Community Hospital planned on the site of the Royal Alexandra.
- The West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project is improving conditions and creating a more balanced housing market in West Rhyl.
- A new mountain bike track has been created at Glan Morfa which complements the existing 1.3km road cycling track.
- There is an opportunity to make more use of Rhyl's natural assets for cycling, walking and beach holidays / activities.

## Jobs

- Rhyl is well placed to benefit from the employment opportunities associated with the offshore wind farm construction and operation and there is the potential for further development of marine economy in the Town.
- Current provision of public transport is not sufficiently flexible to enable residents of the town without their own transport to access many of the job opportunities available at St Asaph Business Park.
- Denbighshire's Local Development Plan identifies a key strategic site at Bodelwyddan including employment opportunities which would be reasonably accessible to people living in Rhyl.
- Many of the job opportunities available in the town itself are low paid and seasonal.
- The Holyhead to Chester railway line offers a sustainable means of travelling to centres of employment further afield.

## The Place

- A new iconic pedestrian and cycle bridge has been opened across the harbour with new moorings provided in the harbour itself.
- Ageing leisure facilities and an untidy street scene are challenges.
- The former Bee & Station and Costigan's public houses have been restored and will be able to accommodate new types of employment in the town centre;
- There is currently a lack of suitable visitor accommodation within the town.
- There are a number of vacant sites which offer the potential for redevelopment.
- There are a rising number of vacant units within the town centre with the threat of further relocations.
- High water quality offers the potential for further accolades for Marine Lake and at the East Parade bathing beach
- There is the potential for improvements to the town's connectivity through the wider modernisation / electrification of rail services in North Wales.
- The County Council is exploring the options for the coastal leisure and tourism facilities including plans to secure a private developer to provide a new Aquatic Centre in Rhyl.

## Vision for Rhyl

We want Rhyl to be an even better place for people to live in and to visit where;

- people will choose to live in all parts of the town, rather than being forced to live in some areas through their personal circumstances which is currently the case;
- jobs are easy to access, whether these are at employers in the town itself or in nearby centres of employment;
- there is a growing maritime sector based around the new harbour facilities and the opportunities which the off shore energy industry provides;
- there is a vibrant town centre which has the number and type of retail units which are appropriate to current and future levels of demand;
- there are attractions which appeal to the current tastes of visitors and which provide a modern interpretation of the traditional seaside experience; and
- there is a strong sense of place and pride locally, with a positive reputation outside of the area.

**Making this happen...**  
for people and community

| Activity                                                                                                                               | Economic Ambition Strategy reference | This will be led by                     | Output                                                         | Start                      | Finish                      | Cost in £000's |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Identify more suitable and accessible premises for the Registry Office.                                                                | 6.2                                  | County Council - Strategic Assets       | Relocation of Registry Office                                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 |                |
| Consider the inclusion of those facilities which have been identified as priorities by the community as in the new community hospital. | 5.3                                  | Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board | Amended plan                                                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 |                |
| Ensure the enhancements planned for the Railway Station will be accessible for all and cater for the needs of the community.           | 1.1                                  | Network Rail                            | Night time access to station facilities and improved security. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil            |

**Making this happen...**  
for the town centre

| Activity                                                                                            | Economic Ambition Strategy Reference | This will be led by                              | Output                                                                                                                                                           | Start                        | Finish                          | Cost         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Develop and deliver a Strategy for the Town Centre                                                  | 5.1                                  | County Council - Economic & Business Development | Publish a strategy and action plan designating areas of responsibility.                                                                                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014     | Nil          |
| Strengthening partnership working and the co-ordination of service provision within the town centre | 5.1                                  | County Council - Economic & Business Development | Agreement of partnership to a revised town centre management function                                                                                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 | Nil          |
|                                                                                                     |                                      | North Wales Police                               | Improvements and extension of the Town Centre radio link                                                                                                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015     | Nil          |
| Increase footfall within Town Centre                                                                | 5.1                                  | Town Council                                     | Funding of an events programme                                                                                                                                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017     | To be agreed |
| Creating a more attractive street scene in the Town Centre                                          | 5.1                                  | County Council - Network Management              | Exploit the opportunities provided by planned highway opportunities to consider the widening of the carriageway and improvements to be made to the street scene. | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015     | £200,000     |

|                                                                  |     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |                            |                             |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
|                                                                  | 5.1 | County Council - Street Scene                    | Replacement of street furniture.                                                                                                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 |              |
|                                                                  |     | County Council - Works Unit                      | Installation of catenary wires in the High Street which can carry bunting and Christmas lights, but will also help alleviate problems caused by birds. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 |              |
|                                                                  |     | County Council - Street Scene                    | Improved street cleaning regime.                                                                                                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil          |
|                                                                  |     | Town Council                                     | Funding enhanced planting in the town centre.                                                                                                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | To be agreed |
|                                                                  |     | Town Council                                     | Maintenance and operation of Christmas lighting and installation of bunting                                                                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | To be agreed |
| Finding new uses for prominent empty premises in the Town Centre | 5.1 | County Council - Economic & Business Development | Development of creative industry accommodation in the vacant 49-55 Queen Street property with funding through Welsh Government                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 | £1.2m        |

|                                                                                                                                                 |     |                                                   |                                                                                                                                               |                              |                             |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Creating larger retail units within the Town Centre to attract quality retailers.                                                               | 5.1 | County Council - Planning Policy                  | Formulation of a development brief for the Queens Market site.                                                                                | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil     |
| Enhancing connectivity to the rest of the town and improving linkages with the seafront for local residents and tourists alike all year around. | 5.1 | County Council - Economic & Business Development  | Develop a signage strategy for the town including pedestrian and tourism signage funded through service revenue budget                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014 | £20,000 |
|                                                                                                                                                 |     | County Council - Economic & Business Development  | Implementation of the first phase of new signage in line with the wayfinding strategy.                                                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | £50,000 |
|                                                                                                                                                 |     | County Council - Traffic & Transportation         | Amend the traffic order on North High Street / Sussex Street to allow vehicular access overnight.                                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil     |
|                                                                                                                                                 |     | County Council - Economic & Community Development | Create a new pedestrian access to the underground car park giving easy access to the High Street with funding from the service revenue budget | 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 | 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2014  | £2,000  |
|                                                                                                                                                 |     | County Council - Traffic & Transportation         | Review transport options in the town centre and along the promenade (e.g. land train or improvements to bus routes)                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil     |



**Making this happen...**  
for the economy

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| Activity                                                                                                                                                                                            | Economic Ambition Strategy Reference | This will be led by                       | Output                                                 | Start                        | Finish                      | Cost            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Improve access to employment areas for local people e.g. public transport to St. Asaph Business Park and opportunities arising from the development of the strategic employment site at Bodelwyddan | 1.1                                  | County Council - Traffic & Transportation | Better public transport links                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil             |
| Ascertain and make clear community ambition and expectations for the vacant 'Ocean Plaza' site subject to the outcome of the current Planning application                                           | 1.3                                  | County Council - Planning Policy          | Formulation of a development brief for the site        | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil             |
| Look into the possibility of developing a Marina                                                                                                                                                    | 3.1                                  | County Council – Commercial Leisure       | Feasibility / business justification report            | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | To be confirmed |
| Redevelopment of the coastal leisure facilities including the Sun Centre, entrance to the Pavilion Theatre and the Children's Village                                                               | 3.1                                  | County Council - Coastal Facilities Board | Secure development partners for the site(s)            | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil             |
| Develop the provision of maritime training courses in Rhyl in partnership with Coleg Llandrillo, allowing for the development of skills necessary for associated industries.                        | 4.3                                  | Coleg Llandrillo                          | Maritime training courses will be provided in the town | 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | EU programme    |

|                                                                                                |     |                                     |                          |                            |                             |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Consider enhancements to allow the Harbour to be used to service the larger wind farm vessels. | 3.3 | County Council - Commercial Leisure | Business case considered | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|

**Making this happen...**

for the place

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| Activity                                                                                                                                 | Economic Ambition Strategy Reference | This will be led by                              | Output                                                                                               | Start                        | Finish                      | Cost            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Investigate options for making the events arena resilient to inclement weather conditions to increase the number of events held in Rhyl. | 3.1                                  | County Council - Economic & Business Development | Feasibility report                                                                                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil             |
| Explore the feasibility of creating an art trail in the town to encourage pedestrian movement to key attractions                         | 3.1                                  | Rhyl Create                                      | Feasibility report                                                                                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | To be confirmed |
| Provide better access to the housing developments in the Rhyl South East area                                                            | 1.1                                  | County Council - Traffic & Transportation        | Junction improvement at Dyserth Road / Pen y Maes Avenue funded by developer through s.106 agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | To be agreed    |
| Improvements to the public realm along the promenade.                                                                                    | 3.1                                  | County Council – Street Scene                    | Provision of replacement seating funded through the base revenue budget                              | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | £5,000          |
| Consider further enhancements at Marine Lake which would increase its usage and improve the destination.                                 | 3.1                                  | County Council - Commercial Leisure              | Funding secured for enhancements                                                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil             |
| Make the entrances and gateways into the town more attractive.                                                                           | 5.1                                  | County Council - Works Unit                      | Installation of decorative lighting on the Foryd bridge during the repairs planned for autumn 2014   | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | £50,000         |

|                                                                                                              |     |                                                            |                                                                                                               |                            |                             |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                              |     | County Council - Economic & Business Development           | Installation of public art at three principal road entrances into the town.                                   |                            |                             |                 |
|                                                                                                              |     | County Council - Development Control & Planning Compliance | Seek to improve the appearance of the Ocean Plaza site pending the re-development through enforcement action. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil             |
|                                                                                                              |     | Rhyl Town Council                                          | Funding the planting of roses where possible at gateways into the town                                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | To be agreed    |
| Positively promote Rhyl through the use of good news stories.                                                | 6.1 | County Council - Destination, Marketing & Communication    | Development of a communications plan                                                                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil             |
| Investigate options for making use of the County Council's freehold of the site where the former pier stood. | 3.1 | County Council - Economic & Business Development           | Feasibility study                                                                                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil             |
| Ensure the development of high quality facilities in the Harbour café and public realm.                      | 3.1 | County Council - Commercial Leisure                        | Inclusion of quality criteria in the tender documents for the café operator                                   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil             |
| Develop the links between coastal and inland cycle routes                                                    | 1.1 | Connect2 group                                             | Development of a cycle link between Marine Lake and Glan Morfa                                                | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 | To be confirmed |
| Encourage the use of East Parade beach for bathers                                                           | 3.1 | County Council - Commercial Leisure                        | Provide deck chairs from the lifeguard station during the summer season funded through base revenue budget    | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | £5,000          |

|                                                                                                                                              |     |                                   |                                                                    |                            |                             |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Provide the opportunity to invite additional attractions along the promenade which complement the existing facilities and enhance the offer. | 3.1 | County Council – Street Scene     | Identify and agree the preferred location to site new attractions. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 | Nil |
|                                                                                                                                              |     | County Council – Strategic Assets | Secure expressions of interest from appropriate providers          | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 | Nil |

## Town & Area Plan Priorities –

### Contributions required from the Town & Area Plan budget

Creating a more attractive street scene in the Town Centre - £200,000

- Exploit the opportunities provided by planned highway opportunities to consider the widening of the carriageway and improvements to be made to the street scene.
- Street scene improvements to include uniform decorative lighting, replacement street furniture and planting.
- Installation of catenary wires where feasible.

Enhancements to the key gateways into the towns to include the restoration of decorative lighting on the Foryd bridge and introduction of gateway features. £50,000

Begin implementation of the new pedestrian and tourism wayfinding signage strategy. £50,000



## **How will we know if we are on track?**

Annual reviews of progress will be undertaken by the County Council together with Rhyl Town Council. More regular updates will also be provided to the County Council's Member Area Groups and to the Town Council, and also to the wider community through County Voice and through press releases made by Denbighshire County Council. The Plan will be treated as a living document in which aspirations can be added or removed according to changes in circumstances.

## **Who was involved in the production of this plan?**

This plan was produced by Denbighshire County Council following consultations with County Council Councillors and Services, the Town Council, the Business Group, secondary schools and the wider community.

## **For further information:**

**[econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk)**

| Statistical Appendix<br>2011 census data                         |         |                                        |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Percentage of...                                                 | In Rhyl | Rhyl excluding<br>West & South<br>West | In Denbighshire |
| Young people aged 15 or under                                    | 19.7    | 17.2                                   | 18.1            |
| All people aged 65 or over                                       | 18.7    | 22.8                                   | 21.1            |
| People aged 85 or over                                           | 2.1     | 2.7                                    | 2.8             |
| Overcrowded households                                           | 6.7     | 3.9                                    | 4.5             |
| JSA Claimants                                                    | 6.3     | 4.1                                    | 4.2             |
| Early Retired                                                    | 17.0    | 19.7                                   | 18.5            |
| People born in Wales                                             | 54.7    | 55.5                                   | 58.1            |
| People over 3 years of age who<br>can speak, read or write Welsh | 22.2    | 23.5                                   | 35.4            |
| Working residents employed in<br>hotels and restaurants          | 7.5     | 5.8                                    | 6.9             |
| Working residents employed in<br>manufacturing                   | 8.5     | 8.6                                    | 9.1             |
| Working residents in retail                                      | 17.8    | 16.5                                   | 14.4            |
| Working residents employed in<br>the public sector               | 33.8    | 35.6                                   | 35.7            |

| Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation |                    |                    |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lower Super Output<br>Area          | Ranking in<br>2005 | Ranking in<br>2008 | Ranking in<br>2011 |
| Rhyl East 1                         | 300                | 301                | 479                |
| Rhyl East 2                         | 887                | 599                | 1040               |
| Rhyl East 3                         | 242                | 162                | 216                |
| Rhyl South 1                        | 608                | 598                | 533                |
| Rhyl South 2                        | 1058               | 1081               | 1142               |
| Rhyl South East 1                   | 797                | 692                | 752                |
| Rhyl South East 2                   | 1052               | 1033               | 1048               |
| Rhyl South East 3                   | 947                | 840                | 1053               |
| Rhyl South East 4                   | 167                | 235                | 287                |
| Rhyl South East 5                   | 1491               | 1517               | 1455               |
| Rhyl South West 1                   | 114                | 94                 | 96                 |
| Rhyl South West 2                   | 25                 | 18                 | 12                 |
| Rhyl South West 3                   | 779                | 717                | 586                |
| Rhyl West 1                         | 17                 | 4                  | 7                  |
| Rhyl West 2                         | 11                 | 1                  | 1                  |
| Rhyl West 3                         | 79                 | 88                 | 34                 |

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# DENBIGH TOWN & AREA PLAN

“LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER”

2013 – 2020

March 2014



# DENBIGH TOWN PLAN

“LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER”

2012 – 2020

Revised August 2013

## Introduction

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a strategic aim of being “a high performing council close to the community”.

To help achieve this aim, the County Council is inviting the town and community councils and the businesses, community and voluntary sectors in each of its main towns and the smaller outlying communities which relate to them to join together to develop “town plans”. These will be living documents which will be subject to regular reviews and will set out

- the current situation in the towns
- the key challenges and opportunities which they will face over the next decade
- a vision for each town which will provide it with a sustainable future, and
- realistic and achievable actions which will deliver that vision.



Denbigh, the third largest town in the county is a medieval market town, steeped in history and dominated by the castle built during the reign of Edward I. The original town walls are still in place apart from a 100 yard stretch. Denbigh was given its borough charter in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and it remained a borough until 1974. The town, which prospered during Tudor times, (one of the most prosperous in Wales) today boasts over 200 listed buildings. The older parts of the town have close knit narrow streets, some grand medieval merchants' houses and many terraced houses, which retain the sense of the medieval town plan. Much of the town is now designated a Conservation Area. The High Street with its 16th century county hall (now the library) has an interesting mixture of shops and public houses. Gwasg Gee in Chapel Street was the oldest printing works in Wales until it closed in 2001, and played an important part in the history, politics and culture of Wales. Denbigh is also the birthplace of many important and well known figures such as H M Stanley, Elizabeth Casson, Thomas and Hugh Myddelton and Twm o'r Nant.

In the 19th century, the North Wales Hospital was built on the outskirts of the town; it was the town's largest employer until it closed in 1995. The main hospital closed in the 1990's with the closure of the Gwynfryn facility following in 2002. The in-patient services which were previously provided at the Hospital were re-located elsewhere. The livestock mart also left the town in 1992 when the new facility was opened on the outskirts of Ruthin and the site which was vacated became the food store that is now Morrison's. Unfortunately, the economic consequences of these closures have not yet been addressed. The Colomendy Industrial Estate which was developed in the latter part of the 20th century is the county's largest general industrial site and has provided new types of employment for the area. Major employers on the Estate included Craig Bragdy who are specialists in ceramic murals for architectural settings and swimming pools, Niagara Health Care Ltd who make massage systems built into beds and chairs, and Telsol who manufacture boluses used in the treatment of livestock.

1. See Appendix 1 – Urban Characterisation Study of Denbigh

The town has two state schools providing secondary education - Denbigh High School and St Brigid's, which also provides primary education. Denbigh College, a Coleg Llandrillo campus provides further education and bilingual learning facilities for the town and its surrounding areas. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is a regional school specialising in the education of children on the autistic spectrum from the age of 3 – 19; it also provides residential facilities at Gwynfryn. There are five state primary schools, including Ysgol Frongoch, Ysgol Pendref, St Bridgid's, Ysgol y Parc and Twm o'r Nant - which provides education through the medium of Welsh. Housing growth during the second half of the 20th century has been primarily focussed in lower Denbigh.

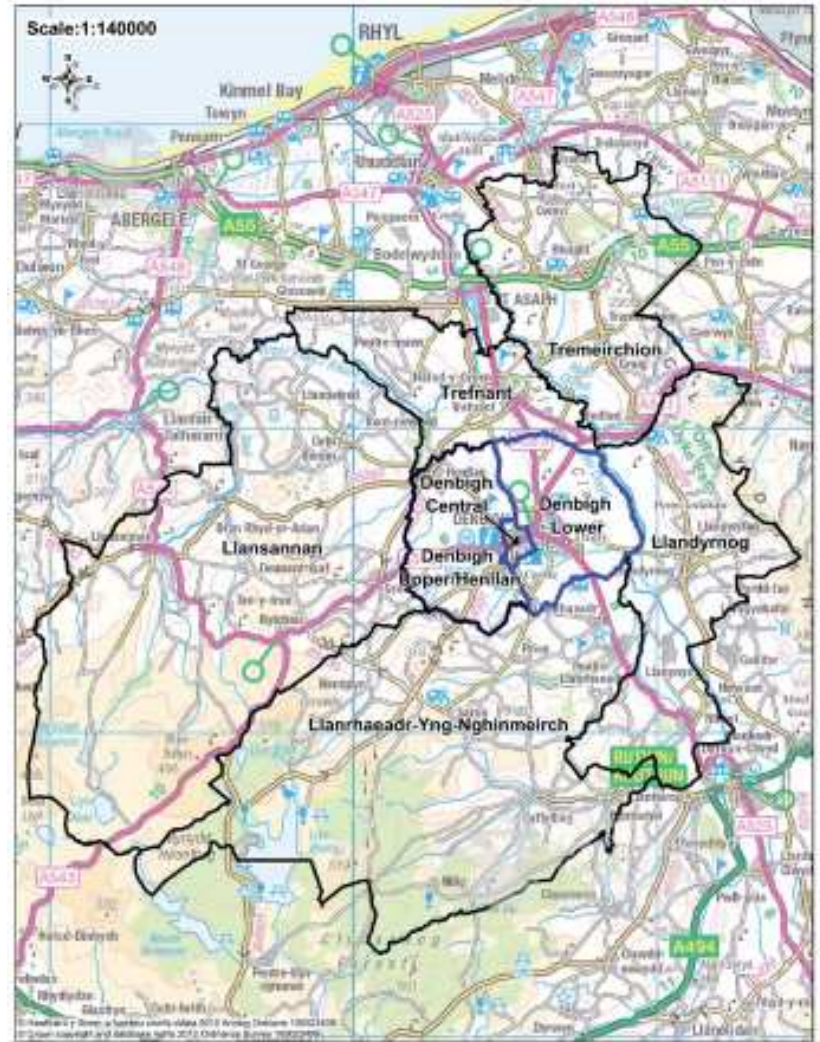
It has a community hospital, the oldest in Wales and a good choice of doctor and dentist practices. It has a leisure centre with a swimming pool, an all weather pitch, fitness suite and dance studio. Lower Park provides tennis courts, a bowling green, a children's park and a skate park. It boasts a voluntary-run theatre, Theatr Twm o'r Nant which is also home to a successful Film Club. Also voluntary-run is Eirianfa, a community centre which is close to the town's main car parks.

There is a Business Group which organises festivals, markets and other events; the Midsummer Festival Committee organises an annual week-long Festival during June and the Round Table organises an annual successful Beer Festival in September. On Boxing Day, the Rotary Club organises an annual 'Roll the Barrel competition' which follows the meeting of the Denbighshire Hunt in the High Street. Denbigh participates in the annual Open Doors heritage weekends and Helfa Gelf, both in September.

The Town Council is also very active; it organises heritage lectures, town guides and an annual Firework display at the castle. The council also provides grant aid funding in excess of £40,000 per annum for community clubs and groups to apply.

### The population of the town of Denbigh is 9,848

The town serves a wider rural hinterland and is surrounded by the Llandyrnog, Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch and Tremeirchion, Cwm & Waen and Trefnant wards in Denbighshire and the Llansannan ward in Conwy County Borough. These wards together with the community of Henllan are the home to a further 10,005 people.



Wards in the Denbigh area

## Where we are now

(The actual figures are shown in the Statistical Appendix.)

### People

Compared to the county as a whole, the town of Denbigh has

- fewer people aged over 65,
- the same percentage of over 85's,
- more young people under 15,
- fewer households claiming housing or Council Tax benefit except in part of the Denbigh Upper & Henllan ward where the percentage is twice the county average,
- fewer households claiming Disability Living Allowance except in the Denbigh Central and Denbigh Upper & Henllan wards, and
- the same proportion of households are overcrowded except in part of the Denbigh Upper & Henllan ward where the percentage is more than twice the county average.

### Community

Compared to the county as a whole, more people in the town of Denbigh

- have been born in Wales, and
- can speak Welsh

In the town as a whole, the crime rate is average or, in the case of Denbigh Lower ward, below average; however in the Central ward incidences of 'Violence against the Person' and 'Criminal Damage' are higher.

There is a strong ethos of community enterprise in the town which has enabled the provision of facilities by voluntary and community groups, for example, Theatr Twm o'r Nant, where they have not been provided by the public sector.

The Welsh Government uses a formula to measure deprivation called the "Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation". Wales is split into 1896 areas some of which are smaller than County Council wards which are called "Lower Super Output Areas". Each area is then ranked with the most deprived given a score of 1 and the least deprived as score of 1896. The scores in different years are not directly comparable because the way in which the index is calculated changes over time. In the 2011 edition of the Index, part of the Denbigh Upper & Henllan ward has moved up to be amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and as such potentially qualifies for assistance through the Communities First programme.

Part of the index which relates to how easy it is for people to access services such as schools, clinics, shops and leisure centres and the Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch, Llansannan, Trefnant and Tremeirchion, Cwm & Waen wards are considered to be amongst the 10% most deprived in Wales in this regard with the Llandyrnog ward being in the 20% most deprived.



Map showing the Lower Super Output Areas in Denbigh

## Jobs

Compared to the county as a whole,  
(2. Appendix 2 (Statistical Appendix))

- more people who live in Denbigh work in the public sector (and more people in Denbighshire work in this sector than in any other local authority area in Great Britain)
- fewer people work in retail
- the same percentage of people work in manufacturing (which is lower than in Wales as a whole)
- fewer residents of the town commute more than 20km to work
- fewer people commute more than 20km to work in the town, and
- the same percentage of people of working age claim Job Seekers' Allowance.

Annual household incomes in the Denbigh Lower ward are much higher than the average for Wales with those in the rest of the town being lower than average.

2. Appendix 2 (Statistical Appendix)

## The place

Denbigh has one of the highest percentages of vacant town centre units in the county although this is still broadly similar to the average level for the UK.

### Vacancy rates for town centre premises – November 2013

|         |       |                      |
|---------|-------|----------------------|
| Denbigh | 10.8% | (12 units)           |
| UK      | 13.9% | (Local Data Company) |

The principal attraction in the town currently is the castle which had 13,500 visitors in 2012.

The number of bed spaces in graded visitor accommodation in the town has increased from 8 to 31 over the last couple of years.

## Future challenges and opportunities

### People

A development to enable the conservation of the historic buildings at the former North Wales Hospital could potentially provide new homes and employment opportunities on the site.

Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd has bought the former Autoworld site on Smithfield Road site with the intention of providing new homes for young people. This is an opportunity to provide new community and enterprise facilities for young people to complement the proposed housing development.

The former school site in Middle Lane is no longer in use and could be redeveloped; it is owned and administered by a charity.

### Community

Part of the Denbigh Upper & Henllan ward is now amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Wales and potentially qualifies for assistance through the Communities First programme. There is already a dedicated community development worker for the area and a food co-operative is operating from the Margaret Morris Centre.

The Co-operative store is willing to allow community uses on the upper floors of their shop in High Street.

Bryn Parc, a popular recreational area adjoining Denbigh Castle is in private ownership and is leased to Denbighshire County Council. The lease expires in 2017.

There are many successful sports clubs such as: rugby, football, tennis, bowling, boxing, hockey, golf and cricket (the second oldest in Wales, est 1844). The cricket club is looking to re-locate. The golf and rugby club have entertainments facilities and the rugby club was the first to install solar panels for energy reduction.

The County Council closed its museum in the town's library in 2004; there are over 1,000 items pertaining to Denbigh in store in Ruthin; the North Wales Hospital Group has a huge collection which is of interest to all those interested in the study of mental health. There are H M Stanley artifacts which were bought with a grant from the HLF at the Stanley auction at Christies in 2002; one of the conditions of this grant was that they be on view to the public in an accredited museum. There is a Denbigh Museum Registered Company limited by guarantee which is seeking to re-open the museum at alternative premises within the town. On the outskirts there is Cae Dai museum celebrating the 50s and in the Welsh Language Centre there is the Wireless in Wales museum.

## Jobs

There is very little easily accessible employment land left to develop at Colomendy Industrial Estate limiting both the expansion of current businesses on the estate and the industrial estate itself.

Businesses in the town can access fast broadband services through connections to the Fibrespeed optical fibre link which runs along the A55.

Station Yard site in lower Denbigh is a large area suitable for re-development.

The shops which currently make such an important contribution to the way the town centre looks and feels continue to face strong competition; shopping via the internet and out of town stores are challenges to be addressed as are the high business rates. Negative perceptions of town centre parking are a deterrent to attract customers.

## Place

The principal attraction in the town is the castle which is under the control of CADW. Unlike other Denbighshire towns, the County Council does not own or run any heritage or cultural assets in Denbigh, apart from the library.

The appearance of the streetscape in the town centre has been significantly improved as a result of the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Nevertheless, there are still some prominent historic buildings in the town centre which are unused or derelict such as Gwasg Gee, the former cinema, the Crown Hotel, the Church Institute and 102 Vale Street.

There is a need to consider the gas, electricity and water infrastructure when developing areas in the town.

The town's car parks are untidy, especially the multi-storey car park; this needs a regular inspection and maintenance.

There is a lack of coach parking in town; the County Council is obliged to provide this as a condition of sale of the former Smithfield site in 1997. The Magistrates' Court formerly Frongoch primary school is for sale and could go some way towards answering this need.

In 2011 CADW invested at Denbigh Castle with the building of a new visitor centre, improved interpretation and longer opening hours. However, signage at the entrance to the town, within the town centre and around the castle is limited; the physical links between the town centre and castle are not obvious. Access to the town walls should be made easier.

NO2 pollution levels are high in Lenten Pool, and also on Vale Street.



## Vision for Denbigh

We want Denbigh

- to be the main centre of employment and retailing in the Vale of Clwyd
- to realise the tourism potential by increasing the number of visitors to the castle and town walls and other attractions
- to be the gateway to Hiraethog, and Llyn Brenig centre
- to have an attractive and viable town centre
- to re-open the museum
- to improve and create new cycle routes
- to offer a great quality of life to residents
- to have support for its strong community connections and the high levels of usage of the Welsh language

Making it happen...  
for people

| What we want to achieve                                            | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                               | This will be led by                                       | By when      | Status                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| There has been an improvement in educational attainment            | Reviewing primary school provision in upper Denbigh                                                                                                   | County Council<br>Modernising Education                   | 1 year       | Complete                     |
|                                                                    | Implementing the actions arising from the review of primary school provision in upper Denbigh                                                         | County Council<br>Modernising Education                   | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    | Reviewing remaining primary provision within Denbigh and the adjoining communities                                                                    | County Council<br>Modernising Education                   | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    | Secure capital funding for improvements to primary and secondary Schools                                                                              | County Council<br>Modernising Education                   | 5 – 10 years |                              |
| The housing needs of residents have been met                       | Potentially providing housing to enable the conservation of the historic buildings at the former North Wales Hospital a Grade 1 Listed Building       | Private sector                                            | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    | Youth Enterprise Centre on the former Autoworld Site will be completed by 2014                                                                        | Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd                                      | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    | Considering making the site of the former Denbigh Grammar School on Middle Lane available for a housing development to meet the needs of older people | County Council Housing & Community Development            | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    | Include Station yard and the Wool factory as possibility for houses, employment, visitor accommodation...                                             | County Council Housing & Community Development            | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
| People will have greater access to cheaper and better quality food | Providing more allotments and supporting the establishment of an Allotment User Association.                                                          | County Council Finance & Assets                           | 1 – 5 years  | Was found to not be required |
| Places for families to socialise together                          | Providing family focused activities and establishments                                                                                                | County Council Housing & Community Development            | 1 – 5 years  |                              |
|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                       | County Council Leisure, Libraries & Community Development |              |                              |
|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                       | Business Group                                            |              |                              |

**Making it happen...**  
for the community

| What we want to achieve                                                                                    | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                            | This will be led by                                                                | By when     | Status |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| More resources to tackle the causes of deprivation in part of the Denbigh Upper & Henllan ward             | Upper Denbigh is now part of the Communities First Programme.                                                                                      | Upper Denbigh Community Partnership                                                | 1 year      |        |
| People have a better appreciation of their town's history by being able to access collections held locally | Implementing the recommendations of the museum feasibility study                                                                                   | Denbigh Museums Group/DTC                                                          | 1 – 5 years |        |
| There will continue to be a high percentage of the town's population who speak Welsh                       | Improving facilities at the town's Welsh primary school by replacing mobile classrooms with permanent buildings                                    | County Council Modernising Education                                               | 1 – 5 years |        |
| The town's community facilities will be better and more sustainable;                                       | Supporting the improvement of the facilities at Denbigh Town Football Club, the Tennis and Bowls Clubs, the lower park pavilion and Cricket Club.  | County Council Leisure, Libraries & Community Development / Pavilion Group         | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                                                            | Support the boxing club in its relocation from Middle Lane                                                                                         |                                                                                    |             |        |
|                                                                                                            | Re-establish public toilets in Lower / Middle Park                                                                                                 | County Council Environment & Lower Park Association                                | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                                                            | Improve the interior of the town hall and market hall                                                                                              | County Council Leisure, Libraries & Community Development                          | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                                                            | Providing a permanent building for the Margaret Morris Centre                                                                                      | County Council Modernising Education                                               | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                                                            | Providing new facilities for young people to complement the housing development proposed for the former Autoworld site in Smithfield Road          | County Council Leisure, Libraries & Community Development and Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                                                            | Providing more flexible public transport for people living in outlying communities to make it easier for them to access the facilities in the town | County Council Highways & Transportation                                           | 1 – 5 years |        |
| More social integration between education facilities                                                       | Providing integrated activities between the schools including Plas Brondyffryn, and Denbigh College                                                | Denbigh High School, Howell's School, St Brigid's School                           | 1 year      |        |

Making it happen...  
for jobs

| What we want to achieve                                                                                                                   | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                      | This will be led by                                                                                     | By when      | Status |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| A wider choice of jobs will be available in Denbigh itself                                                                                | Maximising the regeneration benefits of the redevelopment of Station Yard                                                                    | Private Sector                                                                                          | 1 year       |        |
|                                                                                                                                           | Allocating easily accessible land for development at the Colomendy Industrial Estate                                                         | County Council Planning & Public Protection                                                             | 5 – 10 years |        |
| It will be possible to commute safely and sustainably to jobs which are available elsewhere                                               | Looking into the feasibility of providing a north-south cycle path in the Vale of Clwyd                                                      | County Council Highways and Transportation                                                              | 1 year       |        |
|                                                                                                                                           | Looking into the feasibility of providing a lower carbon public transport link to main employment sites in the area and Rhyl railway station | County Council Highways and Transportation                                                              | 1 – 5 years  |        |
|                                                                                                                                           | Promoting the use of empty shop units                                                                                                        | County Council Housing & Community Development                                                          | 1 year       |        |
| The businesses which provide employment in the town centre will be more sustainable                                                       | Improving the market and support events would be of benefit to the town centre                                                               | County Council Housing & Community Development/Events/Community Facilities/Business Group/Tourism Group | 1 -5 years   |        |
|                                                                                                                                           | Supporting liaison with the Former Howells School to maximize the future economic benefit to the town and to safeguard the listed buildings. | Business Group/ County Council Housing & Community Development                                          | 1 – 5 years  |        |
| More visitors will come to the castle and walls and will spend money in the town                                                          | Improving access to the castle and town walls                                                                                                | Denbigh Tourism Group/DCC Tourism & Heritage                                                            | 1 year       |        |
|                                                                                                                                           | Carrying out small scale improvements to the signage and access arrangements for the castle and town walls                                   | County Council Housing & Community Development                                                          | 1 – 5 years  |        |
| There will be more graded accommodation to enable visitors to stay overnight and spend money in the town                                  | Holding information workshops for potential B&B operators                                                                                    | County Council Housing & Community Development                                                          | 1 – 5 years  |        |
| Unused but otherwise sound buildings such as the former Church Institute will be brought back into use for the benefit of the town centre | Being flexible about the uses allowed                                                                                                        | County Council Housing & Community Development/Private                                                  | 1 – 5 years  |        |

Making it happen...  
for the place

| What we want to achieve                                              | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | This will be led by                                                         | By when     | Status |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Buildings in the town will look more attractive                      | Providing financial support to town centre businesses that want to smarten up the outside of their premises                                                                                                                                           | County Council Environment                                                  | 1 year      |        |
|                                                                      | Getting prominent untidy sites and buildings such as Gwasg Gee, the Crown Hotel, the former cinema in Highgate, 102 Vale Street and the former North Wales Hospital back into use through enforcement action if necessary                             | County Council Planning & Public Protection                                 | 1 – 5 years |        |
| The town's public realm will look more attractive.                   | Tidying the area around the water feature near Factory Ward car park. Cleaning up the principal routes used by visitors such as Rosemary Lane and Broomhill Lane. Providing a litter bin near the college and monitoring on street cleansing service. | County Council Environment                                                  | 1 year      |        |
|                                                                      | Reviewing the provision of benches including style and number                                                                                                                                                                                         | County Council Environment                                                  | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                      | Removing time expired temporary notices from lamp posts and telegraph poles                                                                                                                                                                           | County Council, Highways & Transportation, and Planning & Public Protection | 1 year      |        |
| The air quality in Lenten Pool and on Vale Street will have improved | Monitoring NO2 levels and looking into how they could be reduced                                                                                                                                                                                      | County Council Planning & Public Protection                                 | 1 – 5 years |        |
| Visitors to the town will have a better experience                   | Investigate the possibility of funded Town Centre Manager.                                                                                                                                                                                            | County Council Housing & Community Development and Town Council             |             |        |
|                                                                      | Rationalising and improving signs in Factory Ward car park and removing all out of date signs                                                                                                                                                         | County Council Highways & Transportation                                    | 1 year      |        |
|                                                                      | Improving the location of visitor signs in Factory Ward car park. Providing interpretation of water feature near Factory Ward car park. Interpreting the story of Rosemary Lane.                                                                      | County Council Housing & Community Development                              | 1 – 5 years |        |
|                                                                      | Need to co-ordinate and improve the CCTV with the aim of linking up to the county's centre in Rhyl                                                                                                                                                    | County Council Planning & Public Protection                                 |             |        |
|                                                                      | Need signage from the A55                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | County Council Highways & Transportation                                    |             |        |

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                       |              |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| All pedestrians will be able to move safely around the town                                      | Improve access around the town by widening paths and dropping kerbs where required????                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                       |              |  |
| Traffic will be able to circulate freely and safely                                              | Looking into the feasibility of off street parking on Barker's Well Lane, improving the road junction at St Mary's, better bus stops in the town centre so buses can pull in and won't hold up the traffic, signage for alternative routes to town centre<br>Improve the bus terminals in their current position in Lenten Pool | County Council Highways & Transportation                              | 5 – 10 years |  |
| There will be a better offer for visitors including the development of new attractions and walks | Looking into the feasibility of developing the Chapel Street area into a cultural quarter based on the two chapels, Victorian school room, Gwasg Gee, and Tŷ Thomas Gee and making more of the link between Beatrix Potter and Gwaenynog Hall and accommodating coach parties                                                   | County Council Housing & Community Development                        | 1 – 5 years  |  |
|                                                                                                  | Accommodating coach parties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | County Council Housing & Community Development/Denbigh Museum Company | 1 – 5 years  |  |



**DENBIGH AREA  
PLAN**

**“LOOKING FORWARD  
TOGETHER”**

**2013 – 2020**

# The links between the town & the associated communities

Denbigh and its surrounding communities are closely linked with Denbigh town centre which serves the majority of villages in the area. The area around Denbigh is large and home to a large agricultural economy and population.

The area is becoming increasingly popular for holding high quality, high profile events such as the Tour of Britain cycle event and the National Eisteddfod. The area offers a wealth of outdoor activities such as walking, horseriding, cycling, golf as well as educational opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

There are several active community councils and groups in the area all working towards the well being of their local communities and economies. The communities covered by this Area Plan include Bodfari, Henllan, Nantglyn, Prion, Saron, Aberwheeler, Llangwylfan, Llandyrnog and Llanrhaeadr.





Making it happen...  
For People & Community

| ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                                                     | ECON. AMB. STRAT. REF. | OUTPUT                                                                                     | LED BY                                | START     | FINISH    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Upgrade the Coco Rooms in Llandrynog, which require external and internal repairs, and provide Wi-Fi access for community use to encourage computer skills and web training. | 5.2c                   | Repairs and work required for WiFi identified                                              | Llandrynog Community Council          | May 2014  | May 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                             | Llandrynog Community Council          | June 2014 | Aug 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Repairs carried out                                                                        | Llandrynog Community Council          | Sept 2014 | Nov 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | WiFi installed                                                                             | Llandrynog Community Council          | Nov 2014  | Dec 2014  |
| Improvements to Llandrynog Sports Pavilion                                                                                                                                   | 5.2c                   | Costings identified                                                                        | Llandrynog Community Council          | Feb 2014  | Mar2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                             | Llandrynog Community Council          | Mar 2014  | Apr 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Improvement works complete                                                                 | Llandrynog Community Council          | Apr 2014  | Jul 2014  |
| Build a new community building at Top Park, Henllan to include Healthy Activity Schemes                                                                                      | 5.2c                   | Costings identified                                                                        | Henllan Community Council             | June 204  | July 2014 |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                             | Henllan Community Council             | July 2014 | Sept 2014 |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Community building built                                                                   | Henllan Community Council             | Oct 2014  | Aug 2015  |
| Review bus timetable /community bus scheme in light of bus grant cuts – across the rural area around Denbigh but particularly between Denbigh and Henllan                    | 5.2c                   | Issue raised with Highways                                                                 | DCC Economic and Business Development | May 2014  | May 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                        | Actions determined by outcome of discussion with Highways                                  | DCC Highways                          | June 2014 | June 2014 |
| Provide a community centre in Nantglyn.                                                                                                                                      | 5.2c                   | Options determined for providing a community centre – new build, use of existing building, | Nantglyn Community Council            | June 2014 | July 2014 |

|                                                                                                                                                |      |                                                                                                                                      |                                       |            |                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                |      | repair/refurbishment of existing building                                                                                            |                                       |            |                            |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Preferred option determined                                                                                                          | Nantglyn Community Council            | Aug 2014   | Aug 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Funding identified and secured                                                                                                       | Nantglyn Community Council            | Aug 2014   | Oct 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | New community centre available                                                                                                       | Nantglyn Community Council            | Oct 2014   | Dependent on chosen option |
| Provide more burial space in Nantglyn.                                                                                                         | 5.2c | Options for providing more burial space determined                                                                                   | Nantglyn Community Council            | May 2014   | June 2014                  |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Preferred option determined                                                                                                          | Nantglyn Community Council            | July 2014  | Aug 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Funding identified and secured                                                                                                       | Nantglyn Community Council            | Aug 2014   | Oct 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Burial space available                                                                                                               | Nantglyn Community Council            | Nov 2014   | Jan 2015                   |
| Upgrade Cae Nant playing field in Llandrynog and improve the safety between the play area and the parking area by resurfacing the parking area | 5.2c | Improvements identified                                                                                                              | Llandrynog Community Council          | Apr 2014   | May 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Funding identified and secured                                                                                                       | Llandrynog Community Council          | June 2014  | Aug 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Upgrade carried out                                                                                                                  | Llandrynog Community Council          | Sept 2014  | Oct 2014                   |
| Upgrade the playing field in Aberwheeler. Including the replacement of the barbed wire fencing with D shaped rails and plain wire              | 5.2c | Improvements identified                                                                                                              | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Apr 2014   | May 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Funding identified and secured                                                                                                       | Aberwheeler Community Council         | June 2014  | Aug 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Upgrade carried out                                                                                                                  | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Sept 2014  | Oct 2014                   |
| Start the proposal of building a new community centre in Aberwheeler to replace the community meeting facility when the chapel closes.         | 5.2c | Options determined for providing a community centre – new build, use of existing building, repair/refurbishment of existing building | Aberwheeler Community Council         | June 2014  | July 2014                  |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Preferred option determined                                                                                                          | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Jul 2014   | Aug 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Funding identified and secured                                                                                                       | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Aug 2014   | Oct 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | New community centre available                                                                                                       | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Oct 2014   | Jul 2015                   |
| Continue with the upkeep of the Henllan park which DCC Housing have recently invested in                                                       | 5.2c | Issue raised with Housing Services                                                                                                   | DCC Economic and Business Development | April 2014 | May 2014                   |
|                                                                                                                                                |      | Maintenance schedule established                                                                                                     | DCC Housing Services                  | May 2014   | June 2014                  |

|                                                                                                                                                            |              |                                                               |                               |           |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Provide space to improve parking for walkers and improve parking situation in Aberwheeler.                                                                 | 3.1A-a       | Parking area identified                                       | Aberwheeler Community Council | May 2014  | June 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Necessary permissions gained                                  | Aberwheeler Community Council | May 2014  | June 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Funding identified and secured                                | Aberwheeler Community Council | June 2014 | Aug 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Parking space available                                       | Aberwheeler Community Council | Sept 2014 | Nov 2014   |
| Introduce a 30mph limit through Llanrhaeadr                                                                                                                |              | Meet with Community Council                                   | DCC Highways                  | May 2014  | May 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Business case                                                 | DCC Highways                  | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Implement the reduced speed limits (subject to business case) | DCC Highways                  | Aug 2014  | Dec 2014   |
| Reduce the speed limit on the Nantglyn to Waen road to 30mph                                                                                               |              | Meet with Community Council                                   | DCC Highways                  | May 2014  | May 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Business case                                                 | DCC Highways                  | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Implement the reduced speed limits (subject to business case) | DCC Highways                  | Aug 2014  | Dec 2014   |
| Provide a cycleway / walkway between Henllan & Denbigh - to improve safety and encourage cycling and walking whilst also providing better links to Denbigh | 5.2c         | Meeting between Community Council and DCC Highways            | DCC Highways                  | May 2014  | June 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Engineers Report                                              | DCC Highways                  | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Costed design                                                 | DCC Highways                  | July 2014 | Sept 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Report/Business case                                          | DCC Highways                  | Sept 2014 | Oct 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Planning and/or other consents secured                        | DCC Highways                  | Oct 2014  | Dec 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Land acquisition if required                                  | DCC Property Services         | Dec 2014  | April 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Funding identified & secured                                  | DCC Highways                  | Mar 2015  | June 2015  |
| Improvement/provision of path. (Subject to Business Case).                                                                                                 | DCC Highways | July 2015                                                     | Sept 2015                     |           |            |
| Introduce traffic calming in Llandyrnog and reduce the speed limit to 20mph at the school                                                                  |              | Meet with Community Council                                   | DCC Highways                  | May 2014  | May 2014   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Business case                                                 | DCC Highways                  | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Implement the reduced speed limits (subject to business case) | DCC Highways                  | Aug 2014  | Dec 2014   |
| Provide a footpath on Lon Garn, Henllan to improve pedestrian safety within 30mph area                                                                     |              | Meeting between Community Council and DCC Highways            | DCC Highways                  | May 2014  | June 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Engineers Report                                              | DCC Highways                  | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Costed design                                                 | DCC Highways                  | July 2014 | Sept 2014  |
|                                                                                                                                                            |              | Report/Business case                                          | DCC Highways                  | Sept 2014 | Oct 2014   |

|                                                                                                    |      |                                                                                  |                                       |           |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
|                                                                                                    |      | Planning and/or other consents secured                                           | DCC Highways                          | Oct 2014  | Dec 2014   |
|                                                                                                    |      | Land acquisition if required                                                     | DCC Property Services                 | Dec 2014  | April 2015 |
|                                                                                                    |      | Funding identified & secured                                                     | DCC Highways                          | Mar 2015  | June 2015  |
|                                                                                                    |      | Improvement/provision of path. (Subject to Business Case).                       | DCC Highways                          | July 2015 | Sept 2015  |
| Introduce speed calming measures on Lon Garn & Denbigh Street, Henllan, to reduce excessive speeds |      | Meet with Community Council                                                      | DCC Highways                          | May 2014  | May 2014   |
|                                                                                                    |      | Business case                                                                    | DCC Highways                          | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                    |      | Implement the reduced speed limits (subject to business case)                    | DCC Highways                          | Aug 2014  | Dec 2014   |
| Look into the feasibility of expanding Ysgol Pant Pastynog                                         | 5.2c | Issue to be raised with DCC Modernising Education Team                           | DCC Economic and Business Development | June 2014 | July 2014  |
|                                                                                                    |      | Further action to be determined during review of Denbigh area primary provision. | DCC Modernising Education Team        | July 2014 | Aug 2014   |
| Repair Aberwheeler Memorial                                                                        |      | Repairs assessment carried out                                                   | Aberwheeler Community Council         | May 2014  | June 2014  |
|                                                                                                    |      | Funding identified and secured                                                   | Aberwheeler Community Council         | June 2014 | Aug 2014   |
|                                                                                                    |      | Repairs undertaken                                                               | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Sept 2014 | Oct 2014   |
| Provide new outdoor pavilion/marquee for Aberwheeler sports club                                   |      | Funding identified and secured                                                   | Aberwheeler Sports Club               | June 2014 | Aug 2014   |
|                                                                                                    |      | Pavilion / marquee provided                                                      | Aberwheeler Sports Club               | Sept 2014 | Sept 2014  |

**Making it happen...**  
for the place

| ACTIVITY                                                                                | ECON. AMB. STRAT. REF. | OUTPUT                                                  | LED BY                                | START     | FINISH    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Improve the footpath from Aberwheeler down to the river Wheeler to allow access for all | 6.1e                   | Ownership determined and necessary permissions in place | Aberwheeler Community Council         | May 2014  | July 2014 |
|                                                                                         |                        | Costs of improvements determined                        | Aberwheeler Community Council         | July 2014 | Aug 2014  |
|                                                                                         |                        | Funding identified and secured                          | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Aug 2014  | Oct 2014  |
|                                                                                         |                        | Improvements to footpath carried out                    | Aberwheeler Community Council         | Oct 2014  | Nov 2014  |
| Carry out a parking review in Ty Coch Street/Church Street/School Street, Henllan       | 5.1d                   | Report / Business Case                                  | DCC Highways                          | June 2014 | July 2014 |
|                                                                                         |                        | Funding identified and secured                          | DCC Highways                          | July 2014 | Sept 2014 |
|                                                                                         |                        | Parking review completed                                | DCC Highways                          | Sept 2014 | Nov 2014  |
| Improve broad band access and mobile phone coverage to rural area surrounding Ruthin    | 1.2a                   | Superfast broadband to all properties                   | DCC Economic and Business Development | Apr 2014  | Dec 2017  |
| Tackle dog fouling problem, particularly in Henllan                                     | 6.1e                   | Report / Business Case                                  | DCC Enforcement                       | May 2014  | June 2014 |
|                                                                                         |                        | Enforcement action identified                           | DCC Enforcement                       | June 2014 | July 2014 |
|                                                                                         |                        | Dog fouling problem resolved                            | DCC Enforcement                       | July 2014 | Sept 2014 |

## Priorities for the Rural Area

Three projects have been prioritised for the rural area:

**1. Improvements to Llandrynog Sports Pavilion**

Work – upgrade the kitchen facilities to allow clubs and groups to continue using the venue  
Amount Requested - £2,000

**2. Installation of footpath at Aberwheeler**

Work – footpath to be installed along the main road from the village towards Geinas to improve pedestrian safety  
Amount Requested - £20,000

**3. Installation of footpath at Henllan**

Work – installation of footpath on Garn Road to improve pedestrian safety  
Amount Requested - £85,000

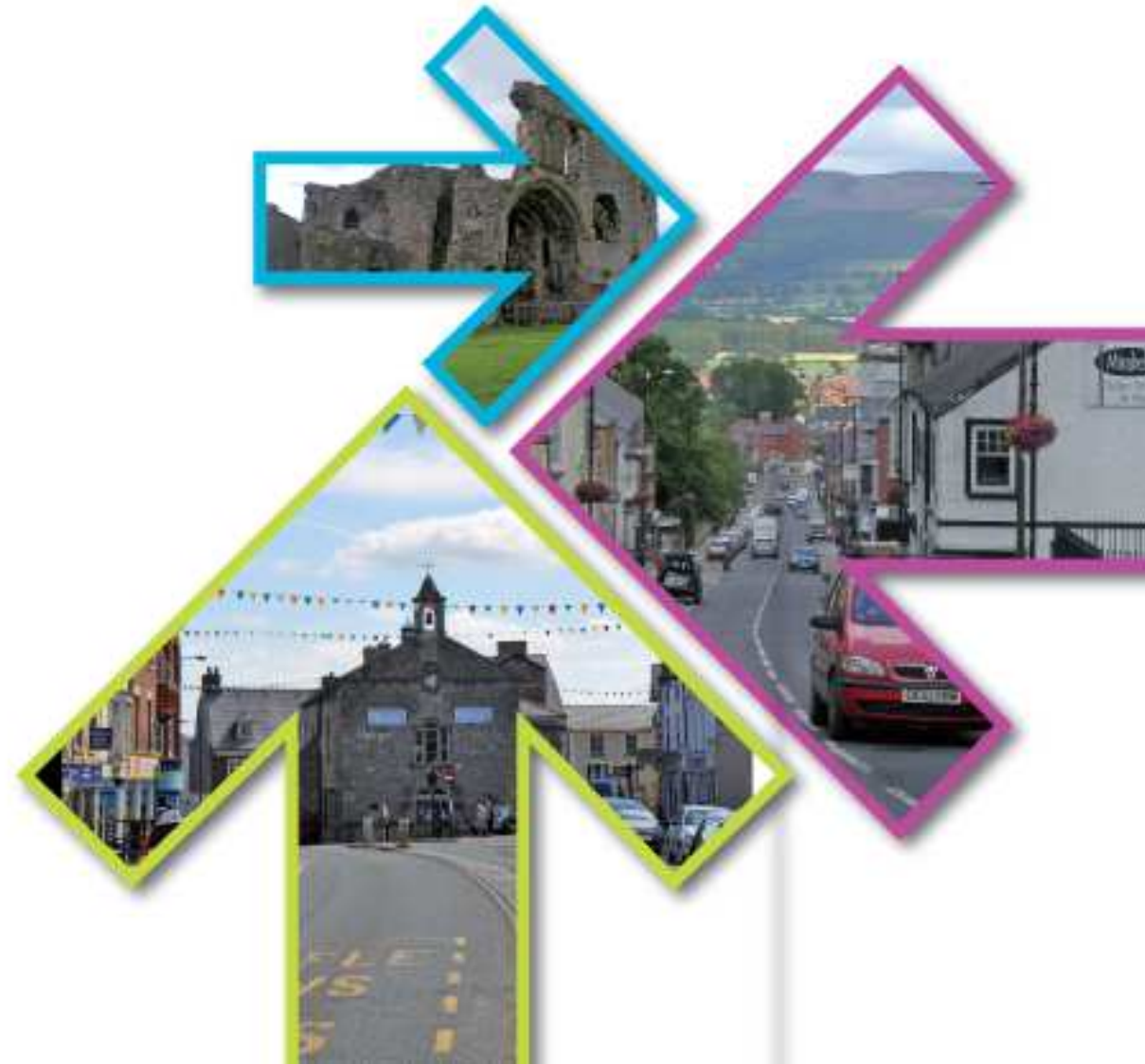
### How will we know if we are on track?

Annual reviews of progress will be undertaken by the County Council together with Denbigh Town Council. More regular updates will also be provided to the County Council's Member Area Groups and to the Town Council, and also to the wider community through County Voice and through press releases made by Denbighshire County Council. The Plan will be treated as a living document in which aspirations can be added or removed according to changes in circumstances.

### Who was involved in the production of this plan?

This plan was produced by Denbighshire County Council following consultations with County Council Councillors and Services, the Town Council, the Business Group, secondary schools and the wider community.

For further information:  
[econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk)



## Appendix 1

### Excerpt from 'Denbigh: Understanding Urban Character' by Cadw

Denbigh is a place of contrasts. There are virtually two towns here — the town within the walls, and the town outside them. Both are medieval in origin, but one went on to enjoy a dynamic and prosperous history whilst the other was left behind. Virtual abandonment of the town within the walls erased the visible traces of the original town outside the walls resulted in a process of continual redevelopment that just as effectively almost obscured its origins. So, whereas the historic nature of Denbigh is immediately apparent, not only in its castle and town walls but also in the visible chronology of its building stock, the full depth of its history is not easily perceived.

It invites, and repays, closer investigation. Denbigh enjoys one of the most striking settings of any Welsh town. From the dramatic apex of its rocky hill, crowned by the remains of its medieval castle and skeletal cathedral, the townscape cascades in dense confusion. With the exception of the market square in front of the shire hall, this is not a town of grand urban gestures. There are no unified terraces of houses to make architectural statements. Instead, Denbigh provides a townscape of small-scale units of development, built both with the contours and across them.

Contrasts of form, scale and materials create a mosaic of visual impressions that compete for attention, and provide an environment that is stimulating and undeniably attractive. Commercial architecture of all periods dominates the High Street, where tight development patterns reflect economic pressures on valuable space. Chapels punctuate the townscape, defying the physical constraints of space with their architectural ambition. The mansions of Vale Street in their generous plots contrast with the small artisan cottages crowded onto narrow lanes. Almost everywhere each plot of land displays a distinctly separate history from its neighbours, and this results in a townscape of unusual variety. It is this rich diversity that provides the defining aspect of Denbigh's character. Through an acknowledgement and understanding of it, we can gain access not only to the exceptional chronology of the town's development but also its complex social and cultural history.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative and Housing Renewal Schemes have already assisted in sustaining the fabric of both gentry houses and terraced cottages, and this breadth is an essential component of good conservation management. But, ultimately, more is needed. The urban fabric is not just the sum of its buildings but also about the pattern of land use, the plot structure and the spatial organization. It is the combination of all of these elements in a unique topographical setting that provides the touchstone for understanding and sustaining Denbigh's distinctive character.



**Appendix 2  
Statistical Appendix  
2011 Census Data**

| Percentage of ...                                             | In Denbigh town | In the surrounding rural area | In Denbighshire |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Young people aged 15 or under                                 | 18.7            | 18.7                          | 18.1            |
| All people aged 65 or over                                    | 17.3            | 19.6                          | 21.1            |
| People aged 85 or over                                        | 2.4             | 1.8                           | 2.8             |
| People claiming housing or Council Tax benefit                | 8.4             | 12.4                          | 9.6             |
| Overcrowded households                                        | 3.5             | 3.1                           | 3.0             |
| People born in Wales                                          | 72.4            | 63.3                          | 58.1            |
| People over 3 years of age who can speak, read or write Welsh | 26.2            | 28.7                          | 18.6            |
| Working residents who travel more than 20km to work           | 26.9            | 19.6                          | 18.6            |
| Working residents employed in agriculture                     | 1.7             | 8.5                           | 2.3             |
| Working residents employed in manufacturing                   | 8.2             | 14.7                          | 18.2            |
| Working residents employed in retail                          | 3.7             | 13.8                          | 14.4            |
| Working residents employed in the public sector               | 41.2            | 31.2                          | 30.0            |
|                                                               |                 |                               |                 |

| “Lower layer super output area” | Ranking in 2005 | Ranking in 2008 | Ranking in 2011 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Town</b>                     |                 |                 |                 |
| Denbigh Central                 | 1049            | 1030            | 881             |
| Denbigh Lower 1                 | 1806            | 1805            | 1832            |
| Denbigh Lower 2                 | 1654            | 1702            | 1767            |
| Denbigh Lower 3                 | 1474            | 1558            | 1595            |
| Denbigh Upper & Henllan 1       | 273             | 199             | 160             |
| Denbigh Upper & Henllan 2       | 912             | 879             | 782             |
| <b>Surrounding Area</b>         |                 |                 |                 |
| Llandyrnog                      | 1428            | 1301            | 1384            |
| Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch     | 1359            | 1300            | 1422            |
| Llansannan                      | 1048            | 1088            | 1081            |
| Trefnant                        | 1278            | 1065            | 1196            |
| Tremeirchion, Cwm & Waen        | 1303            | 1266            | 1231            |

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# Rhuddlan Town Plan & Rhuddlan Area Plan

“Looking Forward Together”

2013-2020

Revised 11/03/14

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## Introduction

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a strategic aim of being “a high performing council closer to the community”.

To help achieve this aim, the County Council is inviting the town and community councils and the businesses, community and voluntary sectors in each of its main towns and the smaller outlying communities which relate to them to join together to develop “town plans”. These will be living documents which will be subject to regular reviews and will set out

- **the current situation in the towns**
- **the key challenges and opportunities which they will face over the next decade**
- **a vision for each town which will provide it with a sustainable future, and**
- **realistic and achievable actions which will deliver that vision.**



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# RHUDDLAN TOWN PLAN

“LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER”

2012 – 2020

DRAFT March 2014

## Rhuddlan

Rhuddlan has a long and distinguished history, stretching back to about 7,000 BC.

Rhuddlan's key position beside an ancient crossing of the river Clwyd led to it becoming a flashpoint in Anglo-Welsh relations; whoever held this ford, controlled the easiest invasion route to and from the heartland of North Wales and Rhuddlan marsh was the scene in 795 of the defeat of the Welsh by the Saxons. During the 10th century, the Anglo-Saxons established several towns or "burhs" in North Wales including Cledemutha at what is now Rhuddlan which was founded in AD 921 by Edward the Elder but it had a rather short-lived existence as a settlement.

Between 1077 and 1277, there were frequent changes of control between the Welsh and English with the medieval township of Edward 1 beginning around 1278. It was when Edward 1 built his new castle that a new town north of his fortress was established. Its original grid pattern of streets – the present High Street, crossed by Castle Street, Church Street, Parliament Street, Gwindy Street and Cross Street, still form the heart of modern Rhuddlan and part of its ditched defences are still visible between Vicarage Lane and Kerfoot Avenue.

The castle also played a role in Welsh history: it was here that a new system of English government was established over much of Wales by the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284 – a settlement that lasted until the Act of Union in 1536.

The stone bridge across the river Clwyd was first built in 1358 and subsequently improved in 1595. The quay to the north of the bridge was used by coastal shipping until the opening of the Chester to Holyhead railway in 1848 which involved the construction of a railway bridge across the Clwyd estuary which prevented taller vessels from navigating the river further upstream to Rhuddlan.

In the late 19th century, a foundry was established on the west side of the river and this employed around 100 people making agricultural machinery.



More recently, and following the opening of the Rhuddlan by-pass in the late 1990's, the town has seen major environmental improvements to the High Street and the development of the Castle View Retail Park on land to the west of the river which is the location for a Premier Inn and Table Table restaurant together with a drive-thru Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant.

Public facilities in the town include a primary school, library with part time youth provision, community centre, GP surgery, playing fields and bowling green, a number of places of worship including St Mary's Church which was built in 1301, and a Local Nature Reserve.

The population of the town of Rhuddlan is 3709.



Map showing the wards in the Rhuddlan Area

## Where we are now

(The actual figures are shown in the Statistical Appendix.)

### People

Compared to the county as a whole, the town of Rhuddlan has

- a similar percentage of people aged over 65,
- a similar percentage of over 85's,
- fewer young people under 15,
- fewer people claiming housing or Council Tax benefit
- a lower proportion of households which are overcrowded

### Community

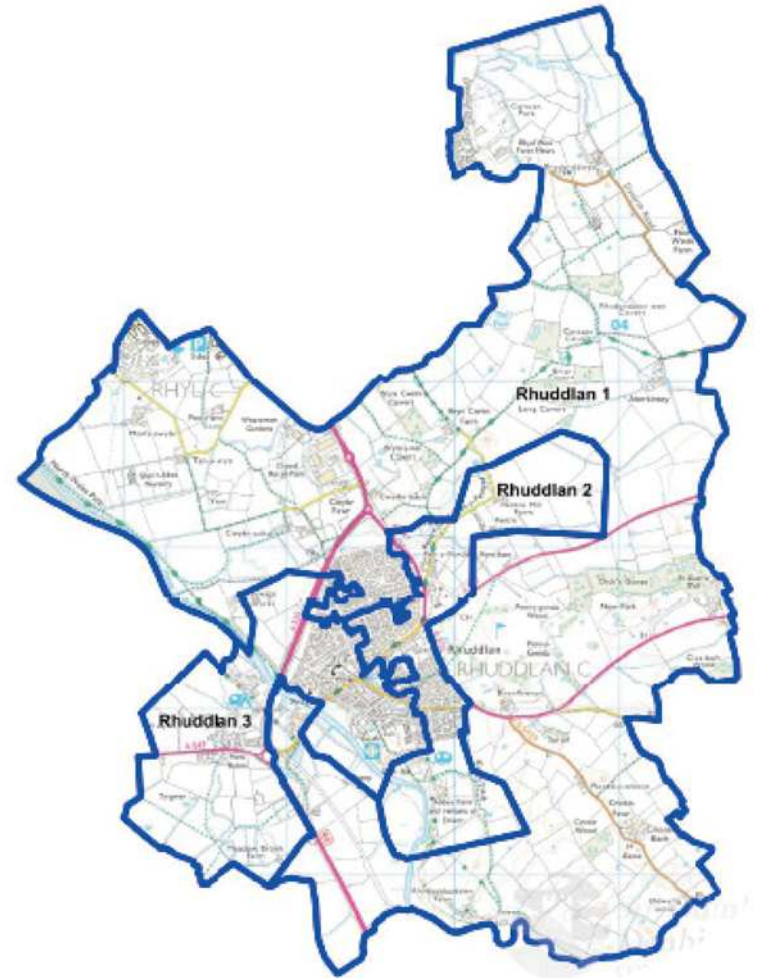
Compared to the county as a whole, more people in the town of Rhuddlan

- have been born in Wales,
- but less people can speak Welsh.

The crime rate in the Rhuddlan ward is lower than the average rate for the county as a whole for incidences of violence against the person, criminal damage and theft and handling.

The Welsh Government uses a formula to measure deprivation. Wales is split into 1896 areas which are smaller than County Council wards. Each area is then ranked with the most deprived given a score of 1 and the least deprived as score of 1896. The scores in different years are not directly comparable because the way in which the index is calculated changes over time.

In the 2011 edition of the Index, all the areas were given a lower ranking than in the previous one except Rhuddlan 2. The biggest move upwards in the "domains" which make up the Index for this particular area was for low incomes followed by unemployment and health.



Map showing the Lower Super Output Areas in Rhuddlan

## Where we are now

### Jobs

Compared to the county as a whole,

- **more people who live in Rhuddlan work in the public sector (and more people in Denbighshire work in this sector than in any other local authority area in Great Britain),**
- **more people who live in Rhuddlan work in retail**
- **a lower percentage of people work in manufacturing**
- **fewer people commute more than 20km to work, and**
- **a lower percentage of people of working age claim Job Seekers' Allowance.**

Annual household incomes in the Rhuddlan are slightly higher than the average for Denbighshire but there is a higher percentage of households below the 60% GB median than across the county as a whole.

### The place

- **Rhuddlan is, in the main, a residential town providing services to the local population.**
- **It is situated on busy routes connecting the larger towns of Rhyl and Prestatyn with the district general hospital which is also one of the area's biggest employers, other local centres of employment such as St Asaph Business Park, and also to destinations further afield via the A55.**
- **The principal visitor attraction in the town is the 13th Century castle which had 26,300 visitors in 2010.**
- **The number of bed spaces in graded visitor accommodation in the town has increased to 87 with the opening of the Premier Inn.**

### Vacancy rates for retail premises – Autumn 2012

The vacancy rate for town centre premises in the town is well below the UK average.

|                 |              |                                 |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Rhuddlan</b> | <b>7.8%</b>  | <b>(4 units)</b>                |
| <b>UK</b>       | <b>16.3%</b> | <b>(Colliers International)</b> |

## Future challenges and opportunities

### People

There is strong demand for extra care housing for older people due to the closure of three residential homes and this is expected to grow as the proportion of over 85 year olds in the population increases.

The proposed redevelopment of the "Triangle" site included a small number of new houses.

The council is exploring various affordable housing options for local people within the area.

### Community

The children's centre operated by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in Vicarage Lane is soon to be relocated to Denbigh.

There is no dental surgery in the town.

There are no toilets and changing facilities at Admiral's playing fields.

There is no dedicated youth provision in Rhuddlan.

The former Young Farmers Club building is currently vacant.

The council intends to explore its communal facilities/resources and building spaces to be potentially developed as community hubs.

### Jobs

There has been significant investment at Rhuddlan Triangle but there is still a large part of the area vacant.

The Premier Inn in Rhuddlan is the best performing in the UK for its size.

The old slaughter house in Gwindy Street is not currently used for anything.

The Huws Gray builders' merchant has a lot of customers.

The HTM industrial estate is a successful site.

### The Place

There are very few empty or untidy properties in town however the former Marsh Warden pub is derelict and untidy at one of the principal entrances to the town.

Cadw have recently invested at Rhuddlan Castle but parking is limited and signage from the town and other car parks and to Twt Hill is poor.

The historical Parliament building (currently in residential use) is empty and for sale.

The old footpath along the west bank of the river is not open.

Having invested heavily in improving the quality of council owned housing stock within the area, the council are intending to invest further resources into improving the external appearance and surrounding environmental areas on council owned estates. To support this, the council will also explore the possibility of developing a community grant scheme for groups to enhance the environment of council owned open spaces.

## Vision for Rhuddlan

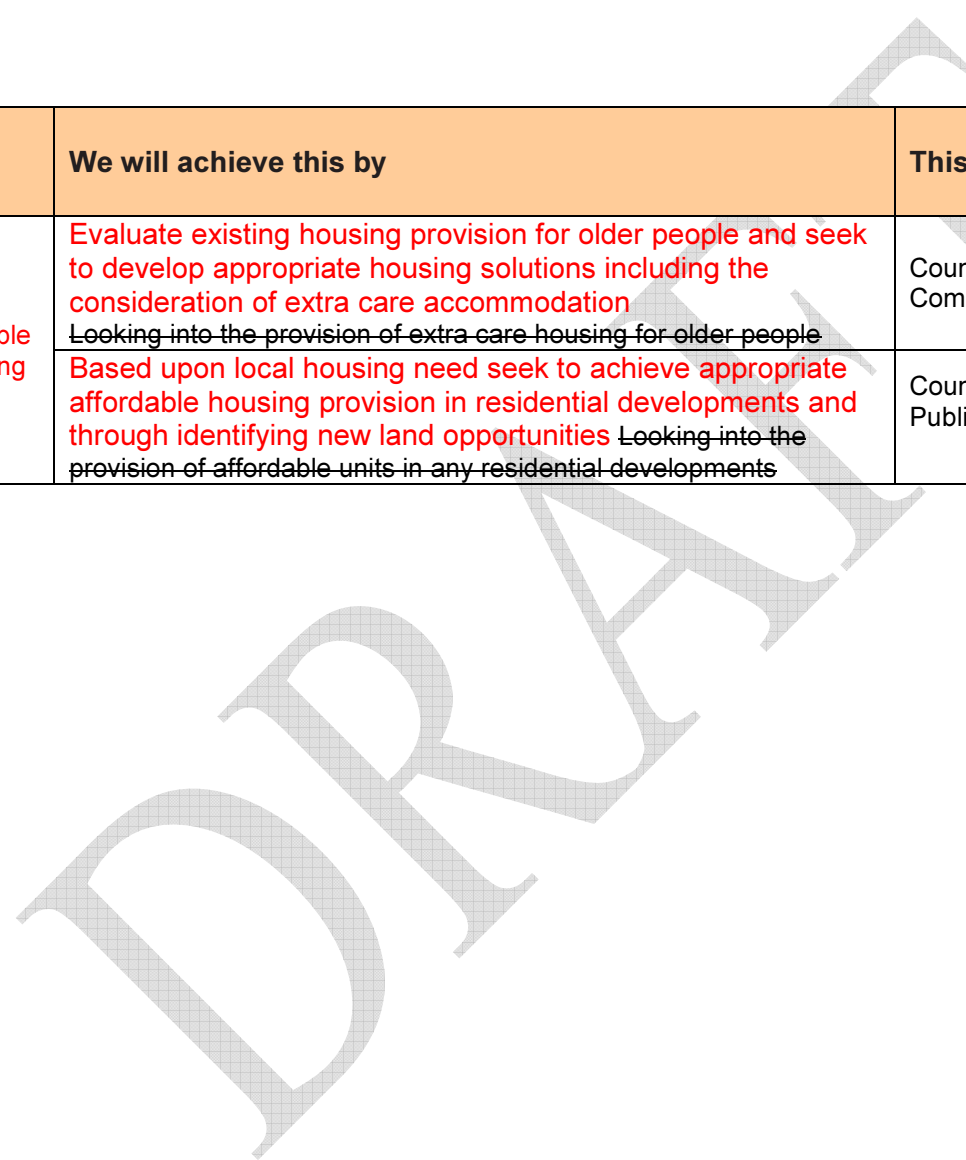
We want Rhuddlan

- to continue to be a very desirable place to live for local residents of all ages,
- where the strong community connections are supported,
- where the benefits for businesses and jobs from its location on the busy routes to and from Rhyl and Prestatyn are maximised, and
- where the castle's success as a visitor destination benefits the wider community.



**Making it happen...**  
for people

| What we want to achieve                                                                                           | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | This will be led by                                     | By when            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <p>A range of housing options for local people of all ages, to enable them to better meet their housing needs</p> | <p>Evaluate existing housing provision for older people and seek to develop appropriate housing solutions including the consideration of extra care accommodation<br/> <del>Looking into the provision of extra care housing for older people</del></p>                 | <p>County Council Housing and Community Development</p> | <p>1 – 5 years</p> |
|                                                                                                                   | <p>Based upon local housing need seek to achieve appropriate affordable housing provision in residential developments and through identifying new land opportunities<br/> <del>Looking into the provision of affordable units in any residential developments</del></p> | <p>County Council Planning &amp; Public Protection</p>  | <p>1 – 5 years</p> |



**Making it happen...**  
for the community

| What we want to achieve                                                                                            | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | This will be led by                 | By when     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| The town's community facilities will be better                                                                     | Investigate the possibility of providing an integrated community building; creating a 'one stop' hub for learning and information; to include provision for adult and young people learning, fit for purpose ICT facilities, health and social care, tourist information; library and local history. | Communication Marketing and Leisure | 2 – 5 years |
|                                                                                                                    | Investigate the potential for having toilets at Admiral's Playing Field                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Town Council                        | 1 – 2 years |
| There will be events for all in the community                                                                      | The Rhuddlan Feast - Gwledd Rhuddlan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Rhuddlan Members                    | 1 year      |
| Older residents and people with buggies, scooters and wheelchairs will be able to move more easily around the town | Providing dropped kerbs in Vicarage Lane.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 – 5 years |

**Making it happen...**  
for jobs

| What we want to achieve                                   | We will achieve this by                                            | This will be led by                            | By when     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| The provision of new employment opportunities in the town | Support the owners to complete the redevelopment of the "Triangle" | County Council<br>Planning & Public Protection | 0 – 5 years |

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**Making it happen...**  
for the place

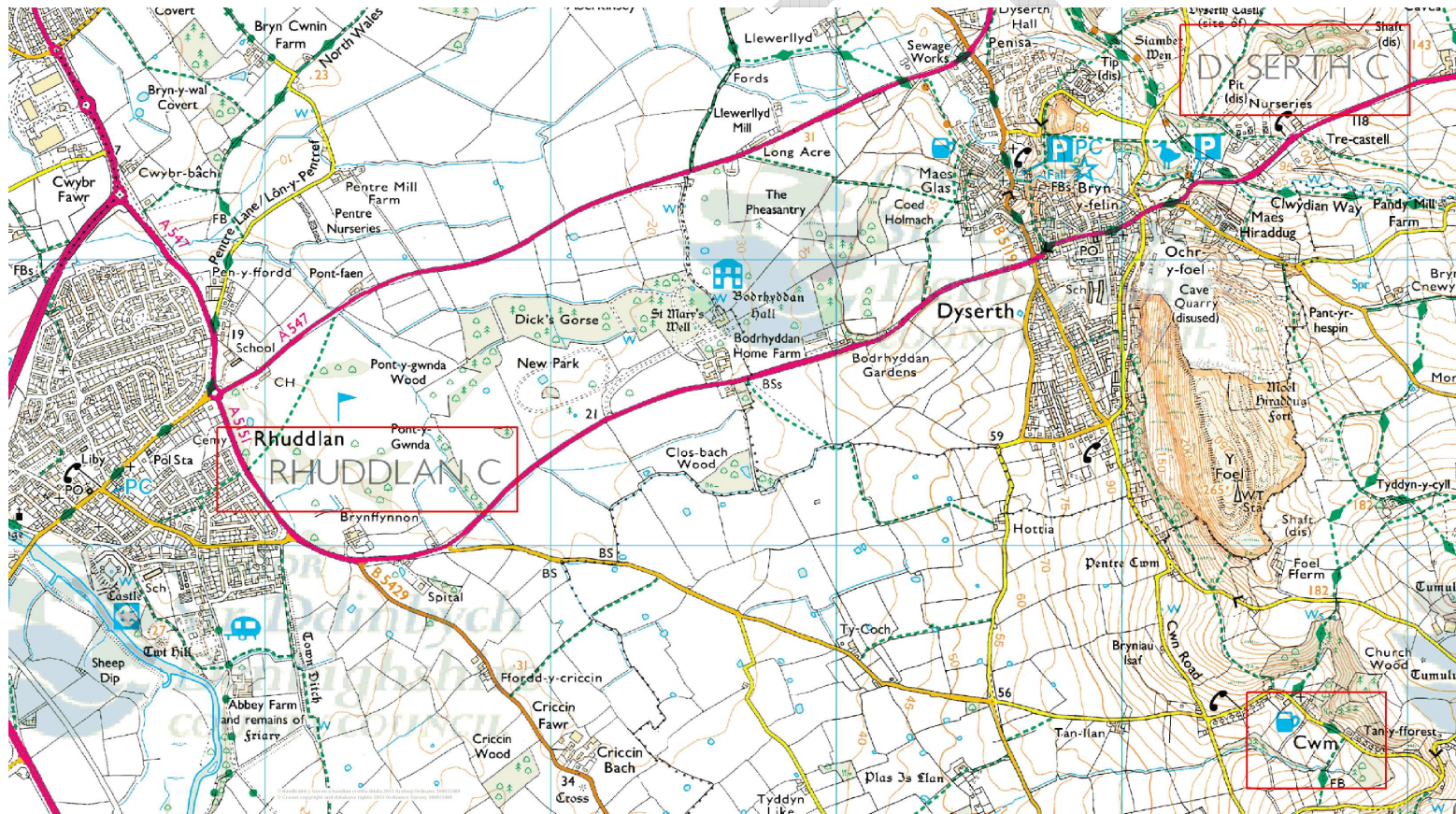
| What we want to achieve                       | We will achieve this by                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | This will be led by                                                    | By when     |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| The town will look even more attractive       | Improving the appearance of the “Triangle” using enforcement action if necessary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | County Council Planning & Public Protection                            | 0 – 1 years |
|                                               | Improving the appearance of any untidy shops in the High Street and monitoring fly tipping by St Mary’s Church, <b>Abbey Road and Dyserth Road</b> using enforcement action if necessary                                                                                                                                                                      | County Council Planning & Public Protection                            | ongoing     |
|                                               | Making sure that the railings by the Kings Head are kept painted and that any dents are removed quickly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | County Council Highways                                                | 1 – 5 years |
|                                               | Improvements to Bus Shelters within the town                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Town Council                                                           | 1 – 2 years |
| Visitors to the town have a better experience | Installing a town trail board near the Morfa Rhuddlan/Premier Inn location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | County Council Housing & Community Development                         | 1 year      |
|                                               | Improving the links between the town and the castle by installing pedestrian signage leading from the Parliament Street car park to the castle and to Twt Hill                                                                                                                                                                                                | County Council Housing and Community Development / Major Projects Team | 1 – 5 years |
|                                               | <b>Improvements to foot path from Hylas Lane to Twt Hill including new sign post. And opening up of the old foot path in Station Road.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Highways and Environmental Services                                    | 1 – 5 years |
|                                               | Installing an interpretation panel by the wooden sculpture of the knights in Tan yr Eglwys Road, looking into the feasibility of illuminating it at night, and making the street name signs for Tan yr Eglwys and Rhyl Road bilingual in view of given its prominent location. <b>Investigate the potential for securing funding to repair the sculpture.</b> | County Council Housing & Community Development                         | 1 – 2 years |
|                                               | Look into improving the appearance and interpretation of the historic ditched defences near Gwindy Street                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Housing & Community Development                                        | 1 – 2 years |
|                                               | Providing a pavement for pedestrians alongside Marsh Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | County Council Highways                                                | 1 – 2 years |
|                                               | <b>Investigate the possibility of installing bins near the Marsh Warden and near to the Admiral’s Playing Field.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | County Council Planning & Public Protection                            | 1 – 2 years |
|                                               | Install wooden benches along the cycle path from Rhyl to Rhuddlan (similar to those on the other side of the road)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Countryside Services                                                   | 1 – 2 years |

## Completed projects...

| What we wanted to achieve                                                                                          | We achieved this by                                                                                                                                        | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The town will look even more attractive                                                                            | Repairing the faded street name signs in High Street and Ffordd Rhyl                                                                                       | Complete, street signs have been replaced.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| A better visitor experience                                                                                        | Implementing a Designated Public Place Order within the part of the town covered by the 30 mph speed limit                                                 | The orders are now in place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                    | Consulting on the introduction of a Dog Control Order within the part of the town covered by the 30 mph speed limit                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                    | Installing a town trail board at Parliament Street car park                                                                                                | Town Trail board has been installed                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                    | Replacing the faded footpath signs at Gwindy Street and at Kerfoot Avenue                                                                                  | Footpath signs have been replaced.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Older residents and people with buggies, scooters and wheelchairs will be able to move more easily around the town | Dropped kerb between the car parks in Parliament Street and behind the King's Head                                                                         | The kerbs have now been dropped.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                    | Providing a dropped kerb at Burgedin Terrace in Parliament Street.                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sufficient cemetery provision                                                                                      | Looking into the likely future demand for plots and how this might be met                                                                                  | The cemeteries department has completed a study and found that there 15-20 years worth of burial space in Rhuddlan. The council is only required to bury people within the county and there is no immediate demand for space within the county. |
| The viability of the shops in the High Street will be improved                                                     | Making it easier for customers to get to the shops by carrying out a review of the inconsistencies in the restrictions on parking times in the High Street | A review has been carried out and it has been found that there are no inconsistencies and that the restrictions are sufficient.                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                    | Engaging with the newly formed St Asaph and Rhuddlan Tourism Association                                                                                   | An officer has attended meetings.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## The Links between the Town and the Area

The communities of Dyserth and Cwm and are closely linked with Rhuddlan as residents use many of the services that the town has to offer. There is a regular bus service from Dyserth to Rhuddlan but Cwm has a limited service. Dyserth is bordered by Cwm to the south east and Rhuddlan to the west.





# RHUDDLAN AREA PLAN

“LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER”

2013 – 2020

14/11/13

## Making it happen...

For People & the Community

| Activity                                                                                                                                                       | Econ. Amb. Strat. Ref. | Output                                                                        | Led by...                           | Start        | Finish        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Explore the potential for making funds available for play equipment, insurance cover and possible rent of some land to support play facilities in Cwm village. | 5.2c                   | Meet with Community Council                                                   | Community Council                   | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2016 |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Business Case                                                                 |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Play equipment purchased and land rented (subject to business case)           |                                     |              |               |
| To replace the play equipment in Dyserth.                                                                                                                      | 5.2c                   | Meet with Community Council                                                   | Community Council                   | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Business Case                                                                 |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Replacement play equipment funded (subject to business case)                  |                                     |              |               |
| To explore the possibility of replacing the gate on the Dyserth/Prestatyn walkway with a wheelchair friendly gate.                                             |                        | Meet with community council                                                   | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Business case                                                                 |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Gate replaced with suitable gate for accessibility (subject to business case) |                                     |              |               |
| Explore the potential for developing a Community Miles Project between Rhuddlan, Dyserth and Cwm.                                                              |                        | Meet with community councils                                                  | Countryside Services                | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2018 |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Business Case                                                                 |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                        | Community Miles project completed (subject to business case)                  |                                     |              |               |

**Making it happen...**

for the place

| Activity                                                                                                                                                  | Econ. Amb. Strat. Ref. | Output                                                                               | Led by...                                   | Start        | Finish        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| To explore the possibility of tidying properties along Ffordd Talargoch using enforcement action where necessary.                                         |                        | Meeting with relevant officers                                                       | Development Control And Planning Compliance | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Investigate enforcement action where required                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Contact building owners                                                              |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Implement enforcement action (subject to threshold)                                  |                                             |              |               |
| To address eyesore properties in Dyserth High Street, to include works to improve the appearance and possible acquisitions of problem properties.         | 5.1a                   | Meeting with relevant officers                                                       | Development Control And Planning Compliance | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2016 |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Investigate enforcement action where required                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Contact building owners                                                              |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Business case                                                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                       |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Eyesore properties addressed (subject to business case)                              |                                             |              |               |
| To investigate the potential for keeping Dyserth High Street swept and free of weeds. Ensure the hedges on St Asaph Road, Dyserth are regularly cut back. |                        | Meet with community council                                                          | Highways and Environmental Services         | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Business case                                                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                       |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Regular maintenance of the High Street is carried out (subject to business case).    |                                             |              |               |
| To investigate the potential of have the drains, gullies, ditches and culverts regularly cleaned in all rural communities.                                |                        | Meet with local members                                                              | Highways and Environmental Services         | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Business case                                                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                       |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Regular clearing of drains, gullies, ditches and culverts (subject to business case) |                                             |              |               |
| To investigate funding to help maintain the activity of the lengthsman in Cwm.                                                                            |                        | Meet with community council                                                          | Highways and Environmental Services         | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Business case                                                                        |                                             |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                        | Funding identified and secured                                                       |                                             |              |               |

|                                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                            |                                     |              |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Funding secured to maintain lengthsman activity (subject to business case) |                                     |              |               |
| To explore the potential of replacing the red dog waste bins with council bins on Dyserth/Prestatyn walkway.                                                |  | Meet with community council                                                | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Business case                                                              |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Funding identified and secured                                             |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Dog bins replaced with council bins (subject to business case)             |                                     |              |               |
| To explore the potential of replacing the sign warning that the road through Dyserth is unsuitable for heavy duty vehicles with a larger more obvious sign. |  | Meet with relevant officers                                                | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Specialist report                                                          |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Business case                                                              |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Funding identified and secured                                             |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Warning sign in place (subject to business case)                           |                                     |              |               |
| To investigate the possibility of changing the sign on the A55 at Caerwys that directs people through Dyserth to Prestatyn.                                 |  | Meet with relevant officers                                                | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2015 |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Specialist report                                                          |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Business case                                                              |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Funding identified and secured                                             |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Direction sign in place (subject to business case)                         |                                     |              |               |
| To investigate the potential for replacing the anti-skid surface on Waterfall Hill, Dyserth as it has become worn.                                          |  | Meet with relevant officers                                                | Highways and Environmental Services | 1 April 2014 | 31 March 2016 |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Specialist report                                                          |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Business case                                                              |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Funding identified and secured                                             |                                     |              |               |
|                                                                                                                                                             |  | Anti-skid surface in place (subject to business case)                      |                                     |              |               |

## Area Plan Priorities

1. To address eyesore properties in Dyserth High Street – £38,000
2. To replace the play equipment in Dyserth – estimated cost of £12,000

## How will we know if we are on track?

Annual reviews of progress will be undertaken by the County Council together with the Community Council. More regular updates will also be provided to the County Council's Member Area Groups and to the Town Council, and also to the wider community through County Voice and through press releases made by Denbighshire County Council. The Plan will be treated as a living document in which aspirations can be added or removed according to changes in circumstances.

### **Who was involved in the production of this plan?**

This plan was produced by Denbighshire County Council following consultations with County Council Councillors and Services, Ward members, Community Councils, businesses, schools and the wider community.

For further information contact:  
[econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:econ.dev@denbighshire.gov.uk)



## Statistical Appendix

2011 census data

| Percentage of...                                              | In Rhuddlan | In Denbighshire | In the surrounding Rural Area |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Young people aged 15 or under                                 | 15.7        | 18.1            | 17.9                          |
| All people aged 65 or over                                    | 25.7        | 21.1            | 18.9                          |
| People aged 85 or over                                        | 2.9         | 2.8             | 2.1                           |
| People claiming housing or Council Tax benefit                | 8.6         | 9.6             | 5.4                           |
| Overcrowded households                                        | 2.5         | 3.0             | 1.1                           |
| People born in Wales                                          | 63.8        | 58.1            | 60.1                          |
| People over 3 years of age who can speak, read or write Welsh | 15.4        | 18.6            | 17.1                          |
| Working residents employed in the public sector               | 36.9        | 35.7            | 35.0                          |
| Working residents employed in manufacturing                   | 8.5         | 9.1             | 9.6                           |
| Working residents employed in retail                          | 14.4        | 14.4            | 13.0                          |

## Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

| Lower Super Output Area | Ranking in 2005 | Ranking in 2008 | Ranking in 2011 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rhuddlan 1              | 1235            | 1387            | 1427            |
| Rhuddlan 2              | 1172            | 1111            | 1074            |
| Rhuddlan 3              | 973             | 818             | 1096            |

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Town and Area Plans  
2 December 2013

Equality Impact Assessment

# Town and Area Plans

**Contact:** Tom Booty  
Economic & Business Development Manager

**Updated:** 2 December 2013

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

A strategic or service plan

## 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 Town and Area Plans outline the needs and aspirations of Denbighshire's communities, identifies priority projects and initiatives to be progressed and allocates funding for their implementation.

## 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

## 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)*

The Town and Area Plans have been developed initially from a desk -based needs assessment, but followed by a comprehensive consultation process that involved local Members, Community Councils, third sector organisations, and local businesses. The projects and activities detailed in the plans have arisen from this process of research and consultation, and therefore should broadly reflect the aspirations of those communities and individual groups within those communities.

**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)*

The projects and actions arising from the Town and Area Plans are enhancements to current provision, and on this basis should have a positive impact on some of the protected characteristics. The projects and activities identified within the Town and Area Plans are at a high level with further work on their development and justification required. As these projects and initiatives are developed a specific Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken at the appropriate stage and with this a more detailed assessment of impact on protected characteristics undertaken.

**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)?**

The projects and actions arising from the Town and Area Plans are enhancements to current provision, and on this basis will not have any disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics. The projects and activities identified within the Town and Area Plans are at a high level with further work on their development and justification required. As these projects and initiatives are developed a specific Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken at the appropriate stage and with this a more detailed assessment of impact on protected characteristics undertaken.

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

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>No</b> |  |
|-----------|--|

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

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Yes</b> | Individual Equality Impact Assessments for specific projects or activities detailed within the Town and Area Plans will be developed at the appropriate stage to provide a more detailed understanding of, and action to address, any negative impact on the protected characteristics. |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Action(s)                                      | Owner        | By when?   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
|                                                | <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> |
| <Unrestrict editing to insert additional rows> | <Enter Name> | <DD.MM.YY> |

## 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: | 2 December<br>2013 |
|--------------|--------------------|

| Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment | Date     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Tom Booty                                           | 02/12/13 |

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

**Report to:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

**Lead Member / Officer:** Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development

**Report Author:** West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project Manager

**Title:** Detail Design of West Rhyl Green Space (West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project)

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## **1. What is the report about?**

This report provides details of the Green Space which is an integral part of West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP) and the potential implications revenue budgets

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The WRHIP was approved by Council at their meeting of 11 September 2012, where responsibility for delivering the project with its associated budget was delegated to the Project Board. Welsh Government has allocated £23,279,266 to deliver the overall project, with no requirement for capital funding from Denbighshire County Council. As part of the partnership between Welsh Government, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Denbighshire County Council, the Council is leading on the development of the green space.

This report provides Scrutiny with an update on progress of this element of the WRHIP, and the implications for ongoing maintenance and potential funding sources

## **3 What are the Recommendations?**

That the Committee considers and provides observations on the progress made with the delivery of the WRHIP generally and the green space element specifically.

## **4 Report details.**

### **4.1 West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project (WRHIP) Background**

The West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project has been the subject of SIG, Cabinet and Council approval previously. Through the partnership approach between Denbighshire County Council, Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association the project aims to:

***Create an attractive neighbourhood where working people will want to live***

- 1. To create a balanced housing market which is not dominated by one type of housing or by one type of tenure.***

- 2. To create a balanced, stable community with more economically active people living in the neighbourhood.**
- 3. To improve the appearance and perception of the area**

Details of progress with the overall project are attached as **Appendix 1**. This report relates directly to the creation of the new green space. As part of the partnership agreement between the three main project partners, responsibility for the development of the green space lies with the Council. Responsibility for delivering the housing elements of the overall project lies with Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Welsh Government.

## **4.2 The Green Space**

The design of the green space is attached as Appendix 2. The green space seeks to fulfil a long held community desire for open green space in the area. An undertaking was given to the community that the design of the Green Space would be driven by the community and a number of community engagement events have taken place which are detailed in the report attached at Appendix 3. Following the successful CPO all the properties required to deliver the green space are in Council ownership ensuring there are no constraints to the delivery of the green space. Completion of demolition of all the properties in the Green Space will be completed by end of March 2014 which will enable works to commence on the green space in summer 2014 and complete by March 2015.

The development of the Green Space cannot be viewed in isolation to the rest of the project as it is integral to the success and marketability of the surrounding properties. With this in mind there is a fine balance to achieve the aspirations of the community for the open space, encourage private investment yet not place a heavy ongoing maintenance burden upon stretched Council budgets. Development of the park will create a more positive impression of the town overall and thereby have more far-reaching regeneration benefits.

## **4.3 Maintenance Implications**

A key consideration of the design developed for the green space has been to minimise the maintenance implications. However, it is a new facility which did not previously exist and as such will have some maintenance/revenue consequences. Further details of these are attached as Appendix 4. Working with the Council's Grounds Maintenance section the current maintenance estimates are:

- £2,130 per annum for cleaning (litter picking, etc)
- £10,660 per annum for grounds maintenance (grass cutting, etc)

The cleaning costs will be required from 1 April 2015, but there is a 5 year maintenance contract built into the capital contract for the green space so there will be no requirement for the £10,660 pa costs until April 2020.

Overall, the green space scheme is likely to generate an overall revenue saving for the Council. Costs in relation to dealing with fly-tipping have already fallen



dramatically in the area, and the reduction in the number of HMO's should also generate a saving with reduced licencing and monitoring requirements. Furthermore, the residents who were living in poor quality accommodation (many with damp and/or no heating) have been resettled in better managed, good quality accommodation. Although impossible to quantify because it is a preventative measure, this should see a reduction in on-going intervention from social services.

Given the current financial situation, we are continuing to seek ways to reduce the maintenance/revenue implications for the Council, and the following ideas are being investigated:

- Discussions are underway with WG to fund a 10 year (rather than 5 year) maintenance period built into the works contract.
- During this period, development of community responsibility and/or other organisations will be undertaken
- Possibility of introducing service charges on any new homes built surrounding the park.
- Transfer of the ownership of the land to another organisation e.g. Housing Association/ Community Land Trust

Hopefully one, or a combination, of the above mechanisms will address the revenue implications of the project, but failing that the “back-stop” position is:

- A revenue allocation of £2,130 is transferred from Economic and Business Development budget to DCC Streetscene, commencing 1 April 2015, in order to ensure that the area is properly cleaned from day 1 after completion. Note that discussions are still ongoing to establish whether this cost can be reduced or absorbed within existing Streetscene budgets;
- A revenue allocation of £10,660 is transferred from DCC Economic and Business Development budget to DCC Streetscene, commencing April 2020 to ensure that the area is properly maintained following the end of the 5 year maintenance contract.

## **5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

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

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

### **5.2: Priority 6 – Ensuring access to good quality housing**

This project will directly impact on the priority outcome of “*offering a range of types and forms of housing...to meet the needs of individuals and families*”. The addition of a green space immediately adjacent will make these properties very desirable.

## **6: What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

The project *may* impact on Council services if alternative options for maintenance fail. It will have a positive impact on biodiversity and the effects on the environment

through provision of plant species which will encourage biodiversity. The effects of open green space on people's health and well-being is well documented.

## **6.1 Capital Resources**

There are no implications for Denbighshire's capital resources as all capital costs are met by Welsh Government.

## **6.2 Revenue Resources & Existing cost savings**

See 4.3 above.

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

EqIA attached as Appendix 5.

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

For details of the consultation process please see Appendix 3. The design has also been developed through consultation with the following:

- Design Commission for Wales
- Rhyl Member Area Group
- Established Stakeholder Group
- DCC Highways, Environmental Services, Biodiversity
- WRHIP Project Board
- Health Impact Assessment Workshops
- Rhyl Going Forward Programme Board
- Sustrans
- Rhyl Town Council

## **9 Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The Council should avoid wherever possible taking on the revenue consequences of externally funded capital projects. The council currently owns the land due to using its CPO powers to support the development.

Section 6 makes the point that the creation of the green space will reduce other costs in the area, and should the overall project be successful, there may be further cost reductions for other services.

The proposed capital lump sum from WG would enable alternative funding to be sought with the fall back position of the Economic Development Department having agreed to contain it within their budget if necessary due to the importance they attach to the project.

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

A risk register is detailed at Appendix 6

## **11 Power to make the Decision**

Section 2 Local Government Act 2000

Sections 226 & 227 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Section 111 Local Government Act 1972

Article 6.3.2(c) stipulates Scrutiny's powers in this matter

### **Contact Officer:**

West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project Manager

Tel: 01824 706493

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**WEST RHYL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
**APPENDIX 1 – GENERAL PROGRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2014**

**Progress with the Whole Project**

Progress with the project has been generally very good; with the acquisitions process moving forward effectively, resettlement work taken forward in an efficient and sensitive manner, and well progressed development planning. The successful award of the Compulsory Purchase Order in November has enabled many of the risk issues facing the project to be dealt with effectively.

The project is expected to deliver the expected benefits on time and within budget. Those benefits are:

- an image change for West Rhyl which will assist in drawing private sector investment into the area in the medium to long term;
- progression to a more balanced housing offer through changed house type and tenure;
- the removal of 40 properties (including 16 HMO properties with 72 accommodation units) to be replaced by the creation of 4,500m<sup>2</sup> of quality green space;
- the removal of 34 HMOs in total accommodating 182 accommodation units;
- the remodelling and reduction in size of 46 properties into appropriately sized, energy efficient, modern family homes **OR** demolition and rebuilding new properties surrounding the new green space;
- the progression of the 50-57 West Parade site, already assembled, cleared and in Welsh Government ownership, but suffering blight from poor quality housing nearby. This site (including 1-11 John Street and 18 Aquarium Street) could accommodate 60 modern apartments plus A3/retail ground floor uses;
- the provision of training placements and employment opportunities for local unemployed people

**Acquisitions/ Demolitions**

The project has so far expended a little under **£2.8M** on property acquisition during 2013/14, enabling the purchase of **17** properties required for project delivery. 15 Acquisitions are still required in order to complete the acquisition programme, and all are now being taken forward within the process for implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order.

Progress within each of the development zones is illustrated in figure 2, and it can be seen that whilst in some development zones the acquisition process is complete, in other zones work is still required in order to ensure delivery. Zones 1 & 2 have been prioritised so as to facilitate the progression of the demolition programme and the delivery of the Green Space by March 2015 when funding for the project ends

The demolition programme has now re-commenced. The programme will see all required demolitions complete during February/March 2014.

Figure 2: WRHIP Acquisitions Progress

| Zone         | Total Required | Phase 1 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | Remaining |
|--------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1            | 40             | 12      | 25      | 3       | Complete  |
| 2            | 15             | 5       | 8       | 2       | Complete  |
| 3            | 8              | 2       | 0       | 2       | 4         |
| 4            | 8              | 0       | 2       | 2       | 4         |
| 5            | 16             | 8       | 4       | 3       | 1         |
| 6            | 16             | 3       | 5       | 3       | 5         |
| 7            | 17             | 6       | 8       | 2       | 1         |
| <b>Total</b> | 120            | 36      | 52      | 17      | 15        |

### **Resettlement/ Supporting People**

Progress on the resettlement work has been excellent, with more than 100 households now resettled successfully through the project. It is notable that the Council nor Welsh Government has received a single complaint about the process so far, and feedback from affected residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

### **Planning & Development**

Within the WRHIP, a Planning and Development Team has been established in order to take forward the significant planning tasks required within the project.

Planning and Development work has progressed well, with a soft marketing of potential development sites in September 2013 which has established developer interest. Welsh Government officials across Homes and Places as well as the Department for Economy, Science and Transport, have appointed Legat Owen to move forward the marketing of the Aquarium Street/ West Parade site in preparation for sale and re-development. Buy back arrangements are being put in place so as to ensure timely development of the site.

Pennaf Housing Group has been working to establish development plans for Zone 2 (Gronant Street) and Zone 7 (Abbey Street). The redevelopment of the Abbey Vaults (3 - 9 Abbey Street) has already gained Planning Approval.

Additionally, West Rhyl Community Land Trust and North Wales Housing Association have formed a partnership so as to assess the viability of taking forward the development of eight properties on Abbey Street (11-33) within Zone 6 as a co-operative housing scheme. Demand levels have been established and a feasibility study is underway to determine the most cost effective way

### **Communications**

The project is now moving towards a crucial phase that will cover demolition (and the potential for bad publicity), as well as the marketing of opportunities for housing redevelopment. Communication requirements have been reviewed by the Project Co-ordination Group and resulted in a far greater collaboration between communication specialists within each partner organisation.

## **Neighbourhood Management**

A team of officers from partner organisations (DCC/ WG/ Pennaf/ North Wales Police/ Fire and Rescue) meet monthly and walk about the area in order to co-ordinate the management of the project area through what has the potential to be a very difficult and disruptive period. Issues are identified and dealt with promptly by the relevant organisation. Neighbourhood management issues of environmental crime in the area (fly tipping, refuse issues) have reduced and are continuing to reduce. The Authority has saved £3,741 when comparing 2012 statistics to 2013 through the dispersal of approximately 120 households to date and pro active management

In order to gauge the views of the community, two community consultation events have taken place to ascertain their desires. The result of the consultation has indicated that what people want to see is an open green space where people can spend some relaxation and leisure time with their families, enjoying simple pleasures such as picnicing and informal play.

Low level walls and fencing seem to be preferred so that the space does not have a "fortress like" atmosphere, but rather that it appears open and spacious

People felt very strongly about the need for security at the site with good lighting and CCTV monitoring seen as the most important factor and this is still under discussion with the various stakeholders.

Capita are now working up the detailed design which will include much more details such as the species of trees, flowers and shrubs, hard landscape materials, style and location of street furniture and bins and the measurements and materials of the boundary walls and fencing. This is aiming for a submission for Planning mid March and a start on site July 2014

**At all stages of the design development, the need for low maintenance has been a consideration**

## **Green Space Stakeholder Engagement**

An established stakeholder group meets monthly to discuss the issues regarding the park. These include representation from Community Groups operating in West Rhyl, local Members including Town Councillors, North Wales Police, DCC Streetscene, DCC Highways, Welsh Government, Pennaf Housing

In addition to the established stakeholder group the following organisations have been consulted.

- Design Commission for Wales whose recommendations are below

### **Design Commission for Wales**

- Quality critical to the success of surrounding properties
- Consider small community event space
- Consider developing social enterprises, a cafe, play/fitness facilities, toilets and baby changing, crèche, ice cream/food/drink vendor. This would assist family use of the park and allow good natural surveillance and activity, so that the space is well used and valued.
- Take into account existing and desired pedestrian links
- Promote links with the local schools

- Overall, the scheme should promote an attractive lifestyle choice. This will only be achieved by people working together towards a common goal.
- Sustrans
- Rhyl Member Area Group
- DCC Biodiversity Officer
- Rhyl Going Forward Programme Board

A concept design has now been developed in accordance with all the above comments which is provided at **Appendix 1**

### **Implications for Future Maintenance**

The green space will have a revenue implication, currently estimated through in-depth meetings with Streetscene Officers to be no greater than £12,000. . Work is currently ongoing between the Design Team and Public Realm to look at how we can reduce that cost further through choices of species of plants, trees and materials;

The capital contract will have a 5 year maintenance programme built in so that this budget implication will not impact until 2020. This is standard practice for projects such as this. After 5 years, the proposal is that DCC Public Realm will adopt the space and maintain it. The backstop position will be for the Economic and Business Development Department to underwrite this cost annually from their budget on a permanent basis

In that 5 year period, we will be exploring (and potentially implementing) other ways to reduce the revenue costs, which could include a service charge on new homes, implementation of commuted sums associated with any new developments, develop a “ friends of the park” ” who will take on volunteer work and adopt some of the areas, amongst other ideas currently circulating

From a position where the DCC Officers had assumed responsibility for maintenance would fall on Environmental Services budget from Day 1, clarification has provided them with a degree of comfort, as the most intense period of maintenance with spaces such as this is in the first 5 years until plants, trees and shrubs have had time to establish. **However it is important to note that litter picking and refuse disposal will become DCC’s responsibility from Day One after construction. This will be no more onerous than the cleansing costs currently required for cleaning those streets**

### **Estimated costs**

Estimated annual cost of cleansing regime is estimated as £2,129.40.





**KEY**

- ① Native planting
- ② Hard landscaping concrete paving
- ③ Low wall and metal railing - 1.5m high
- ④ Car parking spaces
- ⑤ Bitmac footpath
- ⑥ Undulating grassed mounds
- ⑦ Raised crossings
- ⑧ Beech hedge - 1.5m high
- ⑨ Tree planting - 5 - 5.5m high
- ⑩ Bulb planting
- ⑪ Ornamental shrub planting with interlaced herbaceous planting
- ⑫ Undulating grassed areas with wildflower planting
- ⑬ Low gabion wall with seating
- ⑭ Entrance feature
- ⑮ Mussel seating
- ⑯ Birch grove
- ⑰ Timber seating with back rests and armrests
- ⑱ Lighting columns
- ⑲ Litter bins
- ⑳ CCTV column - position to be confirmed

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## West Rhyl Greenspace Project

### Initial Findings Report

#### Inception

Capita was confirmed as appointed landscape consultants to the West Rhyl Greenspace Project on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 following a competitive tendering procedure and interview held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The contract formally commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013.

#### Inception meeting

The inception meeting was held at Denbighshire County Council (Russell House) Offices on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and attended by the key stakeholder representatives from the following organisations :-

- Denbighshire County Council
- Welsh Government
- West Rhyl Young Peoples Project
- North Wales Police
- One Rhyl Project
- Community Land Trust
- Capita Property and Infrastructure

The meeting signified the start of the project which is currently programmed for the following stages and dates:-

|                                               |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stage 1 Concept Design</b>                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2013 – 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2014        |
| <b>Stage 2 Detailed Design &amp; Planning</b> | 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2014 – 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2014         |
| <b>Stage 3 Tender Documentation</b>           | 14 <sup>th</sup> May – 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2014 (6 weeks)         |
| <b>Stage 4 Construction</b>                   | 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2014 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 (38 weeks) |

Stages 3 and 4 were originally subject to DCC securing the funding for the project. This has been pledged and is now awaiting ministerial confirmation.

#### Venue and Timings

The focus of the inception meeting was to agree a way forward for delivering Stage 1 of the project to the programme. The Foryd Centre was identified as the most appropriate location and venue for undertaking the stakeholder events and was kindly suggested and offered by the Community Land Trust.

It was agreed that early consultation was required in order to achieve programme dates and therefore the key dates for the consultation events were agreed as follows:-

|                                     |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Initial Consultation Event</b>   | <b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (10.00 – 19.00)</b> |
| <b>Follow up Consultation Event</b> | <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (13.30 – 19.00)</b> |

In order to advertise the consultation events the following methods of engagement and communication was agreed:-

- Use of A5 leaflets for leaflet drop in the immediate area, community buildings, library, schools, White Rose Shopping Centre, market, piggy back community events
- Posters to be distributed throughout various venues
- Large 6x2ft banners outside strategic locations such as community buildings, churches etc
- Twitter, Facebook and DCC website
- Point FM
- Door knocking

All this activity was undertaken from w/c 11<sup>th</sup> November in order to advise the community to attend the initial consultation event that was seen as an all day visioning event (26<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 7pm) on a drop in basis at the Foryd Centre. Capita would be on hand to speak to residents, gather their ideas in order to develop the visuals for the second visioning event so the community can see the result of their ideas on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, again at the Foryd Centre.

### **Leaflet Distribution**

A5 leaflets advertising the event were prepared by DCC inviting people to 'Have your say'. Leaflets were distributed by DCC and Capita to all the residents in the West Rhyl area :-

- 12/11/2013 Leaflet delivery to West Rhyl residential area and local shops
- 14/11/2013 Leaflet delivery to West Rhyl residential area and local shops
- 21/11/2013 Leaflet delivery and face to face interviews at Market and local shops and hand delivery to respondents to the earlier DCC questionnaires
- 04/12/13 Rhyl College Cafe – Leaflets and Banners
- 09/11/13 Leaflet delivery to Health Centre and Local Schools

In addition to the leaflet delivery, several people who had responded to earlier consultations undertaken by Denbighshire County Council in September 2013, were sent leaflets by post or sent e-mails with the leaflet attached electronically. A record of all those distributed by these methods are appended to the back of this document.

### **Target Audience**

The target audience for the initial consultation event was very much focussed on the residents of West Rhyl and the area immediately surrounding it. A wider audience could have been targeted but it was considered more appropriate that, given the focus was for the green space to benefit the local neighbourhood, that the West Rhyl area should be the focus for the consultation process.

### Initial Public Consultation Event – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (10.00 – 19.00)

The initial public consultation event was held at the Foryd Centre as advertised on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Display boards 9(No.) were prepared by Capita illustrating ideas for public parks and background information on the West Rhyl Greenspace Project. During the day, members from the Project Team were interviewed live by Point FM the local community radio station and invited listeners to go along to the Foryd Centre, or e-mail their views and ideas for the project to the website, or on Twitter/Facebook.

There were several visitors (approximately 20) to the Foryd Centre during the initial public consultation event, but in general the response was disappointingly low, despite all the efforts to raise awareness of the event through a combination of traditional leaflet drops and social media. However, the feedback that was given was generally positive, as has been the feedback during discussions with shop owners and other members of the public. There is a real perception that the West Rhyl area is changing for the better and that perennial issues with crime and anti social behaviour are improving. The responses to the eight questions at the initial consultation event are summarised below:-

| 1. What would you like to use the green space for?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2. What should the park contain?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 3. What do you think it should feel like?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 4. What is important to you?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sensory Garden</li> <li>✓ Walks</li> <li>✓ Socializing</li> <li>✓ Children's area</li> <li>✓ Wildlife</li> <li>✓ General leisure</li> <li>✓ Picnics</li> <li>✓ Community area for all ages</li> <li>✓ Allotments</li> <li>✓ Football</li> <li>✓ Climbing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lights and CCTV</li> <li>✓ Water feature</li> <li>✓ Grass</li> <li>✓ Trees/plants</li> <li>✓ Paths</li> <li>✓ Bins</li> <li>✓ Swings</li> <li>✓ Climbing area</li> <li>✓ Seats</li> <li>✓ Flower beds</li> <li>✓ Rockeries</li> <li>✓ Allotments</li> <li>✓ Sports, Obstacle Course, Skatepark, Goals</li> <li>✓ Nature Reserve</li> <li>✓ Sculptures</li> <li>✓ Wheelchair access</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Traditional, basic, natural</li> <li>✓ Homely and natural</li> <li>✓ Pleasant and Inviting</li> <li>✓ Relaxing, clean and tidy</li> <li>✓ Tranquil</li> <li>✓ Welcoming</li> <li>✓ Inviting</li> <li>✓ Wild and natural</li> <li>✓ A mix for ages and tastes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fenced, locked gates</li> <li>✓ Security features</li> <li>✓ Well maintained</li> <li>✓ Green Spaces</li> <li>✓ Sense of close community</li> <li>✓ People enjoying themselves</li> <li>✓ Sense of pride</li> </ul> |

The remaining four questions were not answered as fully as the four above but the responses are contained below:-

| 5. How can the park be different from the surrounding area?                                                                                                                  | 6. What is missing from the surrounding area which could be incorporated?                                                                                                                                                               | 7. What access to the green space and surrounding areas would be a benefit?                                                                                                                                      | 8. Other Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Not a playground</li> <li>✓ Contain lots of grass</li> <li>✓ Family friendly</li> <li>✓ Wild space</li> <li>✓ More rural</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Marine elements,</li> <li>✓ Holiday resort,</li> <li>✓ Rhyl identity</li> <li>✓ CCTV</li> <li>✓ Lighting</li> <li>✓ Café</li> <li>✓ Public House</li> <li>✓ Trees</li> <li>✓ Trees!</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A one way system around the space for safety reasons</li> <li>✓ Open spaces, pedestrian friendly</li> <li>✓ Accessible to all</li> <li>✓ Wheelchair friendly</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Good luck</li> <li>✓ Listen to locals, make a statement and change</li> <li>✓ Major concern is that the area doesn't come a meeting place for substance abusers or people with criminal tendencies</li> </ul> |

### Follow up Consultation event 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Following collation of the comments back from the first consultation event, an initial concept design was developed and presented at the second consultation event. The concept design attempted to capture and respond to, as many of the comments referred to above and also to take on board many the issues discussed at the Stakeholder Meetings.

As with the initial event held in November, attendance at the Foryd Centre was low but the responses to the initial concept design at the follow up consultation event was as follows:-

- ✓ Generally supportive – liked the scheme
- ✓ Other issues surrounding the nearby MUGA were raised and how this would affect the proposals for the green space
- ✓ Wanted to see green links / areas linked by hedgerows / trees bearing berries and blossom. Liked the idea of a raised sensory garden, as opposed to vegetables, and also the use of raised beds for wild flowers and access for disability. Queried wildflower establishment and whether it would work...
- ✓ No formal planting. Prefers wild flowers. Would like to re-introduce lime trees to Rhyl, as the ones outside the town hall have been felled (Planted in Victorian times). Concern over use of area by drug users and alcoholics. Hard standing could accommodate Xmas tree. (need electricity source)
- ✓ Anti-skate fixtures needed on street furniture. Textured surface to prevent skate boarding etc Street furniture to prevent kids running into road.

### Key Stakeholders

In addition to the public consultation events, a number of stakeholder meetings have been held since the project inception meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> November and these are summarised in the table below:-

| Key Stakeholder Meetings                       |          |                             |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title /Nature of Meeting                       | Date     | Venue                       | Comments                                                                               |
| DCC Highways                                   | 18/11/13 | DCC Children's Village      | Meeting to discuss general highways issues and application of possible one way systems |
| Design Council for Wales                       | 19/11/13 | DCC Children's Village      | Discussions surrounding adjacent development proposals and stakeholder engagement      |
| Site Walkabout followed by Stakeholder Meeting | 02/12/13 | Site and Children's Village | Useful discussions with stakeholders surrounding refuse collection                     |
| Progress Meeting                               | 04/12/13 | DCC Russell House           | Issues surrounding re-use of MUGA and edible garden discussed with stakeholders        |
| DCC Highways                                   | 11/12/13 | DCC Children's Village      | Discussions around traffic calming, deflection and adoption issues                     |

### Feedback from Key Stakeholders on Initial Concept Design

#### Clwyd Alun Housing Association

- Could the whole design be "flipped" over so the hard standing be located along the John street/ Aquarium street boundaries
- The hard standing area seems to be primarily located in front of the social housing investment area of the land
- The hard standing seems to be excessive
- The intension to have it as a performance area would replicate an underused facility which is available on the drift park – the "amphitheatre"
- The intension to have it as a space where events could be held e.g. markets etc – would this undermine the efforts being taken to rejuvenate the town centre?
- The intension is to have this as a community area rather than tourist space – however of the amount of events (average 30 per year) that would be "put on" during the year (primarily Summer time), how would the area be used for the rest of the year e.g. winter without it "looking like a vast expanse of nothing"?
- The railings are only "protecting" the green area of the space – this would leave the residents in the properties fronting onto the hard standing vulnerable for groups congregating outside of their properties until unreasonable hours.
- The Association would have difficulty "selling" the properties if the design were to proceed in its current format
- What is the fencing height? Would the Association be able to see the proposed lighting/ CCTV coverage plan?
- Fencing to the entire perimeter of the space
- The hard standing being "broken up" and one area centralised – ideally the hard standing which is on the edge of the area would need some kind of screening to ensure the privacy of the residents on the Abbey Street elevation

- The planting which is on the “top” of the design adjacent to Aquarium Street could be replicated on the Gronant Street edge – ornamental shrub planting and woodland planting
- The activity area is moved from a boundary to a more central position to deter ASB
- Paths have been extended and an additional path runs through the path at the Abbey Street end

The Association does understand that this is an initial concept design however as we are investing circ £2.5m into the surrounding properties and have been a joint partner in this regeneration process, it is hoped the issues raised will be thoroughly explored and further discussion will be undertaken before a draft scheme is issued to the Council in early January.

#### **DCC Highways Department**

- DCC Highways generally liked the scheme but had some reservations. Still thinks that ‘boy racers’ will see the one way street as a challenge. It transpired that the ‘boy racer’ concerns were primarily anecdotal and were probably around 75% fiction v 25% reality
- It is hoped that the design with horizontal deflection and surface finishes could be as narrow as possible, possibly down to circa 2.5 metres, just wide enough to get refuse and emergency vehicles through. Raised tables (only slightly raised not speed humps) to denote main pedestrian movements in and out of greenspace
- A narrow one way street could slow down the traffic speed but DCC may require evidence of reduced traffic speeds used elsewhere. Reference could also be made to anecdotal/observational evidence from other schemes
- DCC suggested that speed surveys would be required prior to any design being approved so that traffic speeds could be audited on a factual basis. DCC will see if there are any other speed records of adjacent streets in the neighbourhood
- Stopping up orders need progressing urgently and to do this the scheme proposals need to be progressed.
- Line of defensible space outside properties along Gronant Street 1 metre from front of bay windows, 1.5 metres from main building line
- Parking could be designated as shared use restriction with day tickets available for visitors to residents

#### **Revisions to Initial Concept Design**

Revisions are currently being made to the initial concept design to take on board the responses referred to above and will be presented to the next stakeholder group meeting scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and Rhyl Members Area Group meeting to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This will also be accompanied by a preliminary cost estimate that will encompass the main green space area together with any public realm improvements to the adjacent streets.



## Records of Leaflet Delivery

|                      | Leaflets delivered by DCC on 12.11.2013 | CAPITA 14.11.2014 | Additional Comments                                                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Butterton Road       |                                         | ✓                 |                                                                        |
| West Parade B5118    |                                         | ✓                 | only where flats permitted access                                      |
| Wellington Road A548 |                                         | ✓                 | all to west of foryd centre. News agents, cafes and some shops to east |
| River Street         | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Emlyn Grove          | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Aquarium Crescent    | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Maude Street         |                                         | ✓                 |                                                                        |
| Aquarium Street      | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| John Street          | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Gronant Street       | Derelict                                |                   |                                                                        |
| Gordon Avenue        | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Crescent Road        | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Hope Place           | To be demolished                        |                   |                                                                        |
| Abbey Street         | ✓                                       |                   |                                                                        |
| Vaughan Street       |                                         | RSPCA only        |                                                                        |
| Edward Henry Street  |                                         |                   | Left leaflets with Pennaf Housing (Clwyd Alan) for delivery            |
| Bedford Street       |                                         | ✓                 |                                                                        |
| Water Street         |                                         | ✓                 |                                                                        |
| Sussex Street        |                                         | No - retail only  |                                                                        |
| Sussex Lane          |                                         | No - retail only  |                                                                        |
| Queen Street         |                                         | No - retail only  |                                                                        |

| <b>Additional Leaflet Deliveries</b>                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21.11.2013 - Hand delivered around market and some stall holders                                                                                        |
| 21.11.2013 - Delivered to charity shops and cafes on High Street:-                                                                                      |
| Costa                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Piazza                                                                                                                                              |
| Scope                                                                                                                                                   |
| British Heart Foundation                                                                                                                                |
| Age Cymru                                                                                                                                               |
| 21.11.2013 - Other deliveries included:-                                                                                                                |
| Sussex Street Christian Centre                                                                                                                          |
| Wetherspoons                                                                                                                                            |
| The George                                                                                                                                              |
| Last Orders                                                                                                                                             |
| 21.11.2013 - delivered to individual properties from initial DCC feedback forms, who asked to be contacted regarding the scheme, as highlighted below:- |
| Mr. P. Riley - Bath Street                                                                                                                              |
| Christian Johansen - Princes Street                                                                                                                     |
| Mary Murphy, John Street                                                                                                                                |
| Janet Hughes - Foryd Centre                                                                                                                             |
| James Chadwick - Wellington Terrace                                                                                                                     |
| Mrs. T Pimley-Tough - Rhydwen Drive                                                                                                                     |
| Glynn Rigby - John Street                                                                                                                               |
| Jamie Charlton - Bath Street                                                                                                                            |
| Stephanie Webster - Brighton Road                                                                                                                       |
| Desmond Lewis - Abbey Street                                                                                                                            |
| Kath Hughes - Kings Ave                                                                                                                                 |
| L. Gurnell - Crescent Court                                                                                                                             |
| Miss. M Simons - River Street                                                                                                                           |
| M. Jones - Seabank Road                                                                                                                                 |
| Mr. C Dance - Paradise Street                                                                                                                           |
| R. Staley - River Street                                                                                                                                |
| Jamie Lee Smith - Edward Henry Street - Left leaflets with Clwyd Alan Housing                                                                           |
| Beth Smith - Ffordd Derwen                                                                                                                              |
| Alison Bolstridge - Rhydwen Drive                                                                                                                       |
| W. Pateman - Ffordd Derwen                                                                                                                              |
| N. Guarino - Sydenham Avenue                                                                                                                            |
| Gail Metcalfe - 3 Kings Avenue                                                                                                                          |
| Sarah Dowel - Jones - Princes Street                                                                                                                    |
| Katy Park - Brynhyfryd Avenue                                                                                                                           |
| Ll. Evans - 58 St Margarets Drive                                                                                                                       |
| Suzy Edwards - Clos Tegfan - BY POST                                                                                                                    |
| Lian Curry - Lon Brynli - BY POST                                                                                                                       |
| Ciaran Brady - Roseview Crescent - BY POST                                                                                                              |
| Ahmer Ali - BY EMAIL                                                                                                                                    |
| Frances Wharton-Faraut - BY EMAIL                                                                                                                       |
| Meirick Davies - BY EMAIL                                                                                                                               |

| <b>21.11.2013 - delivered to individual properties from initial DCC feedback forms, who asked to be contacted regarding the scheme</b> | <b>03.12.2013</b> | <b>04.12.2013</b> | <b>04.12.2014</b> | <b>09.12.2014</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                                                                                        |                   | <b>BY POST</b>    | <b>to deliver</b> | <b>to deliver</b> |
| Mr. P. Riley - 36 Bath Street, Rhyl, LL18 3LU                                                                                          |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Jamie Charlton - 40 Bath Street, Rhyl, LL18 3LU                                                                                        |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Stephanie Webster - 10 Brighton Road, Rhyl, LL18 3HD                                                                                   |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Mr. C Dance - 8C Paradise Street, Rhyl, LL18 3LW                                                                                       |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Katy Park - 23 Brynhyfryd Avenue, Rhyl, LL18 2DB                                                                                       |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Ll. Evans - 58 St Margarets Drive, Rhyl, LL18 2HU                                                                                      |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| W. Pateman - 45 Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl, LL18 2HU                                                                                          |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Beth Smith - 95 Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl, LL18 2NA                                                                                          |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Mrs. T Pimley-Tough - 20 Rhydwen Drive, Rhyl, LL18 2AR                                                                                 |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Alison Bolstridge - 50 Rhydwen Drive, Rhyl, LL18 2AS                                                                                   |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Christian Johansen - 5 Princes Street, Rhyl, LL18 1LS                                                                                  |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Sarah Dowel - Jones - Flat 3, 24 Princes Street, Rhyl, LL18 1LS                                                                        |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Kath Hughes - 10 Kings Ave, Rhyl, LL18 1LT                                                                                             |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Gail Metcalfe - 3 Kings Avenue, Rhyl, LL18 1LT                                                                                         |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| James Chadwick - 15 Wellington Terrace, Rhyl, LL18 1NA                                                                                 |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| M. Jones - 29 Seabank Road, Rhyl, LL18 1EA                                                                                             |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| N. Guarino - 24 Sydenham Avenue, Rhyl, LL18 1NS                                                                                        |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Miss. M Simons - 38 River Street, Rhyl, LL18 1PT                                                                                       |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| R. Staley - 20 River Street, Rhyl, LL18 1PT                                                                                            |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Mary Murphy, 26 John Street, Rhyl, LL18 1PW                                                                                            |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Glynn Rigby, 26 John Street, Rhyl, LL18 1PW                                                                                            |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Desmond Lewis - Flat 1, 48 Abbey Street, Rhyl LL18 1PA                                                                                 |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| L. Gurnell - 1-9 Crescent Court, Rhyl, LLLL18 1TL                                                                                      |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| David Thomas - 36 Sholing Drive, Rhyl, LL18 3UR                                                                                        |                   | ✓                 |                   |                   |
| Janet Hughes - Foryd Centre                                                                                                            |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |
| Jamie Lee Smith - 22D Edward Henry Street - leave leaflets with Clwyd Alan Housing on Crescent Road                                    |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |
| Suzy Edwards - Clos Tegfan - BY POST 03.12.2013                                                                                        | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| Lian Curry - Lon Brynli - BY POST 03.12.2013                                                                                           | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| Ciaran Brady - Roseview Crescent - BY POST 03.12.2013                                                                                  | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| Ahmer Ali - BY EMAIL from DCC                                                                                                          | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| Frances Wharton-Faraut - BY EMAIL from DCC                                                                                             | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| Meirick Davies - BY EMAIL from DCC                                                                                                     | ✓                 |                   |                   |                   |
| The Catholic Church on Wellington Road                                                                                                 |                   |                   | CLOSED            |                   |
| 6, Gordon Ave (Project 11)                                                                                                             |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |
| Rhyl 6th college, Christchurch and Emmanuel Schools                                                                                    |                   |                   | ✓                 |                   |
| Doctors on Kings Ave                                                                                                                   |                   |                   |                   | N/A               |
| Clarence House Medical Centre                                                                                                          |                   |                   |                   | ✓                 |

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**WEST RHYL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
**GREEN SPACE- ESTIMATED MAINTENANCE COSTS**

**Estimated costs**

Estimated annual cost of cleansing regime is estimated as £2,129.40. It is however important to note that the streets would have required cleansing if this project had not proceeded and should be taken into account when considering this cost

These costs will cover the following activities

- Daily inspection
- Empty 6no litter bins
- Litter pick soft and hard landscape areas
- Mechanically sweep all accessible hard landscape areas

Provisional costs

- Removal of fly tipping
- Removal of graffiti
- Removal of syringes
- Removal of dog foul
- Broken glass

Estimated annual cost of grounds maintenance Year 5 + is £10,660. These costs will cover the following activities

**Grass**

- Cut all grass areas by most practical means. Frequency will be 18 cuts pa and on the basis of cut and drop (not cut and collect)
- Strim/trim around all abutments – kerb edges, path edges and property lines
- Strim/trim around all obstructions – tree bases, lamp columns etc

**Borders (weed control)**

- Manual means – hoeing, weeding, forking
- Environmental means – application of weed suppressant, bark and wood chippings etc
- Chemical means – application of approved non residual herbicide

**Borders (shrubs)**

- Annual pruning of shrubs
- Removal of dead, dying shrubs and replacements as necessary
- Raking and removal of leaf litter and all other detritus

**Pathways**

- Weed control – spray joints/cracks with approved non residual herbicide
- Monitor and treat as and when appropriate with moss control herbicide

## Trees

- Inspect tree ties/anchors/guards and adjust replace as and when necessary
- Formative prune
- Replace dead/dying trees, replace as necessary

## Existing cost savings

Whilst there are potential implications on DCC budgets post construction, it is important to acknowledge that savings are currently being made which offset these costs which DCC would be responsible for had the project had not come about. Some initiatives can be costed as below, however others such as the reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime and improved living conditions impacting on physical and mental well being cannot. These issues undoubtedly do have an impact on Denbighshire budgets

## Environmental crime reduction

The Authority has saved £3,741 when comparing 2012 statistics to 2013 through the dispersal of approximately 120 households to date and pro active management

|                                | 2012                | 2013               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Saving                         |                     |                    |
| Fly tipping @ £29 per incident | 165 = £4,785        | 125 = £3,625       |
| Refuse @ £29 per incident      | 139 = <u>£4,031</u> | 50 = <u>£1,450</u> |
| Total                          | <b>£ 8,816</b>      | <b>£5,075</b>      |
| <b>Cost savings</b>            | <b>£3,741</b>       |                    |

## Reduction in Landfill Costs

- Average annual kilos to landfill per household WITHOUT recycling facilities 700
- Average annual kilos to landfill per household WITH recycling facilities 200
- Average cost of landfill disposal of 300-500 kilos per household per annum £50
- No of households relocated from Block 1 to areas with recycling facilities 80
- **Cost savings (80 X £50 pa) = £4,000**

**Appendix 5**

**West Rhyl Green Space Development  
09/12/2013**

**Equality Impact Assessment**

# West Rhyl Green Space Development

**Contact:** Carol Evans, Economic and Business Development  
**Updated:** <DD.MM.YY>

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

A project proposal

## 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 development of the Green Space in West Rhyl is an integral part of the larger West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project. This project received Cabinet approval in October 2010 and September 2012. This is a tripartate project in partnership with Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Welsh Government and is funded by Welsh Government. Denbighshire County Council are leading on the Green Space development. The development will result in a change to the community of West Rhyl through the compulsory purchase of properties in the area required for the Green Space and their subsequent demolition.

## 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

## 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)*

It has been well documented since the early 1990s that Rhyl's problems, like most other British seaside towns are the issues created by the decline in tourism and change of use from B&Bs and guest houses to poorly managed HMOs, bringing with it a raft of social problems. These issues were recognised in the North Wales Coast Regeneration Area (NWCRA) Action Plan and identified the opportunity to work in partnership with local housing associations to tackle the long standing problem of poorly converted, poorly heated and poorly managed HMOs. The masterplanning process which ensued responded to local community interests and aspirations and stakeholder views which were sought as part of the



process, and were reflected in the resulting final report  
 Various methods of engagement were used, door to door interviews, use of the “Step up Bus” in various locations and public consultation sessions  
 The resulting masterplan cited that the public wished to see less HMOs, more private ownership rather than private rented and more open, green space. The masterplan stated the case for radical action, as years of intervention and £millions had not tackled the root cause of the town’s issues, i.e. the health and social issues within the 4 walls of properties. These properties were still very large for any economic use other than as HMOs  
 The masterplan required extensive property acquisition in order to facilitate demolition to create the open space, remodelling and refurbishment of existing properties and the potential for mixed use sites such as offices and new housing – more of which later

- 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)*

The resulting Green Space will be available for access and use by all

- 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)?**

The proposal will have no negative impact on any of the above

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

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Yes</b> | The proposal is intended to reduce or eliminate the negative perception the wider public has of the area. The area is close to public transport routes and footpaths leading to and at the space will be designed to enable access for all. The design will ensure security measures such as lighting, safety fencing to avoid children running into the street and wider traffic calming measures surrounding the park will be considered and addressed. In addition CCTV monitoring will be considered. Once the concept design is developed a further Equality Impact Assessment will be submitted prior to development of detailed design and planning submission |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes | The design of the Green Space will be as a result of community consultation events, and as far as is practicable reflect what the community wishes to see developed in the space |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Action(s)                                       | Owner                         | By when? |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Visioning Days (Community consultation)         | Carol Evans<br>Capita Symonds | 10.12.13 |
| Development of ideas into visual/concept design | Carol Evans<br>Capita Symonds | 14.1.14  |
| Extensive Stakeholder engagement                | Carol Evans                   | 17.3.14  |
| Cabinet approval of concept design              | Carol Evans                   | 14.1.14  |
| Media exposure of concept design for comment    | Carol Evans                   | 3.3.14   |

**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: | 9/1/14 |
|--------------|--------|

| Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment | Date    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| CAROL EVANS                                         | 9/12/14 |

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



**Y RHYL  
RHYL**

# West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project Green Space Development

## PROJECT RISK REGISTER

|                   |                            |                           |                   |                      |                   |                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>LIKELIHOOD</b> | <b>5</b><br>Almost certain | 5                         | 10                | 15                   | 20                | 25                       |
|                   | <b>4</b><br>Likely         | 4                         | 8                 | 12                   | 16                | 20                       |
|                   | <b>3</b><br>Possible       | 3                         | 6                 | 9                    | 12                | 15                       |
|                   | <b>2</b><br>Unlikely       | 2                         | 4                 | 6                    | 8                 | 10                       |
|                   | <b>1</b><br>Rare           | 1                         | 2                 | 3                    | 4                 | 5                        |
|                   |                            | <b>1</b><br>Insignificant | <b>2</b><br>Minor | <b>3</b><br>Moderate | <b>4</b><br>Major | <b>5</b><br>Catastrophic |
| <b>IMPACT</b>     |                            |                           |                   |                      |                   |                          |



| Risk No: | Date identified | Date last reviewed | Risk description & Mitigating Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Risk Owner  | L Score | I Score | Risk Score | Risk Trend | RAG Status |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1        | 25.2.14         | 25.2.14            | <p>Poor level of Community interest – lack of ownership</p> <p><b>Manage through</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a project specific fly-through</li> <li>• Use the above tool to market the benefits to developers and potential residents</li> <li>• Green Space opening event</li> <li>• Re-branding of the project</li> </ul> <p><b>Action since last update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting arranged to commission a fly through video</li> <li>• Ask Research have concluded their project and a meeting is arranged with relevant Officers to take forward the re-branding</li> </ul> | Carol Evans | 3       | 3       | 9          | ↔          | YELLOW     |

|   |          |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                            |   |   |   |   |        |
|---|----------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| 2 | 11/11/13 | 25.2.14 | <p><b>Financial risks</b> – Costs exceed budget available</p> <p>Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceiling budget set for construction (£1.5million)</li> <li>• Project Manager responsible for robust financial management procedures</li> <li>• Design details in accordance with available budget (materials etc)</li> <li>• Build in contingencies to cover ongoing plant replacement during defects period.</li> <li>• Market forces may prove advantageous</li> </ul> <p>Revenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance period included in construction tender</li> <li>• Establish a “friends of the park” group to assist with maintenance</li> <li>• Low maintenance design – stakeholder engagement throughout the design process</li> </ul> <p><b>Action since last update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specification details advanced</li> <li>• Continued consultation with DCC Streetscene colleagues</li> </ul> | Carol Evans                | 2 | 4 | 8 | ↑ | AMBER  |
| 3 | 11/11/13 | 25/2/14 | <p><b>Misuse of the space and Anti Social Behaviour issues</b> Manage through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design proposals to “Secure by Design” standards</li> <li>• Strong partnership with North Wales Police</li> <li>• CCTV and good lighting</li> <li>• Natural surveillance through footfall in space, use and residential properties developed on its perimeter</li> <li>• Community involvement to foster ownership and pride</li> </ul> <p><b>Action since last update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular communication with all stakeholders</li> <li>• Advanced design proposals</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Carol Evans<br>Design Team | 3 | 3 | 9 | ↔ | YELLOW |

|   |         |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                    |   |   |    |   |       |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|----|---|-------|
| 4 | 25/2/14 | 25/2/14 | <p><b>Planning consent not achieved in the timescale</b></p> <p>Manage through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with principles set out in SPG</li> <li>• Early engagement with Planning pre application</li> <li>• Early engagement with relevant consultees</li> </ul> <p><b>Action since last update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre application meeting held with Planning</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         | Carol Evans<br>Planning<br>Officer | 2 | 4 | 8  | ↔ | Amber |
| 5 | 25/2/14 | 25/2/14 | <p><b>Long term maintenance – budget implications</b></p> <p>Manage through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early and continued consultation with DCC Streetscene Officers</li> <li>• Build in maintenance funding contingencies into capital tender (5 year minimum)</li> <li>• Foster community involvement</li> <li>• Transfer ownership of land to another organisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Action since last update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design specification meetings held with Streetscene Officers to ensure low maintenance outcome</li> </ul> | Carol Evans<br>EBD Coastal<br>Team | 4 | 3 | 12 | ↔ | Amber |

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**Report to:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

**Lead Member / Officer:** Lead Member for Public Realm/Head of Highways and Environmental Services

**Report Author:** Risk and Asset Manager

**Title:** Highway Grass Verge Cutting Policy & Programme 2014/15

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**1. What is the report about?**

To examine the Council's policy and grass cutting programme for the forthcoming season.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To provide information regarding the preparations for this year's highway grass cutting programme including an assessment of the consultation that has taken place with stakeholders since autumn 2013.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Members agree that preparations for the 2014 season are in place and that concerns over the biodiversity elements of the cutting regime have been assessed and incorporated as appropriate.

**4. Report details**

**4.1 Grass Cutting Regime**

4.1.1 Following the departmental restructure in 2013 the delivery of all grass cutting now falls within the remit of the Highways and Environmental Services Department. However, it is important to note that there remains a fundamental difference between the approach made to urban and rural verge management regimes. This report covers the rural area responsibilities only. Whilst the cutting of rural verges is driven by safety considerations this has been the subject of much discussion over recent years. Legislative changes brought in by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires the Authority to consider biodiversity and therefore look to cut as little as possible. The perception of a sizeable part of the public is that we should cut all verges. Trying to balance these opposing views has proven difficult.

4.1.2 As a result, after much debate, it was decided that a regime would be adopted whereby:-

On the first cut there would be a reduced treatment on rural roads within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) such that a satisfactory level of safety would be ensured.

Elsewhere we would cut a uniform 1 metre wide swathe with wider treatment in other areas (junctions, visibility splays etc.) so as to ensure that visibility wasn't compromised.

- 4.1.3 Over the Autumn/Winter period a number of consultations have taken place including a meeting between the Head of Highways and Environmental Services, the Lead Member for Public Realm and representatives of local biodiversity groups. In addition a letter was sent out to all Town and Community Councils in January seeking their views on how we may amend the regime in their areas to fit with local requirements. The responses that were received to this consultation are shown in Appendix A. Wherever possible these requests have been incorporated into the contract.
- 4.1.4 The council's biodiversity officers and highways team are working together to develop a more coordinated approach to this issue. One outcome of this that will be seen this summer is the re-establishment of a number of the areas of special interest across the whole of the network (not just within the AONB). These localised areas will be pegged out and will receive a different management regime more in tune with the specific requirements of the flora they are designed to protect.
- 4.2 Contractual and Departmental arrangements for 2014
  - 4.2.1 We undertake two cuts in the season, one commencing in mid-May which we aim to complete by mid-July and the second commences in early August for completion in October. The specific dates of the cut are yet to be determined as they are dependent on weather conditions over the next few weeks but the 'early' cut issues that were evident in 2013 will be avoided
  - 4.2.2 This year is the final year of a three year contract and a meeting is scheduled with the contractor on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to finalise the arrangements. Verbal feedback on the outcome of this can be given at the Scrutiny meeting. It is also worth noting that we have amended some of the schedules to reflect the need for smaller machines and, where appropriate, strimming so that the utilisation of plant is more appropriate to the location. Many of these changes are the direct result of comments made by the contractor last.
  - 4.2.3 Day to day control of the work will be the responsibility of the Streetscene Coordinators and close liaison between them and the operatives in their area should result in many of the problematical issues of the past being avoided. Whilst communication with the contractor has been good regarding daily whereabouts this will also be improved.

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

- 5.1 It is a Council priority that residents and visitors to Denbighshire will have access to a safe and well managed road network and verge grass cutting is a fundamental aspect.



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

- 6.1 The costs of changes to the programme will be contained within the existing budget.
- 6.2 The service has been working very closely with the Biodiversity Officer in preparing the programme and developing processes to ensure they are implemented.

**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.**

Following consultation changes will be made to the verge cutting programme but these will not have a disproportionate effect on any of the protected characteristics.

**8. What consultations have been carried out?**

- 8.1 Feedback from customers and Customer Services regarding the volume and type of complaints has been useful in developing changes to the programme.
- 8.2 Consultation with Members and the Town and Community Councils has enabled a full evaluation of the cutting regime although it remains fundamentally unchanged in terms of the extent and timing of the two cuts.
- 8.3 Discussion and liaison with interested parties including Countryside Services is continuing.

**9. Power to make the Decision**

Highways Act 1980

Article 6.3.1(c) outlines scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter.

**Contact Officer:**  
Risk and Asset Manager  
Tel: 01824 706875

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Responses to consultation on verge cutting regimes

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO DATE – (Details Follow)**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aberwheeler      | List of specific locations that should be left until later                                                                                                                                               |
| Bodfari          | Wish to be part of the trial                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Cefn Meiriadog   | No change                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Corwen           | More not less (see below)                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Denbigh TC       | No change , except for the area around Lon Llewelyn / Groes Road which can be reduced                                                                                                                    |
| Dyserth          | Leave all areas until mid-July, except for areas where highways deem it required for safety reasons                                                                                                      |
| Llanarmon yn Ial | Review of timing of grasscutting would be beneficial                                                                                                                                                     |
| Llanbedr DC      | All junctions. One swathe on all roads.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Llandyrnog       | Have asked to see plans (they haven't been sent yet)                                                                                                                                                     |
| Llantysilio      | First cut in first week in July, except between Ponderosa to the cattle grid on the Horseshoe Pass and Rock House to the Panorama on the Eglwyseg.<br><br>Second cut of the year be done during October. |
| Prestatyn        | No reductions                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Rhyl             | No change. They suggested volunteers in urban areas.                                                                                                                                                     |
| Trefnant         | No change                                                                                                                                                                                                |

**DETAILS:**

**Aberwheeler**

Cut Candy Lane to Aberwheeler – BUT leave from Gallt-y-DDol to Isa on wide stretch of road.

Do Not Cut Glan Clwyd Lane past Chapel.

Cut Tyn Celyn lane.

Do not cut Bryn Derw to Dolwen.

Do not cut Dolwen to Dre-Goch hill. But cut from Cornel to Bwlch Farm.

Cut from Geinas to Aberwheeler Farmhouse.

Cut from Berllen to Glan yr Arfon – on road safety issue.

Hold back on cutting the B5429 from Aberwheeler – Llandyrnog or small area again on road safety issue first.

**Bodfari Community Council**

We had a presentation at our last meeting regarding the county council's pilot scheme for enhancing the bio-diversity of verges and hedgerows. My council would wish to be included in the pilot scheme.

**Cefn Meiriadog Community Council**

I write in behalf of Cefn Meiriadog Community Council. The council would like the grass cutting to remain as it is. They would suggest that you use a smaller tractor on the narrow roads.

**Corwen Town Council**

This request was discussed at last weeks' meeting of Corwen Town Council. I was instructed to submit the following response to you:

- The timing of grass cutting needs to be improved when compared to last year
- The area between Clawdd Poncen estate and Corwen town needs to be cut more regularly

**Denbigh Town Council**

Denbigh Town Council at its meeting on Monday evening discussed the contents of the email.

I am instructed to respond as follows:

The town council believes that what is being done at present is more or less right but would suggest that the area around Lon Llewelyn / Groes Road could be included under "b" (LESS).

Dyserth Community Council

I write in reference to your e-mail, and in particular the two questions posed.

At the Dyserth Community Council meeting held on Monday evening, the Members agreed the following:

That Denbighshire could sensibly achieve less grass cutting until after mid-July. The Members agreed that should the grass cutting be delayed, it would allow more wild flowers to grow - with a number of Councillors' referring to areas within the community, were they were used to seeing wild flowers grow many years ago. However, the Members would wish that the grass around the various benches be cut as previously. The Members also agreed, that all areas within their community be left until mid-July, except in certain areas, at the discretion of the Highways, such as at road junctions.

Llanarmon yn Ial

- the grass is cut too soon in the year- when it's not very long. Then it's left for a long time almost too late and it grows very long, making it hard for two cars to pass each other or tractors etc.

Llanbedr DC

This was discussed at our community council meeting last week.

The verge areas at junctions and single carriageways (particularly if there is no pavement) and one width of the mower on all roads we feel should be cut.

Llandyrnog

Could you possibly send us a map here at Llandyrnog to explain which verges you are referring too - it will make things a lot easier to consult with Members.

Llantysilio

In reply to your recent email dated 24th January 2014.

The Council suggests the first cut takes place during the first week in July, with the exception of the stretch of road from the Ponderosa Cafe to the cattle grid on the Horseshoe Pass and Rock House to the Panorama on the Eglwyseg. This will enable the wildflowers to grow. It was also suggested that the second cut of the year be done during October.

I trust this is agreeable with you.

Prestatyn Town Council

I enclose some initial feedback from Councillors but will follow up once Council has discussed.

'The response to this is by no means straight forward, it somewhat depends on which "highway verges" they are asking about. It is my view that we should not agree to any reduction in grass cutting anywhere and the introduction of "meadow" provision is a red herring. Highway verges need to be cut at road junctions for visibility, i.e. road safety, if grass is not cut it may harbour litter, to pick this is an extra cost, the litter depending on what it is may encourage and/or harbour rodents and pests, it will be an extra cost to control these pests (it is a duty of the land owner to do so).

Rhyl Town Council

At the meeting of the Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee on 5th February Councillors considered your e-mail dated 24th January 2014 and determined that option (a) is their preference. Members are mindful that the Local Authority are looking to reduce costs wherever possible throughout and to this end suggest sustainable planting be incorporated as much as possible and for private sponsorship to be sought to assist with the cost of planting and maintaining Rhyls verges. They also suggest that you approach local community groups to ask if they would help with the physical planting, etc.

Highway Grass Verge Cutting Policy &  
Programme 2014/15  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

**Contact:** Mike Hitchings, Highways and Environmental Services  
**Updated:** 21.03.2014

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

A new or revised policy

**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?**

To revise the Council's verge cutting policy and programme for 14/15 to incorporate the views of stakeholders.

**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 | <If no, briefly summarise the reasons for this decision here, and skip ahead to the declaration at the end> |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**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> |
| <Unrestrict editing to insert additional rows> | <Enter Name> | <DD.MM.YY> |

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: | 21.03.14

| Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment | Date     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mike Hitchings                                      | 21.03.14 |

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

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**Report to:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 3 April 2014

**Report Author:** Scrutiny Coordinator

**Title:** Scrutiny Work Programme

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**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
  - whether the relevant lead Cabinet member will be invited to attend (having regard to whether their attendance is necessary or would add value). (In all instances this decision will be communicated to the lead member concerned)
  - 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 such proposal forms have been received for consideration by the Committee at the current meeting.
- Report on Communication
- 4.7 At its meeting on 6 March the Committee requested that a report be presented to the current meeting on the progress made with improving internal and external communication in the Authority. As this forms part of the Corporate Communications Strategy the Head of Service requested that the report be deferred until May, as this would enable officers to report on the progress made with the first year's action plan whilst seeking members' observations and ideas for inclusion in the second year action plan. The Chair permitted this request.
- Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- 4.8 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.

#### Progress on Committee Resolutions

- 4.9 A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.

#### **5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group**

Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The SCVCG met on 11 March 2014. No items were referred to this Committee for consideration.

#### **6. 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.

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

No Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the purpose of this report as consideration of the Committee's forward work programme is not deemed to have an adverse or unfair impact on people who share protected characteristics.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. 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.

#### **10. 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.

## **11. 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.

**Contact Officer:** Scrutiny Coordinator  
Tel No: (01824) 712554  
Email: [dcc\\_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk)

## 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 | Lead Member(s)                                 | Item (description / title)                        | Purpose of report                                                                                                                                                              | Expected Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Author                 | Date Entered                            |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 15 May  | <b>Cllr. Hugh H Evans</b><br><i>(required)</i> | 1 Rhyl Going Forward Programme (Quarterly Report) | To evaluate and monitor the Programme's progress and achievements in delivering its anticipated outcomes; and<br><br>(ii) identify any slippages with the Programme's delivery | Ensuring that the Programme:<br>(i) has sufficient capacity, resources and the necessary commitment to deliver the intended outcomes for the Rhyl area;<br>(ii) supports the future vision for Rhyl, and is conducive with the wider regeneration agenda for Denbighshire; and<br>(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/Mark Dixon   | September 2012                          |
|         | <b>Cllr. David Smith</b><br><i>(required)</i>  | 2 Caravan Sites Strategy for Denbighshire         | To consider the draft multi-agency Caravan Sites Strategy for the County (including the risk and impact analysis of the strategy's proposals)                                  | Improved regulation and enforcement of caravan sites within the county will contribute towards delivering the Council's economic ambition whilst ensuring that vulnerable people are protected and assisted to live independent lives                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Graham Boase/Paul Mead | July 2013<br>(rescheduled October 2013) |
|         | <b>Cllr. Hugh Irving</b><br><i>(required)</i>  | 3 Council Housing Stock Refurbishment Contracts   | To detail the scheduling and quality monitoring processes with respect to Council housing refurbishment                                                                        | Improved scheduling and monitoring of refurbishment work on the Council's housing stock to ensure that future contracts are properly monitored to deliver high quality work in a rational way.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Peter McHugh           | March 2014                              |

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

| Meeting | Lead Member(s)                                | Item (description / title)                           | Purpose of report                                                                                                                                                                                         | Expected Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Author                     | Date Entered  |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
|         |                                               |                                                      | work                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                            |               |
|         | <b>Cllr. Hugh Irving</b><br><i>(required)</i> | 4. Communication                                     | To outline the progress and measures taken to date to deliver the Council's Corporate Communications Strategy                                                                                             | Improved two way communication between the Council and residents, the press and other media channels, and councillors. Effective communication will assist the Authority to get its messages across to residents via all available channels                                                                                                                                                               | Jamie Groves/Gareth Watson | March 2014    |
| 26 June | <b>Cllr. Bobby Feeley</b>                     | 1 The provision of Day Care Services in Denbighshire | To evaluate the Council's provision of day care services across the County                                                                                                                                | An evaluation of the Council's Day Care Services' provision and its effectiveness in delivering the corporate priorities of protecting vulnerable people and helping them to live as independently as possible, and modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for its customers, will enable members to identify any slippages, gaps in service delivery or risks to residents | Phil Gilroy/Helena Thomas  | May 2013      |
|         | <b>Cllr. David Smith</b>                      | 2 Food Review                                        | To monitor the delivery of the task and finish group/Cabinet's recommendations with regards to the Council's policies and procedures with respect to food procurement, regulation and contract management | Assurances that all practical measures in place to ensure maximum safety and provenance of food materials used by the Council and arms length organisations are enforced and adhered to with a view to protecting residents, businesses and visitors                                                                                                                                                      | Hywyn Williams             | February 2013 |



## Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

| Meeting         | Lead Member(s)           | Item (description / title)                             | Purpose of report                                                                                                   | Expected Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Author                      | Date Entered  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
|                 | <b>Cllr. David Smith</b> | 3 Highways Asset Management Strategy                   | To consider the conclusions of the Highways Strategy Working Group and the draft Highways Asset Management Strategy | The development of a medium term capital strategy for the maintenance of the County's highways assets which will contribute towards the area's economic development                                                       | Steve Parker/Tim Towers     | November 2013 |
| 11 September    | <b>Cllr. David Smith</b> | 1. Flood Management Strategy and Flood Related Matters | To monitor the Strategy's implementation and other developments on flood related matters                            | Assurances that the Council is meeting its statutory and discretionary obligations with respect to flood management and protection                                                                                        | Wayne Hope                  | November 2013 |
| 23 October      | <b>Cllr. David Smith</b> | 1. Findings of the Traffic and Parking Review          | To consider the findings of the review undertaken on traffic and parking in ten of the County's towns and villages  | Formulation of parking and traffic management measures with a view to enhancing the economic viability of the towns and villages and assist the Council to deliver its corporate priority of developing the local economy | Peter McHugh/<br>Mike Jones | March 2014    |
| 4 December      |                          | 1.                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                             |               |
| 29 January 2015 |                          | 1.                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                             |               |
|                 |                          |                                                        |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                             |               |

## Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

| Meeting  | Lead Member(s) | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Expected Outcomes | Author | Date Entered |
|----------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| 12 March |                | 1.                         |                   |                   |        |              |
| 23 April |                | 1.                         |                   |                   |        |              |
|          |                |                            |                   |                   |        |              |
|          |                |                            |                   |                   |        |              |

**Future Issues**

| Item (description / title)          | Purpose of report                                                 | Expected Outcomes                                                         | Author                     | Date Entered  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) | To outline the proposals for implementing the CIL in Denbighshire | The development of an appropriate and effective CIL scheme for the County | Graham Boase/Angela Loftus | February 2013 |
|                                     |                                                                   |                                                                           |                            |               |

**For future years**

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Information/Consultation Reports**

| Information / Consultation | Item (description / title) | Purpose of report | Author | Date Entered |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
|                            |                            |                   |        |              |

**Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines**

| Meeting | Deadline     | Meeting | Deadline       | Meeting      | Deadline         |
|---------|--------------|---------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 15 May  | <b>1 May</b> | 26 June | <b>12 June</b> | 11 September | <b>28 August</b> |

Communities Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

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Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Appendix 2

| Meeting         | Item (description / title) |                                         | Purpose of report                                                                              | Cabinet Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer             |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>29 April</b> | 1                          | Finance Report Update                   | To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council                             | Tbc                                | Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady             |
|                 | 2                          | Street Naming Policy                    | To consider amendments to the current Street Naming Policy and to adopt the new Policy.        | Yes                                | Cllr Huw Jones / Hywyn Williams                      |
|                 | 3                          | Dublin Declaration                      | To consider an invitation to sign up to the Dublin Declaration                                 | Yes                                | Cllr Bobby Feeley / Gwynfor Griffiths / Sandra Jones |
|                 | 4                          | Bailiff Reform<br><b>A Part II item</b> | To adopt recent changes to the legislation governing the use of bailiffs and the fees charged. | Yes                                | Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady             |
|                 | 5                          | Business Rates Write Offs               | To seek Cabinet approval to write off irrecoverable Business Rates.                            | Yes                                | Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady             |
|                 | 6                          | Corporate Events Strategy               | To consider the Corporate Events Strategy and associated annual calendar                       | Yes                                | Sian Owen                                            |
|                 | 7                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees          | To consider any issues                                                                         | Tbc                                | Scrutiny Coordinator                                 |

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting        |   | Item (description / title)                                                               | Purpose of report                                                                                                                       | Cabinet Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer                            |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |   |                                                                                          | raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention.                                                                                             |                                    |                                                                     |
| <b>27 May</b>  | 1 | Finance Report Update                                                                    | To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council                                                                      | Tbc                                | Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady                            |
|                | 2 | New North East Wales marketing area for tourism in Wales and Destination Management Plan | Consideration of a report on the replacement of 2 current marketing areas/ introduce the new brand / moving forward and business buy in | Tbc                                | Cllr Huw Jones / Jamie Groves / Vicki Shenton-Morris / Fiona Dolben |
|                | 3 | Procurement Business Case for Three Counties                                             | To consider the Business Case                                                                                                           | Yes                                | Cllr Julian Thompson Hill / Paul McGrady                            |
|                | 4 | Nova Centre Redevelopment Proposals                                                      | To consider redevelopment proposals for the Nova                                                                                        | Yes                                | Cllr Huw Jones / Rebecca Maxwell / Jamie Groves                     |
|                | 5 | Items from Scrutiny Committees                                                           | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention.                                                                      | Tbc                                | Scrutiny Coordinator                                                |
| <b>24 June</b> | 1 | Finance Report Update                                                                    | To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council                                                                      | Tbc                                | Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady                            |
|                | 2 | Corporate Plan QPR: Quarter 3 2013/14                                                    | To monitor the Council's progress in delivering the                                                                                     | Tbc                                | Cllr Barbara Smith / Alan Smith / Keith                             |

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting             |   | Item (description / title)                       | Purpose of report                                                                             | Cabinet Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                     |   |                                                  | Corporate Plan 2012 -17                                                                       |                                    | Amos                                     |
|                     | 3 | Items from Scrutiny Committees                   | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention                             | Tbc                                | Scrutiny Coordinator                     |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>29 July</b>      |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>2 September</b>  |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>30 September</b> |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>28 October</b>   |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>25 November</b>  | 1 | Tenancy Terms and Conditions and Service Charges | To consider updated tenancy terms and conditions and charges for additional landlord services | Tbc                                | Cllr Hugh Irving / Stephen Collins       |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
| <b>16 December</b>  |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |
|                     |   |                                                  |                                                                                               |                                    |                                          |

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| <i>Meeting</i> | <i><b>Deadline</b></i> | <i>Meeting</i> | <i><b>Deadline</b></i> | <i>Meeting</i> | <i><b>Deadline</b></i> |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
|                |                        |                |                        |                |                        |
| <i>April</i>   | <i><b>10 April</b></i> | <i>May</i>     | <i><b>12 May</b></i>   | <i>June</i>    | <i><b>10 June</b></i>  |

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## Progress with Committee Resolutions

| Date of Meeting | Item number and title                        | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Progress                                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 March 2014    | 5. Parking Policy and Traffic Review Scoping | <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – that, subject to the consideration of the above points and inclusions to the report, the Committee:-</p> <p><i>(a) endorsed the introduction of the new parking policy as drafted in Appendix C to the report ;</i></p> <p><i>(b) supported the suggested approach for conducting traffic and parking review for the towns listed in the report; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) requested that the findings of the traffic and parking review be reported to the Committee in the autumn of 2014</i></p> | Report scheduled for presentation on 23 October 2014    |
|                 | 6. Safer Routes Scheme                       | <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – that:-</p> <p><i>(a) subject to the observations provided the Committee supports the continued application for Safe Routes in Communities funding in Denbighshire, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) a letter be sent by the Chair on the Committee's behalf to the Welsh Government's Minister for Economy, Science and Transport urging her to review the criteria for the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme and restrict in future to safer routes to schools.</i></p>                                  | Further information will be available at the meeting    |
|                 | 7. Dog Control Orders                        | <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – that the Committee:-</p> <p><i>(a) support and agree with the Dog Control Order options put forward in the report,</i></p> <p><i>(b) recommends that officers be allowed to progress with a public consultation on the introduction of Dog Control Orders across the County, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) recommends that the Fixed Penalty Notices associated with the</i></p>                                                                                                                        | Lead Member and officers advised of the recommendations |

|  |  |                                                   |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | <i>proposed Dog Control Orders be set at £75.</i> |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------------------|--|