

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 7 January 2015

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2015** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS

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

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 December 2014 (copy enclosed).

5 MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - RUTHIN PRIMARY AREA (Pages 15 - 110)

To consider a report by Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval to commence consultation on school organisation proposals and to recommend to Council approval of investment for three primary school projects in the Ruthin area.

6 BUDGET 2015/16 (FINAL PROPOSALS - PHASE 3) (Pages 111 - 124)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) presenting the final phase of a programme of budget savings and other measures for recommendation to Council in order to deliver the revenue budget for 2015/16.

7 TOWN AND AREA PLANS (Pages 125 - 140)

To consider a joint report by Councillors Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development and Huw Jones, Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development presenting the actions taken since the Review of Town and Area Plans and outlining the way forward.

8 CORPORATE DEBT POLICY (Pages 141 - 158)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) presenting the Corporate Debt Policy for approval.

9 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 159 - 174)

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

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 175 - 178)

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

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed.

11 HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME RISK BASED VERIFICATION POLICY (Pages 179 - 190)

To consider a confidential report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets (copy enclosed) presenting the revised Risk Based Verification Policy for approval.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Hugh Evans
Julian Thompson-Hill
Eryl Williams
Bobby Feeley

Hugh Irving
Huw Jones
Barbara Smith
David Smith

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a *member/co-opted member of
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Denbighshire County Council

CONFIRM that I have declared a ***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 16 December 2014 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development; Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care, Adult and Children's Services; Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Customers and Communities; Huw Jones, Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development; David Smith, Lead Member for Public Realm; Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Assets and Eryl Williams, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education

Observers: Councillors Ray Bartley, Bill Cowie, Meirick Davies, Martyn Holland, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Arwel Roberts and Cefyn Williams

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM); Director of Social Services (NS); Heads of Service: Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW), Finance and Assets (PM), Customers and Education Support (JW), Education (KE), Planning and Public Protection (GB), and Adult and Business Services (PG); Chief Accountant (RW); Public Protection Manager (EJ); Service Charges Officer (DO), Corporate Improvement Officers (KN & IM), and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Barbara Smith

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 25 November 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

5 CONSULTATION - YSGOL ESGOB MORGAN

Councillor Eryl Williams presented the report detailing the findings of a formal consultation carried out on proposals to change Ysgol Esgob Morgan from a community junior school into an Anglican faith junior school with effect from 1

September 2015. He sought Cabinet approval for the next stage – publication of a statutory notice to carry out the proposal to change the denomination of the school.

Cabinet considered the merits of the proposal together with the consultation results and noted the proposal would assist in the transition of pupils from St. Asaph VP Infants to Ysgol Esgob Morgan and streamline any future amalgamation proposals between the two schools. In response to questions officers detailed the consultation process undertaken, which included a tailored consultation for pupils, and provided an overview of the analysis of responses received. It was considered that the majority of objectors were not directly related to the school. Assurances were sought regarding the impact on education standards and officers confirmed no negative impact but positive enhancements as a result of strengthening existing links with the church.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the publication of a statutory notice to carry out the following proposals –

- *Denbighshire County Council will close Ysgol Esgob Morgan on 31 August 2015; and*
- *the Anglican Diocese of St. Asaph will open a new Anglican Faith Voluntary Controlled School to serve the communities of St. Asaph and the surrounding areas on 1 September 2015 on the existing site of Ysgol Esgob Morgan.*

6 ADDITIONAL LICENSING SCHEME FOR HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO)

Councillor David Smith presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to the re-designation of an additional licensing scheme for HMOs within Rhyl together with associated licensing conditions and fees. The current additional scheme was due to expire on 31 December 2014 and following a comprehensive review and consultation exercise it was recommended that the scheme be re-designated for a further five years.

Cabinet considered the findings of the review and consultation exercise and were supportive of the scheme as a means of improving standards of accommodation. Officers confirmed that Rhyl Town Council and Rhyl Member Area Group were in support and other local authorities had been consulted in order to share best practice. Assurances were sought that adequate resources were available for housing enforcement and officers explained enforcement was just one of a range of measures to secure improvement and they were content that appropriate resources had been made available given the current financial climate. Delivery of the scheme had been identified as a service priority. Communities Scrutiny Committee Chair Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts outlined the scrutiny debate on re-designation of the scheme and confirmed they were supportive of it.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *approve the re-designation of an additional licensing scheme for Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) within Rhyl for a further 5 years as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;*
- (b) *approve the Conditions to be imposed as part of an “Additional” and “Mandatory” Licensing Scheme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;*
- (c) *approve the Fees to be applied to an “Additional” and “Mandatory” Licensing Scheme as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, and*
- (d) *supports the implementation date to be no later than 1 April 2015 which complies with the minimum 3 month statutory period between an approved designate and implementation.*

7 VARIATION OF COUNCIL HOUSING TENANCY AGREEMENTS

Councillor Hugh Irving presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to adopt the new tenancy agreement with formal notice of variation. The tenancy agreement had been revised to reflect changes in law and practice and would enable the council to deal with issues such as anti-social behaviour more effectively.

Cabinet noted the tenancy agreement had been subject to a comprehensive review and consultation process with much positive feedback received. The timescale for implementation of the new agreement for existing and new tenants was also noted with an amendment of 1 January 2015 applying to new tenants. Councillor Irving was pleased to report upon the positive contribution of the Tenants Advisory Group within the process. Members welcomed the new agreement as a robust document providing consistency for all tenants and were happy to note the level of input from tenants and other stakeholders during its formulation. In terms of Welsh Language provision officers confirmed all documentation would be available bilingually and requests for brail or other languages would be dealt with on a one to one basis.

RESOLVED that Cabinet adopts the revised final version of the Council House Tenancy Agreement with Final Notice of Variation as detailed within the report.

8 DISAGGREGATING SERVICE CHARGES FOR COUNCIL TENANTS

Councillor Hugh Irving presented the report seeking Cabinet agreement of key principles to determine how service charges would be calculated and implemented from rents from April 2015. The report had been prepared in response to Welsh Government's new rent setting policy which required service charges to be separated from tenants' rental payments to clearly identify what services they were paying for and charges made.

Cabinet considered the options contained within the report in order to meet the requirement and accepted the reasoning behind the recommendation to adopt a variable charge policy to recover service charges and reduce rents for the first year by the amount of chargeable services received. Councillor Bobby Feeley highlighted the complexity of the process and sought assurances that the changes would be effectively communicated to tenants. She was particularly concerned

about the disproportionate impact upon sheltered complexes which mainly affected older people and how that would be managed. The Service Charge Officer (SCO) explained that charges would be higher in sheltered schemes due to the costs of maintaining communal areas which would be mitigated in part for those in receipt of housing benefit and by the proposal to reduce the rents in the first year and then follow an uplifting policy. In response to communication concerns, he agreed to consider further contact with sheltered complexes to clarify matters. Assurances were sought that the variable approach would not lead to significant cost increases in future years due to undercharging. The SCO was confident that projections had been accurately calculated, detailing the amount of work undertaken in that regard. He also confirmed that there was no opt out mechanism for tenants.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees the key principles that will determine how service charges will be calculated and implemented from rents from April 2015 onwards as detailed within the report, specifically to –

- adopt a Variable Charge Policy for apportionment and recovery to all Tenants who receive services, and
- that individual rents are reduced at year one implementation by the amount of chargeable services that tenants receive, and

that Cabinet notes a further paper will be considered on the final charges as part of the council's annual council house rent setting process in February 2015.

9 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q2 2014 - 15)

In the absence of the Lead Member, Councillor Barbara Smith, the Leader presented the report updating Cabinet on the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012 – 17 at the end of quarter 2 of 2014/15. The report also included performance in relation to the Outcome Agreement and Project Register.

The Leader advised that the report was more favourable than the previous quarter, particularly in relation to the local economy and he highlighted a number of improvements. Reference was made to the impact of the funding cuts and links between decision making around the budget process and the Corporate Plan. He stressed the importance of continuing with the Council's ambitions and priorities as detailed within the Corporate Plan.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill queried the likelihood of receiving full payment of the outcome agreement grant. Officers referred to the negotiation of targets with Welsh Government in that regard and did not anticipate any loss of points which would affect the amount payable for 2014-15. A final decision was expected in January on the outcome of performance for 2013-14. Councillor David Smith highlighted his concerns regarding highway maintenance and whilst it was hoped that an acceptable standard would be maintained, it could not be guaranteed for future years given the financial situation and removal of LAGBI (Local Authority Growth Business Incentive) funding.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes progress made in delivering the Corporate Plan.

10 FINANCE REPORT

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy. He provided a summary of the Council's financial position as follows –

- a net under spend on the revenue budget of £327k was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- savings of £7.1m were agreed as part of the budget and at this stage 90% had been achieved with 10% in progress
- highlighted other key variances from budgets or savings targets relating to individual service areas, and
- a general update on the Housing Revenue Account, Housing Capital Plan and the Capital Plan (including the Corporate Plan element).

Cabinet was also asked to approve a £20k transfer to the Coroner Service Reserve.

Councillor David Smith provided an update on Phase 3 of the West Rhyl Sea Defence Project and members noted it would soon be included in the Capital Plan. As Chair of TAITH, Councillor Smith reported upon letters he had sent to the Business Minister regarding concerns over income from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency and to the Finance Minister regarding concerns about LAGBI funding, for which he was awaiting responses. Councillor Eryl Williams reiterated his previous concerns regarding the implications of the allocation of funding for the M4 improvements and asked that letters be sent to Assembly Members in that regard. In relation to the reduction in the Supporting People Grant, Councillor Thompson-Hill reported upon the setting up of a reserve to manage the issue.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- notes the budgets set for 2014/15 and progress against the agreed budget strategy;*
- approves the transfer of £20k to the Coroner Service Reserve, and*
- that the Council write to all Assembly Members in North Wales to ask for their position on the reduction in highway funding for Denbighshire and the allocation of funding for the M4 improvements.*

11 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Hugh Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for consideration.

Councillor Bobby Feeley queried the possibility of delaying the Modernisation Education Proposals for the Ruthin area to allow additional time to consider the options. Councillor Eryl Williams was keen for the item to proceed in January given that particular projects had already been delayed to enable all projects to be considered at the same time, and he highlighted the need for funding to be formally

allocated. He also felt there was sufficient time for all stakeholders to consider the proposals beforehand. The Leader urged all members to try and address any outstanding issues before the next meeting.

The Head of Finance and Assets' suggestion to remove the Business Rates item from the work programme in January was accepted.

RESOLVED that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.

At this juncture (11.25 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break.

12 THE FUTURE OF IN-HOUSE SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Councillor Bobby Feeley presented the report seeking Cabinet's agreement to enter into a consultation exercise on the future of in-house social care services. She provided some context to the report highlighting the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and impact of the significant budget cuts.

A Members' Task and Finish Group had been established to examine the financial sustainability of the Council's in-house social care services and their recommendation to outsource services and save £700k had been agreed as part of the budget setting process. To progress that work a consultation exercise, including equality impact assessments, needed to be undertaken. Much attention had focused on the proposal to close the three existing residential care homes and assurances were provided at the outset that they would not be closed if there were residents whose needs could not be met in alternative provision. Councillor Feeley was also keen to highlight the quality of provision in the private sector which had been subject to some unfair publicity advising that nearly 90% of care home placements funded by the Council were in private sector homes.

Cabinet referred to the impact that closing the care homes would have on their residents, families and wider communities. Members were keen to explore the possibility of alternatives, such as extra care housing schemes together with enhanced care packages allowing people to live at home independently for longer, but highlighted the need to consider whether the needs of both existing and future service users could be met within their current localities if proposals went ahead. Such provision was greater in more populated areas of the county but lacking in the South, particularly in the Corwen area and the need to consider Welsh Language provision when undertaking individuals' impact assessments was also highlighted. Officers elaborated upon progress in developing alternative provision in particular areas together with the consultation process which would involve meeting with care home residents and their families to explain how services could be provided and gather their view on any changes. An impact assessment for those affected would be carried out which would include Welsh Language provision. Members felt there would be merit in the Task and Finish Group considering the consultation results prior to the matter being reported back to Cabinet in April/May 2015.

Councillor Ray Bartley highlighted the need for wider public consultation which prompted a lengthy debate about the nature of the consultation to be undertaken in terms of canvassing views and meeting specific needs of current service users and

the wider debate on future modernisation of social care services. It was generally accepted that two separate consultations were required. The need for effective communication with service users, their families and staff was also highlighted together with appropriate press management. Councillor Cefyn Williams stressed that Cysgod y Gaer was an important part of the local community which had already been subject to school closures and reduced facilities and he was concerned that suitable alternative provision meant a move out of the area for local residents.

Cabinet considered there was a need to amend the recommendations in light of the debate and it was subsequently –

RESOLVED Cabinet agrees that –

- (a) *in accordance with the appropriate statutory framework there be consultation with each individual service user and their family in respect of the proposals referred to in the report to include an assessment of their needs and the availability of suitable alternative provision to meet those needs;*
- (b) *there be a wider public consultation exercise on the future modernisation of social services;*
- (c) *a report/reports on the results of the consultations referred to in (a) and (b) above be presented to the Task and Finish Group prior to it being presented to Cabinet with an options appraisal for each of the services, and*
- (d) *Cabinet confirms that no individual service user will be moved unless suitable alternative provision is identified.*

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

13 MORFA LODGE, ABERGELE ROAD, RHUDDLAN AND LAND AT ABERGELE ROAD, RHUDDLAN

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the confidential report recommending Cabinet approve the declaration of the farm and land as surplus to requirements and disposal on the open market.

Cabinet considered the merits of the proposal noting that disposal complied with the Council's agricultural estates strategy and would generate a substantial capital receipt providing finance for capital projects. Officers confirmed that the land would be divided into lots to maximise income generation and responded to questions regarding potential land use. Members also raised questions regarding general policy and practice relating to the management of agricultural estates and developments regarding particular farmsteads. Consequently it was –

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the declaration of Morfa Lodge Farm, and land at Abergele Road (as edged red on Appendix A attached to the report) as surplus to requirements and approves the disposal of the farm on the open market by auction.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th January 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education

Report Author: Head of Customers and Education Support

Title: Modernising Education Programme – Ruthin Primary Area

1. What is the report about?

This report is to seek approval to commence consultation on school organisation proposals and to recommend to Council approval of investment for three primary school projects in the Ruthin area.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Council is progressing an ambitious programme for investment in the school estate. This report provides information for Members and seeks approval to progress to the next stage.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Cabinet are asked:

- (i) To approve proceeding to formal consultation for the proposed closure of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn as of the 31st August 2016 and to open a new Category 2 Voluntary Controlled school based on the existing sites on the 1st September 2016.
- (ii) To approve proceeding to formal consultation for the proposed closure of Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st August 2017 with pupils transferring to either Ysgol Penbarras or Rhos Street to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.
- (iii) To recommend to Council the approval of the business cases and capital allocation for
 - 1. the replacement of the existing Rhos Street / Ysgol Penbarras provision at the Glasdir Site
 - 2. a new school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn
 - 3. a new school building for the Llanfair and Pentrecelyn area school, subject to the outcome of the school organisation proposals

4. Ruthin Primary Area Review Proposals

4.1 As part of the Council's Corporate Plan the Council has made a commitment that, in addition to funding the 21st Century Schools, we would seek to invest further resources towards implementing our area reviews, refurbishments, and other improvements to our schools. Cabinet in July 2014 provided authorisation to commence feasibility studies in respect of three projects, the completion of which will be the subject of future budget decisions.

4.2 The Strategic Investment Group has recommended to Cabinet approval of the business cases for investment in the following three capital projects:-

- New primary school at the Glasdir site in Ruthin to replace the existing school buildings for Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street Schools.
- New school building at Clocaenog for Ysgol Carrog Emlyn to replace the existing school buildings in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog
- New school building for an area school to serve the communities of Llanfair and Pentrecelyn

A summary of the rationale for the projects is included in Appendix 1 and explains the reasons for the proposed investments. The Strategic Investment Group considered at their meeting on the 16th December the full Business Cases for the projects and recommended their approval to Cabinet.

4.3 To progress these projects Cabinet will need to give approval to commence consultation on two school organisation proposals.

4.4 Proposal for New Area School to serve Llanfair and Pentrecelyn

4.5 The Council in partnership with the Church in Wales Diocese seek to commence consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn as of the 31st August 2016 to facilitate the opening of a new area school to serve the communities of Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. Long term the Council considers maintaining the status quo would not be sustainable and the current proposal would be the first stage in delivering a new build school to serve the community. The proposal recommends that the new area school would open as a Voluntary Controlled School providing education both through the medium of Welsh and through the medium of English (Category 2) in accordance with parental preference. At the moment Ysgol Llanfair operates this dual stream model whilst Ysgol Pentrecelyn provides education through the medium of Welsh. For pupils educated through the medium of Welsh there should be no impact in terms of outcomes arising from the proposals and it will be important that the new Governing Body established closely monitors this issue in the future to ensure the strong Welsh ethos is retained.

4.6 The draft Consultation document has been prepared (see Appendix 2) and if Cabinet agree it is proposed to consult on this proposal between the 3rd February and the 16th March. It is anticipated that the findings from the consultation exercise will be presented to Cabinet in May 2015. In accordance with the School Organisation Code the Church in Wales have been consulted on the draft proposal and are in general support of the proposal.

4.7 Ysgol Rhewl – Proposal for Closure

- 4.8 The future of Ysgol Rhewl has been considered as part of the options appraisal for the Glasdir site. The main drivers in proposals for the Ruthin have included addressing the condition of buildings and surplus places and it is considered that these drivers impact on the long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl. As of September 2014 Ysgol Rhewl had 53 full time pupils with a surplus of 29 places or 35%.
- 4.9 In considering the wide range of options for the Glasdir site there was a need to consider what the impact of new facilities at this location would have on the viability of Ysgol Rhewl approximately 1.1 miles away. The recent assessment of the building suggested that most of the existing fabric is beyond its expected design life and would require extensive work to bring it up to current standards. In view of the pupil numbers and long term need to invest in the building on balance it is believed that closing the school and transferring pupils to either Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street would be the most sustainable option long term.
- 4.10 The draft Consultation document on the proposal has been prepared (see Appendix 3) and if Cabinet agree consultation will take place between the 10th February and the 23rd March. It is anticipated that the findings from the consultation exercise will be presented to Cabinet in May 2015.

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

- 5.1 The proposal will support the corporate priority of “improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings”.

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

- 6.1 The cost of undertaking the consultation on the proposals would be relatively small and would mainly be printing and postage costs together with officer time. Should the Proposals proceed and become implemented, it is anticipated that there may be a need for HR support for staff members who will be affected directly or indirectly by the proposed changes.
- 6.2 The cost of the three capital projects for the Ruthin area is approximately £15.1m. This cost has been earmarked for investment in Modernising Education projects as part of the development of the Corporate Plan Capital funding. The progression of the projects will have an impact on a number of sections including Design, Construction and Maintenance, Valuation and Estates and Legal Services.

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.

An EqIA has been undertaken on the proposals and are attached to this report as Appendix 4.

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

The Council previously undertook informal consultation on the issues impacting on the wider Ruthin Primary area in early 2013. The Chairs of Governors, Headteachers and Local Members for the three schools are aware of the proposals being presented to Cabinet and will also have the opportunity for formally respond as part of the formal consultation process.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 The cost of the three capital projects for the Ruthin Area review is approximately £15.m. As the schemes are not part of the Band A 21st Century Schools projects, the Council will have to fund all of the capital costs associated with the proposals. Investment on this scale comes with associated financial risks and therefore robust project and financial management and monitoring is essential. The proposals should generate revenue savings which can be reinvested into the Council's investment programme to fund borrowing. The completion of the three projects also gives potential to generate capital receipts.

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

- 10.1 There are a number of risks currently being managed at a programme level by the Modernising Education Programme Board. All individual projects will include risk management procedures.

11. Power to make the Decision

The proposals are in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides the legislative requirement for local authorities to review school proposals and to progress proposals to reconfigure school provision.

Appendix 1 - Summary of Business Cases for Investment in the Ruthin Primary Area

1.0 Ruthin Town Schools

1.1 The feasibility study focussed on options for the Glasdir site to the North of Ruthin, the existing Rhos Street / Penbarras campus and the current site of Ysgol Rhewl. The findings indicated the following key points:-

Glasdir Site:-

- Size - Capable of accommodating a shared site for a 210 / 315 shared site school, subject to a land swap with Welsh Government
- Highways – options highlighted which could accommodate likely traffic and drop off arrangements for the shared site school with adequate parking
- Flooding – Findings of previous studies illustrate that of a number of scenarios for the school site, none of them indicated any significant flooding of the potential school site

Existing Rhos Street / Penbarras site:-

- Existing site – Considerable deficiencies in condition and suitability from existing shared site arrangement, overall size significantly smaller than recommended size area
- Revised site – Could accommodate a single 210 school; however some existing issues would remain such as insufficient hall size, dining and catering arrangements and parking / parent drop off zones. Accessibility / DDA issues would remain

Ysgol Rhewl Site:-

- Much of the existing building fabric is beyond its expected design life and requires extensive work to bring up to current standards
- Shortcomings in internal arrangement and large extensions would take away external areas that are already too small to accommodate a 105 place school.

1.2 The Business Case developed based on the findings of this feasibility work provides a range of options for the future ranging from do minimum to the maximum options of providing three new or renovated facilities for each school.

1.3 Based on this evidence the preferred way forward is as follows:-

- To build a new shared school site for Rhos Street and Ysgol Penbarras to accommodate 450 pupils based on a capacity of 180 and 270 for each school
- To commence immediately a proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of 31st August 2017 with pupils transferring to Rhos Street and Ysgol Penbarras
- To declare the existing Rhos Street and Ysgol Penbarras site surplus, subject to the completion of the project and to dispose of the asset

- 1.4 Approximately £8.9million has been allocated for this project. The latest figures provided for standalone schools of the size to accommodate 525 pupils suggested a possible cost of £10.5m based on no shared facilities. The next stage of the project will be to develop further the client's brief with a view to developing shared facilities and to reduce the size of the school to accommodate the smaller pupil numbers to ensure that the costs of the project are reduced.
- 1.5 Discussions have progressed with Welsh Government regarding a land swap between them and Denbighshire to facilitate this development.
- 1.6 Moving forward based on a traditional design and then tender stage the following indicative timescale has been put forward. This would be amended should an alternative route be sought such as design and build. Due to the scale of the contract any contractor would be selected via the North Wales Construction Framework.

Approval from Cabinet / Council of Business Case	December 2014 to February 2015
Securement of Land Agreement with Welsh Government	December 2014 to April 2015
Design Stages	February 2015 to November 2015
Tender Stage	November 2015 to February 2016
Construction Stage	March 2016 to July 2017
Handover	July 2017

2. Ysgol Carreg Emlyn - Clocaenog and Cyffylliog area

- 2.1 The new area school named Ysgol Carreg Emlyn to serve the communities of Clocaenog, Cyffylliog and Derwen was created as of September 2014 to replace the former schools of Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog. Due to an imbalance of demand at the sites the Governing Body agreed in consultation with Denbighshire, an interim arrangement so that the Cyffylliog site provides foundation phase education and the Clocaenog site provides Key Stage 2 education. This arrangement has led to additional transport costs.
- 2.2 The feasibility study focussed on options for the Clocaenog area and the findings indicated the following key points:-

Existing Clocaenog Site:-

- Shortfalls of adequately sized teaching spaces, no school hall, and no separate staff, Headteacher and administration areas
- The current site is unable to be expanded due to the natural borders of the road and the river and the slopes around the school.

Alternative Sites:-

- At least 2 sites in the village capable of accommodating a 105 Primary school

- Both sites currently in private ownership, no Denbighshire owned land suitable for development purposes

2.3 Based on this evidence the preferred way forward is as follows:-

- To build a new school to accommodate 91 FT pupils in the village of Clocaenog
- To declare the existing Clocaenog and Cyffylliog sites surplus subject to the completion of the project and to dispose of the asset

2.4 At this stage £2.8million has been allocated for this project. The next stage of the project will be to develop further the client's brief, to undertake further survey works to confirm the preferred site and to commence discussions with the relevant land agents to purchase the land required.

2.5 Moving forward based on a traditional design and then tender stage the following indicative timescale has been put forward. As the contract value will be less than £4.3m this project will be outside of the remit of the North Wales Construction Framework.

Approval from Cabinet / Council of Business Case	December 2014 to February 2015
Land Suitability and Securement of Land Agreement to purchase land	December 2014 to May 2015
Design Stages	June 2015 to May 2016
Tender Stage	June 2016 to Aug 2016
Construction Stage	September 2016 to September 2017
Handover	October 2017

3.0 **Area School for Llanfair / Pentrecelyn**

3.1 The feasibility study focussed on options for the villages of Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. This focussed on the existing sites, and land identified in the village of Llanfair. The findings indicated the following key points:-

Ysgol Llanfair Site:-

- Size – Not sufficient to accommodate an extension
- Highways –significant limitations around parking and drop off areas for existing pupils

Ysgol Pentrecelyn Site:-

- Size - Could accommodate a larger school following acquisition of additional land
- Highways – As school site is outside of settlement with no suitable footway it is likely that all pupils would qualify for home to school transport

Alternative Sites

- At least 2 sites in the village capable of accommodating a 140 Primary school

- All sites currently in private ownership, no Denbighshire owned land suitable for development purposes
- 3.2 The Business Case developed based on the findings of this feasibility work provides a range of options for the future ranging from do minimum to the maximum option of providing a larger school in the region of 180 pupils.
- 3.3 Discussions held to date with Planning have highlighted that capacity issues exist in relation to the Welsh Water Sewerage Works which serve the village. A meeting is being sought with Welsh Water to ascertain when the required improvements works are scheduled to take place. This could impact on the timescales for the project should these works be not identified early in Welsh Water's Asset Management Plan.
- 3.4 Based on this evidence the preferred way forward is as follows:-
- To progress proposals to amalgamate the existing schools of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn as an area school based initially on their existing sites.
 - To commence the design process for a new school to accommodate 140 FT pupils in the village of Llanfair, with progression to construction stage being dependent upon securing the necessary school organisation proposals.
 - To declare the existing Pentrecelyn site surplus subject to the completion of the project and to dispose of the asset
 - To declare the playing fields at Ysgol Llanfair surplus subject to the completion of the project and seek to dispose of the site for residential purposes to offset the potential loss of development land in the village arising from the new school
- 3.5 In tandem with the capital project a school organisation proposal to close Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn as of the 31st August 2016 and to open a new area school based on the existing sites as of 1st September 2016 will be progressed. This work will be progressed in parallel with further development of the client's brief, to undertake further survey works to confirm the preferred site and to commence discussions with the relevant land agents to purchase the land required. At this stage £3.4 million has been allocated for this project. This represents an increase in the sum reported to Members in July and reflects the requirement to purchase land from the private sector.
- 3.6 Moving forward based on a traditional design and then tender stage the following indicative timescale has been put forward. As the contract value will be less than £4.3m this project will be outside of the remit of the North Wales Construction Framework.

Approval from Cabinet / Council of Business Case	December 2014 to February 2015
Land Suitability and Securement of Land Agreement to purchase land	December 2014 to July 2015
Design Stages	July 2015 to June 2016

Tender Stage	July 2016 to Sep 2016
Construction Stage	October 2016 to October 2017
Handover	November 2017

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Appendix 2



Modernising Education Programme

Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area

Draft Formal Consultation Document

Proposal for a new Area School to replace
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn

December 2014

Version:

Contents

No	Description	Page No
Introduction		
1.	Introduction	2
2.	Summary of proposal	2
3.	Consultation Process	3
4.	Power to make a decision	5
Background Information		
5.	Background to the proposal	5
6.	Current Provision	6
7.	Educational attainment	11
8.	Alternative provision	13
9.	Secondary provision	14
10.	Special educational needs provision	15
The Proposal		
11.	The proposal in detail	16
12.	What is the proposed option?	18
13.	Admission arrangements	20
14.	What are the transport implications of this proposal?	20
15.	What are the staffing implications of this proposal?	20
16.	What are the financial implications of this proposal?	21
17.	Site	22
18.	How would any new school buildings be financed?	23
19.	What are the disadvantages of this proposal?	24
20.	Alternative options	25
21.	Explanation of the statutory process	30
22.	Community, Welsh Language and Equality assessment	31
23.	Response Form	31

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council has completed an Informal Consultation with eleven primary schools in the Ruthin Area.
- 1.2 As a consequence of the informal consultation exercise Denbighshire County Council wish formally to consult with all interested parties on a proposal which they consider would strengthen future provision.
- 1.3 The proposal that:

Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the 31st August 2016; and the Church in Wales will establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1st of September 2016.

2. Summary of proposal

First Phase

- 2.1 This formal consultation relates to a proposal to create the New Area School to serve both Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Pentrecelyn Communities. Throughout this document, this proposal is called the **Current Proposal**.
- 2.2 If the Current Proposal is agreed and implemented the first phase would see the existing Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn close on 31st August 2016. The new Church in Wales Area School would open on 1st September 2016.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the new area school will be a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff. Throughout this document the creation of the Dual-Site Area School is called the **First Phase**.

Second Phase

- 2.3 The next phase would see the Area School consolidated on a new site in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area, subject to land availability and suitability. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 2.4 Throughout this document the movement onto a new site is called the **Second Phase** and the school operating from the new site is called the **New Area School**.

3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 This formal consultation process relates to the Current Proposal and both the First and Second Phase. This formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have an opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of potential consultees including:
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
 - i) Ysgol Llanfair DC;
 - ii) Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - iii) Ysgol Pant Pastynog;
 - iv) Ysgol Pen Barras;
 - v) Ysgol Rhewl;
 - vi) Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;
 - vii) Rhos Street School;
 - viii) Ysgol Borthryn;
 - viiii) Ysgol Dyffryn Ial;
 - x) Ysgol Bro Elwen;
 - xi) Ysgol Llanbedr
 - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
 - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
 - e. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
 - f. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
 - g. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - h. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
 - i. Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council;

- j. Llanelidan Community Council;
- k. Efenechtyd Community Council;
- l. The Welsh Government;
- m. Estyn;
- n. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
- o. Taith
- p. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)
- q. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- r. Flintshire County Council
- s. Wrexham County Borough Council.

- 3.3 This formal consultation document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website www.denbighshire.gov.ukⁱ
- 3.4 The formal consultation period in respect of the Current Proposal will take place between
- 3.5 A series of formal consultation events will take place during this period. These will be arranged in the format of a ‘parents evening’ where attendees will be able to speak with officers on a one to one basis. Details of the meetings are included in the letter which is circulated.
- 3.6 Events will also be held with pupils at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 3.7 A supplementary versionⁱⁱ of this formal consultation document has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand better and engage with the formal consultation.
- 3.8 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than
- 3.9 At the end of the formal consultation period all views received will be collated and considered before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this formal consultation (including a recommendation from Council officers) on the.....

Key Points:

- Formal Consultation starts on theand finishes on the
- We are consulting with all stakeholders including children attending the schools.
- We intend to report back to Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet on the.....

4. Power to make a decision

- 4.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to establish a new area school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013ⁱⁱⁱ. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of the two existing schools may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure.

5. Background to the proposal

- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework^{iv} in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 5.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 5.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.
- 5.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of primary education in the Ruthin Review. The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:
- a. Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
 - b. Surplus Places
 - c. Condition and Suitability of School Buildings (incl. use of Mobile Accommodation)
 - d. Recruitment of Head Teachers
 - e. Demand for Welsh Medium Education
- 5.5 The informal consultation ended on 22nd of March 2013 and Denbighshire County Council has carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 63 letters and emails were received from stakeholders together with 195 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the council and have been published on its website as part of the decision making process.

- 5.6 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in Ruthin, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as:
- i. A new purpose built shared campus in the town of Ruthin to enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the new development on Glasdir.
 - ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn who are currently on 2 sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog.

Key Points:

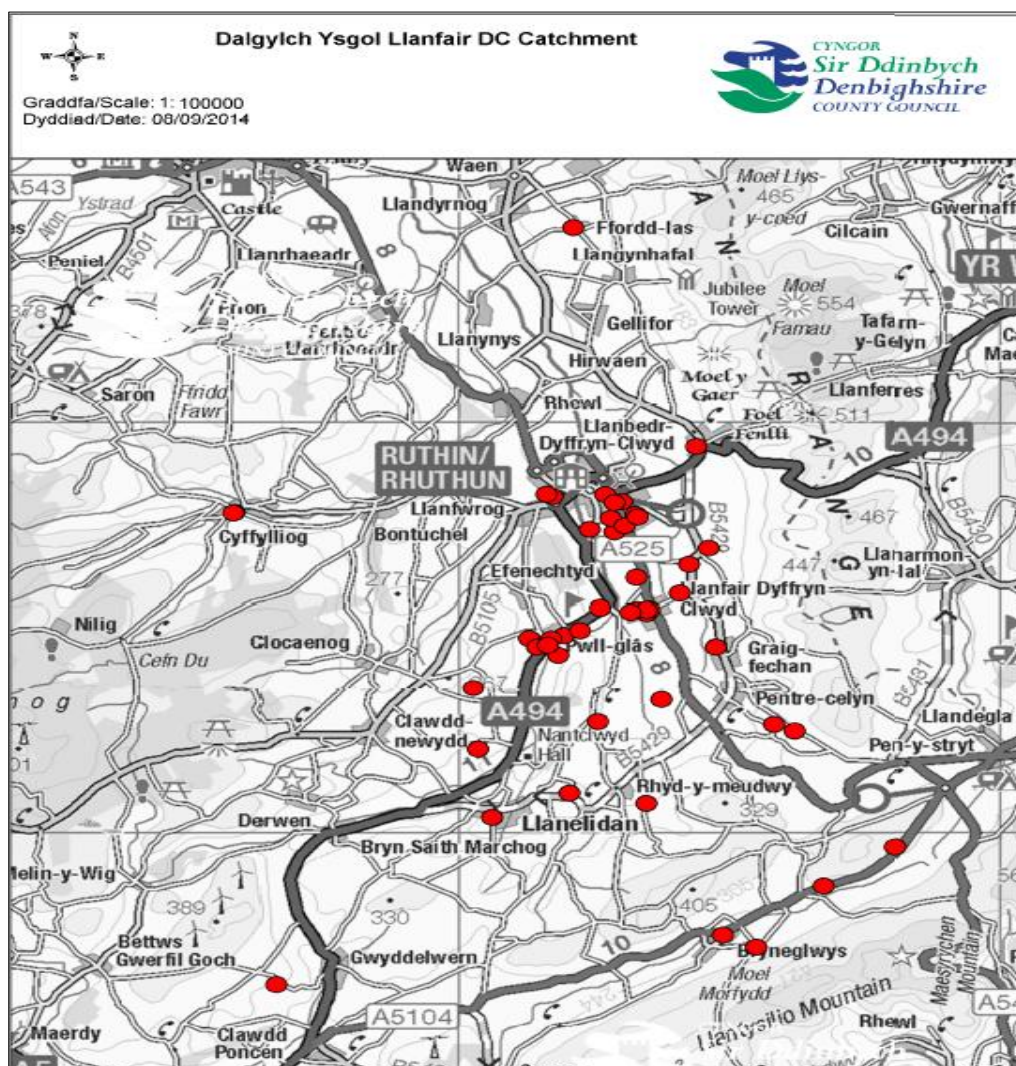
- Modernising Education is a Denbighshire County Council priority.
- The report of the informal consultation is published on our website.

6. Current Provision

6.1 This section details the current provision at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.

Ysgol Llanfair DC

- 6.2 Ysgol Llanfair DC is located in the centre of the village of Llanfair DC and serves an age range of 4 – 11 years old. The school is identified as a Category 2 – Dual stream primary school- this is where two types of provision exist side-by-side and parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision.
- 6.3 It is a voluntary controlled school predominately serving the villages of Llanfair DC, Pwllglas and the surrounding area. This is illustrated in the diagram below which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



6.4 As of September 2014 Ysgol Llanfair DC had 92 full time pupils, and there are currently 13 part time pupils in nursery. The full time pupil numbers for the last 5 years are illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
94	96	93	90	84

6.5 As of September 2014 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15	13	11	13	12	13	15

6.6 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that a steady increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers –January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
82	80	83	87	87

6.7 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 113 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 19% of the total capacity. The school is operating at below capacity but the school does have two temporary classrooms which provide 54 places. The two temporary classrooms have been in place for over 3 years and therefore must be included in the overall capacity assessment for the school. As a result the admission number for the school has been increased to 15.

6.8 The school's last Estyn Inspection was in June 2010^v and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

Current performance

The school is good and a very happy establishment because:

- The school's distinct feature is the sense of a family community and closeness to learners;
- There is an element of excellence in the learning experiences offered to learners and this has a positive impact on their achievement;
- They make progress, achieve well and become confidently bilingual.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Maintain the good standards whilst aiming for excellence;
- Raise ICT standards in Key stage 2;
- Develop learners' self-assessment strategies in order that they become more independent learners;
- Ensure consistency in comments on learners work, giving them clear guidance on what they need to do to improve their work;
- Complete and align work plans for the new curriculum in Key stage 1 and 2;
- Strengthen the monitoring system to focus more specifically on the achievement of learners.

Key Question	Inspection Grade
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 1

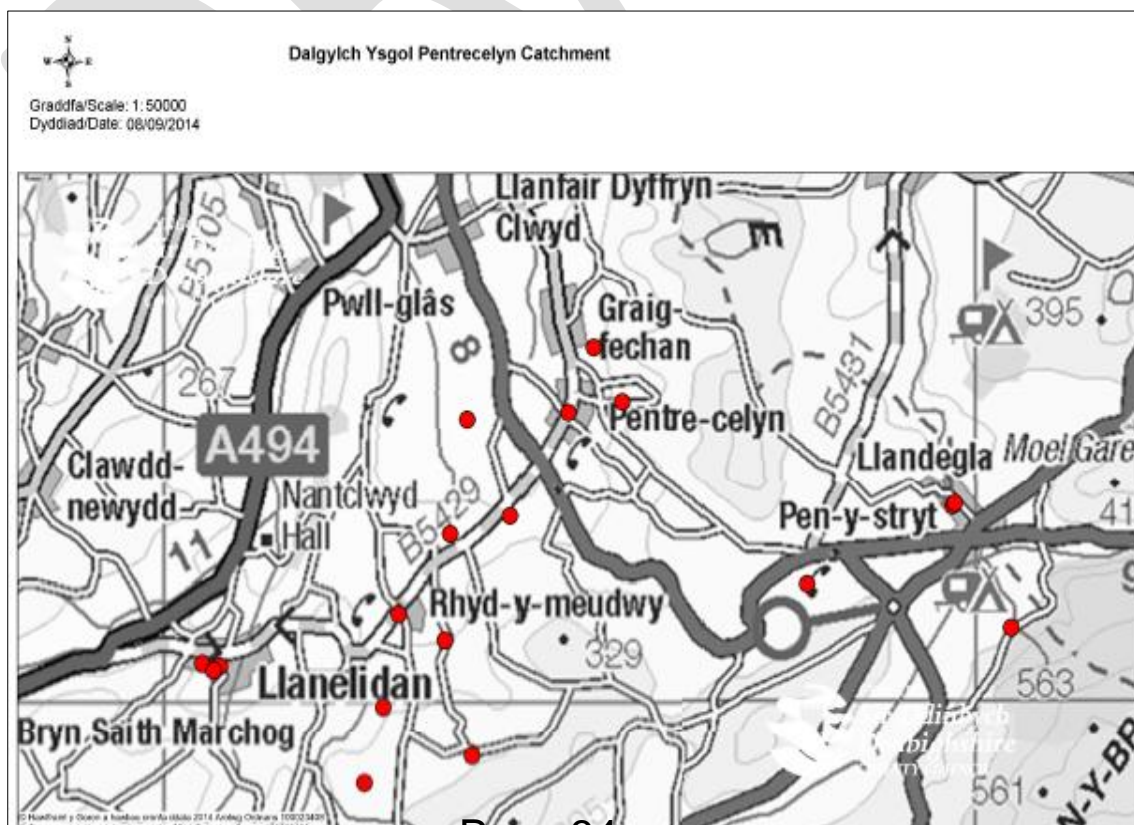
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 2
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2

Key:

- Grade 1** Good with outstanding features
- Grade 2** Good features and no important shortcomings
- Grade 3** Good features outweigh shortcomings
- Grade 4** Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
- Grade 5** Many important shortcomings

Ysgol Pentrecelyn

6.9 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is located on the outskirts of the village of Pentrecelyn and serves an age range of 4-11. The school is currently identified as a Category 1 – Welsh medium primary school where all pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. The school predominately serves children from Graigfechan, Pentrecelyn, Llanelidan and the surrounding areas. This is illustrated in the diagram on page 9 which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



- 6.10 As of September 2014 Ysgol Pentrecelyn had 35 full time pupils and there are currently 12 part time pupils in nursery. The pupil numbers have fluctuated over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
23	20	27	31	39

- 6.11 As of September 2014 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2	8	7	6	3	6	3

- 6.12 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that an increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
37	40	40	42	41

- 6.13 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 56 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 37% of the total capacity.

- 6.14 A new temporary headteacher has been appointed since 1 September 2014. The previous acting headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she has returned to her original substantive post at the end of the 2014 summer term. Headteacher recruitment is both a national and local issue with smaller schools in particular finding it difficult to recruit permanent headteachers. In general the lack of a permanent headteacher can impact on leadership and management of a school and may represent a long term risk to the delivery of education and to standards within a school. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body of Ysgol Pentrecelyn have been mindful of seeking a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing in regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority.

- 6.15 The schools last Estyn inspection was in October 2008^{vi} and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

The school is due to be re-inspected 17th November 2014

Current performance

The school is a homely, caring and inclusive community because:

- The head teachers positive and conscientious leadership, considering the brief period she has been in charge, is an outstanding feature of the school;
- Pupils benefit from valuable experiences and the devoted and conscientious work of the whole staff;
- Pupils develop into considerate, friendly and courteous individuals who are confidently bilingual;
- Pupils' standards of achievement have improved substantially since the last inspection.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Raise standards in design technology in key stage 2;
- Continue to develop pupils' writing skills in Welsh across the curriculum;
- Make better use of assessment to ensure a greater challenge for pupils to become more responsible for their own learning;
- Continue to refine the schemes of work in accordance with the requirements of the revised curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales;
- Further develop the contribution of staff and governors to the process of monitoring pupils' achievements;
- Work with the LEA to realise the plans for improving the external areas.

Key Question	Inspection Grade
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 2
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 3
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2

Key:

- Grade 1** Good with outstanding features
Grade 2 Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3 Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4 Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5 Many important shortcomings

7. Educational attainment

7.1 Educational standards at both schools over the past three years are shown below.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ysgol Llanfair DC	100.0%	88.9%	91.7%	100.0%	94.1%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	*	66.7%	*	*	*
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	76.80%	78.10%	82.30%	83.50%	86.0%
Wales – Average	77.00%	78.20%	80.00%	82.60%	84.3%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

- 7.2 Pupils in Ysgol Pentrecelyn are educated in two classrooms of mixed ages. The teaching and learning is primarily through the medium of Welsh, with the aim of every pupil being fluent in Welsh and English by the end of KS2. Approximately half of the pupils are from homes where Welsh is the first language. In the Foundation Phase increasing numbers of pupils come from a naturally Welsh background and there is a Welsh ethos in the delivery of activities and the curriculum. The foundation phase has increased in numbers and has a wide range of age and ability.
- 7.3 In Ysgol Pentrecelyn the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 83.3%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Welsh Language development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 50% of pupils gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However the number that gained the higher outcomes was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 67% achieved the higher outcomes, again higher than Welsh, LA and Family average.
- 7.4 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Pentrecelyn the Core Subject Indicator was 80%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average.

- 7.5 In Ysgol Llanfair DC the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 92.3%. This was higher than Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Welsh Language development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 30% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in English Language development was 66.7%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. No pupils gained the higher outcomes. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 38.5% gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46% achieved the higher outcomes, higher than Local Authority average.
- 7.6 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Llanfair DC the Core Subject Indicator was 93.3%. This was above the Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in English Language was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46.7% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, family and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 90.9%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, Family and LA average.

8. Alternative provision

- 8.1 Should the Current Proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council would wish to see all pupils transfer to the New Area School to ensure that they continue to receive their education in a rural area and to a consistently high standard.
- 8.2 This section provides details of potential alternative, local authority maintained, provision on the periphery of the catchment areas of the existing schools. The nearest alternative school for villages within the area are as follows:

School Name	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places	Number of pupils on Roll (Sept 2014 PLASC)
Ysgol Pen Barras (Ruthin)	Welsh / Community	252	29	36	223
Ysgol Rhewl (Rhewl)	Bilingual / Community	82	29	11	53
Ysgol Pant Pastynog (Prion)	Welsh / Faith (VC)	54	-8	7	62
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn (Clocaenog & Cyffylliog)	Welsh/ Community	80	20	11	60
Ysgol Borthyn (Ruthin)	English/ Faith	142	22	20	120
Ysgol Llanbedr (Llanbedr)	English/ Faith	54	32	11	22
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial (Llandegla)	English/ Faith	60	19	8	41
Rhos Street School (Ruthin)	English/ Community	189	38	23	151
Ysgol Bro Elwern (Gwyddelwern)	Welsh/ Community	48	13	6	35

As the table above demonstrates most of the neighbouring schools do have capacity to take on any extra pupils, only Ysgol Pant Pastynog is currently over capacity.

8.3 Please see Appendix 1, which contains the following tables:

1. Education attainment
2. Current full time pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC)
3. Current part time nursery pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC)
4. Pupil numbers for the last 5 years for each school
5. Projected pupil numbers for the next 5 years
6. Estyn reports summary for each school
7. 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category

Key point: There is alternative provision for communities within the wider area which may receive pupils as a consequence of this current proposal.

9. Secondary Provision

Both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn currently feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd and the new Area School will continue to feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd. Ysgol Brynhyfryd currently has 3 streams- Welsh, English and the 'N Stream' (Bi-lingual) Nearly all pupils who attend Ysgol Pentrecelyn enter the Welsh stream- see the table below:

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	5	0	4	1	6	2	18
English only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary School Learning Pathway							
Number of pupils:							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	4	0	3	0	3	2	12
Transferring to 'N Stream'	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Transferring to the English Stream	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

The table below shows the results for Ysgol Llanfair DC- the majority of pupils enter the Welsh stream, however there are some pupils that enter the 'N Stream':

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	11	11	11	6	4	7	50
English only	4	6	1	6	5	0	21
Secondary School Learning Pathway							
Number of Pupils:							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	11	11	10	4	2	6	44
Transferring to 'N Stream'	4	3	1	6	4	1	19
Transferring to the English Stream	0	1	0	0	1	0	2

The figures above show that over the last 6 years 88% of pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn and 67% of pupils from Ysgol Llanfair DC transferred to the Welsh stream.

10. Special educational needs provision

- 10.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the two existing schools will become one new school but the pupils will continue to be taught on the existing sites. The most significant change for a pupil would be a change in site and teacher. Accordingly, any pupils with special educational needs (**SEN**) who currently attend the schools will continue to receive the same education and support but the environment may change. The council will help pupils with SEN who experience difficulties because of the change.
- 10.2 The council appreciates that Phase 2 proposal to move to a New Area School will result in greater change than operating one school on two sites. This will affect all pupils but it is likely to prove even more challenging to pupils with SEN. The council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and to assist such pupils with the transition.
- 10.3 The facilities available at a New Area School will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire County Council's SEN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and so learning experience for pupils with SEN.

Key Points:

- SEN Provision would be provided on both sites.
- The environment for the pupils may change depending on current location and age group.
- A new area school would provide an opportunity to improve facilities.

11. The proposal in detail - description and rationale

- 11.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with:
- a. the Council's commitment to 'Modernising Education';
 - b. the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential.
- 11.2 There are a number of issues facing both schools that could impact on their ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

Educational case for change

- 11.3 Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it difficult to implement senior leadership structures that meet the requirements of teachers pay and conditions. In Ysgol Pentrecelyn a new temporary Headteacher has been appointed since 1 September 2014. The previous acting Headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she returned to her original substantive post end of summer term 2014. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body of Ysgol Pentrecelyn have been mindful of seeking a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing in regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority.
- 11.4 The Current Proposal will offer greater opportunities for the two schools to work together to improve staff expertise that will lead to raising standards. For example:
- a. Teachers can work together to plan and prepare high quality lessons and standardise assessment and thus reducing the demands on individual teachers;
 - b. Peer observation of the best teachers lessons to develop consistently high teaching practice, and
 - c. Sharing resources to enable more efficient and innovative ways of working
- 11.5 An Area school will provide additional teaching capacity for smaller groups of pupils who are in need of extra support; including greater capacity for more able and talented pupils.
- 11.6 Currently pupils are taught in classes encompassing up to 4 age groups. A larger area school will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range.
- 11.7 Small schools are limited in their abilities to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers by their schools structural and teaching capacity. A larger area school will be able to respond to fluctuations in pupil number that are a feature of rural schools.

Adequacy of existing school buildings and sites

- 11.8 In terms of the 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category the condition of both schools is B-Satisfactory (Minor deterioration). Whilst the existing facilities in at both schools allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver the innovative curriculum required for 21st century learning.

11.9 Ysgol Llanfair DC currently have two mobile classrooms which provide classrooms for years 5 and 6, with year 4 accommodated in a first floor area which is accessed via a narrow staircase which is not ideal. The toilet provision is a major concern at the school as it is below the statutory minimum for current pupil numbers. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m² per annum which is mid range.

There is no separate hall or dining facilities with classrooms in the main building doubling up as dining area and assembly areas. The school use the church hall for events and the church for services- unfortunately these are both located on the opposite side of the A525 resulting in pupils and staff having to cross a busy road to access these facilities.

A major concern for the site is the arrangement for parking and the lack of suitable drop off/ pick up and pedestrian facilities. Currently there is an agreement with the village hall and the local authority that for a small charge per day staff have to park at the church hall- this cost is met by the local authority. There is also limited parking for deliveries.

11.10 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is split between the extended original school and the school house. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m² per annum which is mid range.

The school has parking adjacent to the highway for approximately 9 vehicles. There is a reasonably sized field incorporating a football pitch and small soft play area, the field area is not owned by the authority.

The catering facilities are not ideal with the kitchen in need of a refurbishment and there is poor access for deliveries with steps at the access door of the kitchen. Also there are steps down into the dining area from the kitchen which can be problematic.

11.11 Both schools have a maintenance backlog- Ysgol Llanfair DC of £53,357.64 and Ysgol Pentrecelyn £47,717.20.

11.12 Both sites are in need of significant investment to enable both schools to provide a learning environment fit for purpose to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Key points:

- Small schools have limited capacity to implement senior leadership structures.
- Both school buildings are not fit for purpose and would require significant investment to improve facilities.

12. What is the proposed option?

- 12.1 This formal consultation relates to the Current Proposal, namely: to close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn to enable the establishment of an Area School serving the communities of Llanfair DC, Pentrecelyn and the surrounding areas on the existing sites.
- 12.2 A second phase, which will follow the completion of the current proposal, would involve construction of a new school building in a location to be determined in the Llanfair DC area.

What would this mean?

- 12.3 If the Current Proposal was approved:
- a. Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn School would both close on 31st August 2016; and
 - b. The Area School would open on 1st September 2016 (initially on the existing sites in Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn and utilising the existing buildings).
- 12.4 The new school would be voluntary controlled school and categorised as a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body.
- 12.5 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff.
- 12.6 The Welsh language impact assessment has considered the potential impact to pupils, parents and the wider community of this proposal and it will be an essential role of the new governing body to ensure that the mitigation measures outlined in the impact assessment are progressed to ensure that a strong welsh language ethos is maintained as is the case now in both schools.
- 12.7 All children attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the Area School; subject to parental preference.

- 12.8 In terms of the leadership and management of the Area School, as of 1st September 2016 there would be one Governing Body, one Executive Headteacher and one group of staff. The Governing Body would include Parent, Denbighshire County Council, Teacher, Staff and Church in Wales representation together with a number of Community Governors. Prior to the opening of the Area School a Temporary Governing Body would be established and this would take key decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher and the supportive leadership team, the staffing structure for and name of the Area School, uniform, policies etc.
- 12.9 The temporary governing body would be encouraged to allow the existing Breakfast provision to continue at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 12.10 The intention of the Council, working in partnership with the Church in Wales, would be to consolidate provision on to a single site- Phase 2. The vision for the New Area School would be a 4 - 11 provision serving 140 pupils 0.6 form entry. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 12.11 Following the completion of the new school Denbighshire County Council would need to consider declaring the existing site at Ysgol Pentrecelyn as surplus to requirements in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework. It is anticipated that any proceeds from the disposal of surplus sites would be used to contribute to the overall costs of the new school building. (Ysgol Llanfair DC site is partly owned by the Church in Wales)
- 12.12 The table below shows the timescale that we are potentially working to, should the proposal go forward:

Consultation period	3rd February- 16th March 2015
Decision of Cabinet	May 2015
Statutory Notice Period	June 2015- July 2015
Decision of Cabinet	September 2015
Transition to new area school	October 2015- August 2016
The new area school on the two current sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn	September 2016
Pupils move into the new school on one site	September 2017

Key Points:

- All children currently attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the new area school subject to parental preference.
- The new school would be a voluntary controlled Category 2 school (Dual stream)
- The new area school would have a capacity of 169 with 23 nursery places during phase 1.
- A Temporary Governing Body will be established who will appoint the Head teacher.

13. Admission arrangements for the Area School

13.1 The Area School would have a unified approach to admission arrangements and would be administered by Denbighshire County Council's School Admissions service.

14. What are the transport implications of this proposal?

14.1 2013/14 costs for 'Home to School Transport' for the 2 schools are as follows:

Ysgol Llanfair DC= £348 per day x 190 days= £66,120

Ysgol Pentrecelyn= £231 per day x 190 days= £43,890

Therefore total costs for both schools is £ 110,010

14.2 Pupils will continue to be transported to their designated site for the period that the school stays on two sites, in accordance with the current Home to School Transport Policy.

14.3 Currently 30 (86%) of the 35 full time Ysgol Pentrecelyn pupils get free home to school transport. Currently 48 (52%) of the 92 full time Ysgol Llanfair pupils get free home to school transport.

14.4 Currently the road in front of Ysgol Pentrecelyn is deemed hazardous in both directions, however this is currently under review. Ysgol Llanfair is surrounded by a number of hazardous routes especially in the Pwll-glas direction.

15. What are the staffing implications of this proposal?

15.1 Should the Current Proposal be implemented, the Area School would have only one Headteacher. The Temporary Governing Body of the Area School would need to appoint the Headteacher and this could involve national advertisements or it could be an internal appointment.

15.2 Denbighshire County Council, with agreement from the Temporary Governing Body, would apply its policies to reassure and clarify the position of staff.

- 15.3 A staffing structure would need to be developed for the Area School taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.
- 15.4 While the Area School operates on two sites the council does not anticipate any major changes to the existing staffing structures other than the Headteacher and other leadership positions. However, final decisions regarding the new staffing structure would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new Headteacher.
- 15.5 The council will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the Area School should be “ring-fenced” to the staff within the existing two schools.
- 15.6 As part of this formal consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching and staff unions.

Key points:

- The Area school would have one Head teacher
- The Temporary Governing Body appoints the Head teacher
- Final decisions on staffing structures would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new head teacher.

16. What are the financial implications of this proposal?

- 16.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2014/15 budget share is £4,296 per pupil at Ysgol Llanfair DC and £5,364 per pupil at Ysgol Pentrecelyn, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,931.
- 16.2 The current reported financial position for the schools is:

Balance c/f	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Ysgol Llanfair DC	£43,878	(£3,288)	(£64,964)
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	£8,759	£1,783	(£1,595)

*This is based on the existing 3 year plan.

Any balances, surplus or deficit , at either school, will transfer to the Local Authority at the point of change.

- 16.3 The potential gain to the new area school whilst amalgamated on two sites, taking into account funding losses, gains and potential savings of £22,026. This figure is based on the best available information and assumes current funding level would apply and that no other material changes take place at the school i.e. increase/decrease in pupil numbers.

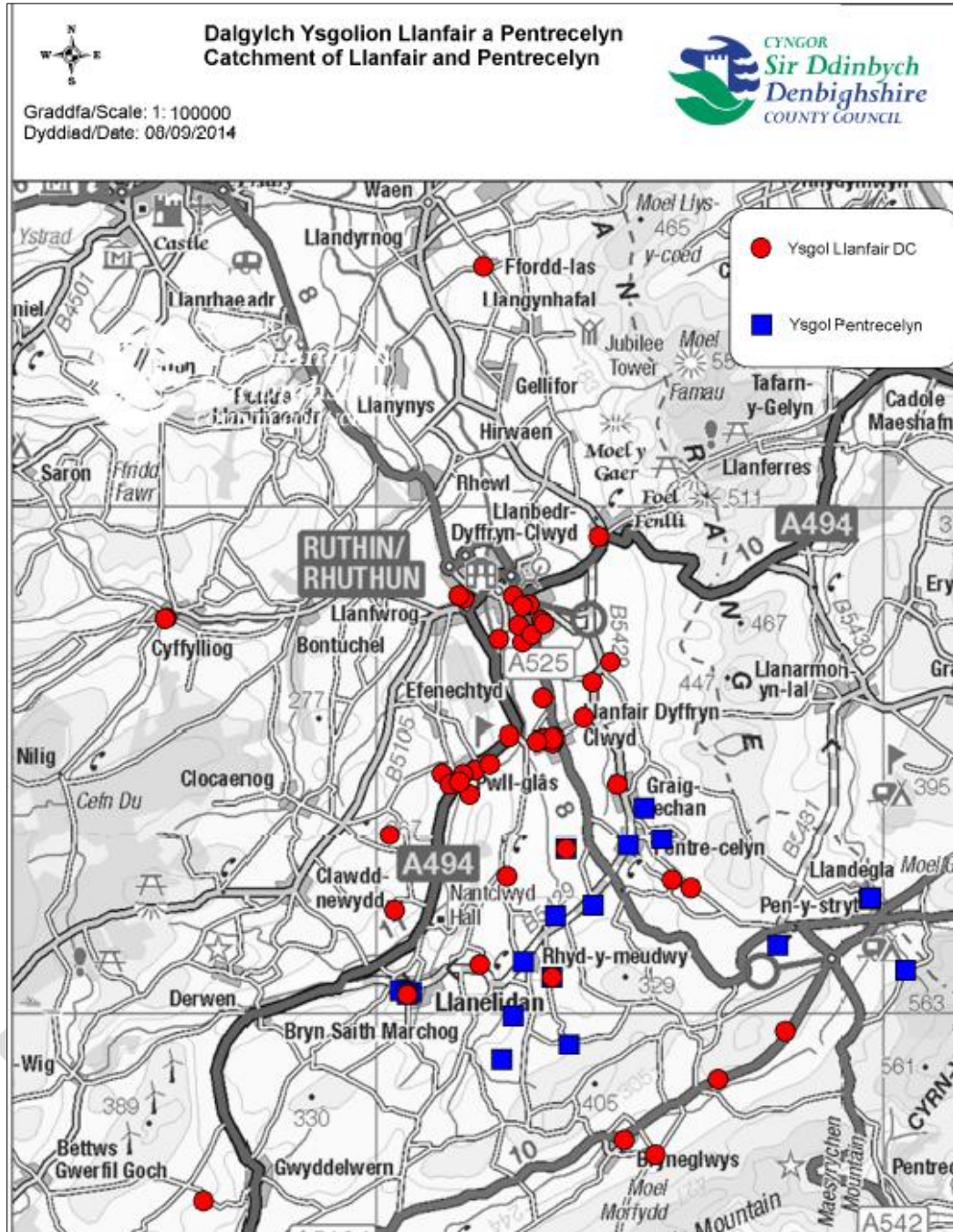
16.4 Once the schools are amalgamated the budget share per pupil will be £4,274.

Key points:

- Both schools receive more than the Denbighshire average of funding per pupil.
- All schools in Denbighshire are funded through a funding formula.
- The Local Authority inherits any balance, surplus or deficit at the point of change.
- It is estimated that one area school on two sites will receive more funding.

17. Site

- 17.1 The final site location for the New Area School, which will emerge from the Second Phase, will be carefully considered by Denbighshire County Council.
- 17.2 In the first instance, the difficulties in expanding both current school sites within the existing boundaries to accommodate all pupils attending both schools have been acknowledged during site analysis.
- 17.3 The priority, in considering a new single location, has been to ensure, where appropriate, it can be accessible to a large percentage of current and future pupils. See combined catchment diagram below:



- 17.4 More detailed feasibility work will be progressed to determine a preferred site which will enable Denbighshire County Council to enter into any negotiations which may be required with any third parties regarding land purchases etc.

Transport

- 17.5 Transport would be provided in the first instance in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. Both schools have a number of hazardous routes around them, in fact as of September 2014 the road in front of Ysgol Pentrecelyn was deemed hazardous in both directions. Ysgol

Llanfair has a number of hazardous routes as well especially in the Pwll-glas direction.

- 17.6 In view of the timescale between the Current Proposal being approved and a new site becoming operational, it is difficult to estimate the likely costs implications in respect of transport budgets in full. During the possible years (for which the Area School may operate until the Second Phase is approved), there will be a range of variables which will impact on any modelling, including changes in pupil numbers, transport costs etc.

Financial

- 17.7 In view of the range of variables associated with the move to a single site, at this stage it is more difficult to predict what the overall impact would be for the finances of the New Area School. Costs will be modelled taking into account the likely pupil numbers and floor areas based upon current projections.

Key points:

Site

- Neither existing site can accommodate the existing pupils of both schools.
- Llanfair is the preferred location for the New Area School.

Transport

- All request for pupil transport would be in line with Denbighshire County Council policy.

18. How would any new school buildings work be financed?

- 18.1 The Council as part of their Corporate Plan has identified as a priority investment in school buildings as a consequence of area reviews. Investment in the Llanfair/Pentrecelyn area has been identified as an initial priority area. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 18.2 Any savings generated for school organisation proposals such as savings from the removal of temporary accommodation, capital receipts and any revenue savings will be used to support the overall investment in this priority area.

19. What are the disadvantages of the proposal?

- 19.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the Area School will be located on the existing school sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. This arrangement would be managed to

ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact negatively on the children's education.

- 19.2 If the school becomes a category 2 school there maybe a perception that the welsh language and ethos will be diluted. To ensure that this does not happen it will be essential that the governing body has a strong ethos and policies which put the Welsh language at the heart of the school.
- 19.3 There would also be implications for staff at the current Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn should the proposals be progressed for the development of an Area School. The role of the Headteacher would need to be carefully considered by the Temporary Governing Body. The approach to appointments to the role of Headteacher/Deputy Headteachers would be an issue for determination by the Temporary Governing Body which would need to consider whether the positions should be advertised nationally or appointed internally.
- 19.4 The new Head teacher and the Temporary Governing Body would be required to consider the staffing structure for the Area School. The Council would work initially with the Temporary Governing Body (and then with the Governing Body) of the Area School during these times and should the need arise would work with the current members of staff at both schools and/or the new area school to seek redeployment opportunities.

Key points:

- Changes will be managed to ensure that disruption will be minimised to ensure that there is no impact on education.
- The Temporary Governing Body will need to decide if they advertised for a Head teacher nationally or appointed internally.
- Some staff may be redeployed or made redundant depending on the staffing structure adopted.

20. Alternative Options

- 20.1 Denbighshire County Council have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the Current Proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the council's 21st Century Schools Programme which are as follows:
- a. Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
 - b. Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
 - c. A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

20.2 Denbighshire County Council have also referred to the Critical Success Factors for this project. The main options that have been considered are as follows:

- Option 1.1 Maintain the status quo;
- Option 1.2 Undertake extension works at Ysgol Llanfair DC;
- Option 1.3 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Option 1.4 Close both schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area school on the existing sites.
- Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school in Llanfair.
- Option 1.6 Federate the 2 schools;

20.3 The main advantages and disadvantages of each option are as follows.

Option 1.1 Maintain Status Quo (Do nothing)

Advantages	Disadvantages
This is the 'cheap' option as no additional investment expenditure is required.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
	Would not assist Ysgol Pentrecelyn who currently have an acting Headteacher. Appointing a permanent Head teacher for Ysgol Pentrecelyn may be difficult in the current configuration.
	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.

Option 1.2 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC;

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	The current site is sufficient for development as a 105 capacity school only.
Would enable the schools capacity to be	Would not solve the issue of lack of

amended to reflect the respective current demand for Ysgol Llanfair DC.	parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities on the existing site.
Would not lead to any significant changes in regard to school organisation proposals with potential alterations required to the capacity of Ysgol Llanfair DC.	Ysgol Pentrecelyn will still face the issues regarding a temporary headteacher.
Would not require amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

Option 1.3- Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn:

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Community of Pentrecelyn could be excluded from the future operation of the school and therefore the new school would not reflect the wider community.
The capacity of the school would be increased to take into account the current demand for places at the school and any pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn that may attend the school.	
Would not require major amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

Option 1.4 Close both schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area school on the existing sites.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No additional Capital Investment expenditure is required.	Would not solve the issue of lack of parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities at Ysgol Llanfair DC.
A permanent Head Teacher would be appointed for the new area school.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
Resources and space would be organised across both sites accordingly.	The two sites could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.

Pupils would be taught in smaller age groups than the current provision.	
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Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Potential risk that parents choose an alternative provision to the new School especially if they live at the periphery of the new catchment area.
Bringing together the delivery of both schools to a single campus could yield significant economies of scale.	Risk of funding not being available for the new build.
A new area school will have sufficient capacity to absorb fluctuations in pupil numbers.	
The long term sustainability of the school would be far more secure in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.	

Option 1.6 Federate both schools- The new regulations published in May 2014 state that “Neither LAs nor governing bodies have powers to federate voluntary (VA and VC) or foundation schools with community schools, community special schools and maintained nurseries”. With this in mind federation is therefore no longer a viable option. This has therefore been discounted.

20.4 The analysis of these options suggest that to meet the investment objectives and critical success factors that the option of closing both schools and establishing a dual site area school should be considered as the preferred option.

Analysis of Options against Investment Objectives and Critical Success Factors

	Option 1.1 Do nothing	Option 1.2 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC	Option 1.3 New school in Llanfair, close Ysgol Pentrecelyn	Option 1.4 Existing Dual- Site Area School	Option 1.5 New One Site Area School
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	✓	✓	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	?	?	x	?
2 Greater Economy – Capital	?	?	?	?	?
3 Sustainable Education system	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Critical success factors					
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	?	?	?	?	?
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	✓	✓	x	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF4 Improved ability to appoint and retain permanent Head Teachers.	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF 5 Support the increase in demand for Welsh Medium Education	x	✓	✓	?	✓
Summary	Discounted	Discounted	Possible	Possible	Preferred

Key Points:

- Maintaining the status quo does not address any issues in either school.
- Undertaking extension works at Ysgol Llanfair in isolation, doesn't address the headteacher issue at Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- Closing both Schools and establishing an area school permanently on the existing sites does not improve the condition of buildings or facilities in the schools.
- Closing both Schools, establish and build a new Area School meets the objectives set out in the review regarding surplus places, suitability of buildings and sustainability of provision.

21. Explanation of the statutory process

21.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.

21.2 The requirements are as follows:

- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
- b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
- c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
 - i) on the council's website;
 - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
 - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
- d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
- e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);
- f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).

21.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published (as described in **paragraph 21.2(c)** above) then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

Key Point: For the current proposal to be implemented a Statutory Notices would be published for 28 days. This would allow anyone wishing to object to do so.

A response provided during the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection.

22. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

22.1 As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of two schools a Equality, Welsh Language and Community impact assessments has been carried out and this is available on our website.

23. Response Form

23.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.

23.2 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than

ⁱ The consultation document can be found in the School Organisation & Modernising section or you can follow this link [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

ⁱⁱ Formal Consultation Document for Children. This is available upon request from DCC [and/or from the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section by following this link [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

ⁱⁱⁱ Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act;

^{iv} Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

^v The Estyn report relating to both schools may be accessed by following this link www.estyn.gov.uk.

^{vi} The Estyn report relating to both schools may be accessed by following this link www.estyn.gov.uk.

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Appendix 1-

Alternative Provision

1. Education attainment

% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2					
School Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ysgol Pen Barras	92.0%	97.1%	90.0%	96.8%	94.3%
Ysgol Rhewl	66.7%	*	*	*	100%
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	*	50.0%	*	100%	71.4%
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn was					
Ysgol Clocaenog	75.0%	100%	100%	100%	
Ysgol Cyffylliog	100%	50.0%	100%	100%	
Ysgol Borthyn	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Ysgol Llanbedr	83.3%	84.6%	100%	100%	*
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	83.3%	20.0%	*	85.7%	100%
Rhos Street School	86.7%	93.5%	93.3%	96.6%	92.6%
Ysgol Bro Elwern	60.0%	77.8%	85.7%	*	100%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

2. Current full time pupil numbers

Current Full Time Pupil Numbers- September 2014 PLASC								
School Name	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Ysgol Pen Barras	37	25	32	31	38	23	37	223
Ysgol Rhewl	5	6	9	8	5	9	11	53
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	9	14	7	8	10	6	8	62
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	10	9	12	7	10	7	5	60
Ysgol Borthyn	22	17	11	14	14	18	24	120
Ysgol Llanbedr	7	3	6	2	3	0	1	22
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	6	8	5	7	5	7	3	41
Rhos Street School	12	18	29	24	27	19	22	151
Ysgol Bro Elwern	5	7	8	2	4	7	2	35

3. Current Part-time Nursery Pupil numbers- September 2014 PLASC

School Name	Nursery
Ysgol Pen Barras	36
Ysgol Rhewl	3
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	7
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	14
Ysgol Borthyn	22
Ysgol Llanbedr	11
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	2
Rhos Street School	14
Ysgol Bro Elwern	5

4. Full time Pupil numbers for the last 5 years for each school.

Pupil Numbers 2010 – 2014- Full Time					
School Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Pen Barras	215	216	218	223	223
Ysgol Rhewl	34	34	37	55	50
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	47	50	49	53	60
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn was					
<i>Ysgol Clocaenog</i>	27	31	33	36	58
<i>Ysgol Cyffylliog</i>	20	22	26	19	
Ysgol Borthyn	104	103	113	111	114
Ysgol Llanbedr	63	59	37	21	21
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	46	43	44	42	45
Rhos Street School	177	179	167	163	161
Ysgol Bro Elwern	43	36	32	33	33

5. Projected pupil numbers for the next 5 years:

Projected Pupil Numbers- January 2014 PLASC					
School Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ysgol Pen Barras	221	216	224	218	218
Ysgol Rhewl	50	46	42	41	39
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	59	60	64	63	64
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	70	74	79	81	85
Ysgol Borthyn	117	111	114	121	125
Ysgol Llanbedr	28	30	35	36	37
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	42	45	45	48	48
Rhos Street School	143	139	134	122	113
Ysgol Bro Elwern	33	36	36	38	43

6. Estyn Reports:

Estyn assesses the performance of schools. The inspection framework was changed in 2009/10 but prior to this 7 key questions were asked, namely:-

School	Ysgol Llanbedr	Ysgol Bro Elwern
Date	August 2009	June 2009
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 3	Grade 2
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 3	Grade 3
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 4	Grade 3
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2	Grade 2

Key:

- Grade 1** Good with outstanding features
- Grade 2** Good features and no important shortcomings
- Grade 3** Good features outweigh shortcomings
- Grade 4** Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
- Grade 5** Many important shortcomings

After 2009/10, the number of questions was reduced to 3.

The three Key Questions are:-

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is the provision?

Key Question 3: How good is the leadership and management?

School	Ysgol Pen Barras	Ysgol Rhewl	Ysgol Pant Pastynog	Ysgol Borthyn	Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	Rhos Street
Date	May 2011	May 2011	November 2011	March 2014	March 2012	March 2013
Key Question 1	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Good
Key Question 2	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Good
Key Question 3	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Good
Current Performance	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Good
Improvement Outlook	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Excellent

Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, as a new area school, has not been inspected yet.

7. 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category for the above schools:

School	Overall Condition
Ysgol Pen Barras	C
Ysgol Rhewl	B
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	B
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn was	
<i>Ysgol Clocaenog</i>	B
<i>Ysgol Cyffylliog</i>	B
Ysgol Borthyn	B
Ysgol Llanbedr	B
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial	B
Rhos Street School	B
Ysgol Bro Elwern	C

Key:

- A- Good (No deterioration)
- B- Satisfactory (Minor deterioration)
- C- Poor (Major deterioration)
- D- Bad (Life expired)



Formal Consultation Document

Proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, subject to parental preference for language medium.

January 2015

Table of Contents

No	Description	Page No
Introduction		
1.	Introduction	
2.	Summary of proposal	
3.	Consultation Process	
4.	Power to make a decision	
Background Information		
5.	Background to the proposal	
6.	Current Provision	
7.	Educational attainment	
8.	Alternative provision	
9.	Secondary provision	
10.	Special educational needs provision	
The Proposal		
11.	The proposal in detail	
12.	What is the proposed option?	
13.	Admission arrangements	
14.	What are the transport implications of this proposal?	
15.	What are the staffing implications of this proposal?	
16.	What are the financial implications of this proposal?	
17.	Site	
18.	How would any new school buildings be financed?	
19.	What are the disadvantages of this proposal?	
20.	Alternative options	
21.	Explanation of the statutory process	
22.	Community, Welsh Language and Equality assessment	
23.	Response Form	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The review of educational provision in the Ruthin area began in 2013. 11 schools were included within the review, due to the complexities the review has been undertaken on a phased basis. A series of recommendations and proposals have been presented to Denbighshire's Cabinet since June 2013.
- 1.2 The Ruthin area faces a number of distinct challenges, including;
- *Surplus places;*
 - *Condition and suitability of school sites;*
 - *Provision of mobile classrooms;*
 - *School estate efficiency and sustainability.*
- 1.3 The objectives of the review are to address these challenges and ensure that the high standard of primary educational provision is maintained and strengthened for the future. The Council has been clear from the outset that the review is not linked or driven by educational standards or attainment as the quality and standard of education is good across the Ruthin area. This phase of the review has a focus on the town schools, inclusive of Rhos Street School, Ysgol Pen Barras and Ysgol Rhewl.

Ysgol Borthyn: It was agreed by Cabinet that Ysgol Borthyn should be retained to provide English medium faith based primary education within the town of Ruthin and for the surrounding areas.

- 1.4 It was recommended to Denbighshire's Cabinet that no formal proposals should be progressed until a period of feasibility had been undertaken in relation to the town schools.
- 1.5 The feasibility works were commissioned in the summer of 2014. The feasibility provided a more detailed analysis of three sites; the shared site housing Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, the Ysgol Rhewl site and the Glasdir site for development of new school facilities.
- 1.6 The preferred option to emerge is a new shared site school model resulting in the relocation of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to new, 21st century school facilities on the Glasdir site.
- 1.7 A detailed overview of the options explored for Ysgol Rhewl can be found in section 14 of this document.

2. Summary of Proposal

- 2.1 It is being proposed that;

Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras subject to parental preference for language medium.

- 2.2 By September 2017 work will have been completed to deliver new school buildings and facilities on the Glasdir site. This will allow Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to relocate from their current site to fit for purpose, 21st century school facilities.

- 2.3 The future of Ysgol Rhewl has been considered as part of the wider town area as part of the Ruthin Area Review. The main drivers for proposals for Ruthin have included addressing suitability and condition of school sites and buildings and surplus places. It is considered that these drivers impact on the long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl.
- 2.4 In considering a range of options for the Glasdir site there was a need to assess the impact of new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl due to the proximity between the two sites, approximately 1.1 miles. In view of pupil numbers and the long term need to invest in the building it is believed that closing the school and transferring pupils to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras would be the most sustainable option long term for the wider area.

3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 It was agreed by Denbighshire's Cabinet to formally consult on the above proposal from the 10/02/2015 to the 23/03/2015. The formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have the opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of consultees, including;
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Rhewl;
 - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
 - i) Ysgol Rhewl;
 - ii) Rhos Street School;
 - iii) Ysgol Pen Barras;
 - iv) Ysgol Borthyn;
 - v) Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;
 - vi) Ysgol Gellifor;
 - vii) Ysgol Llanbedr DC;
 - viii) Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch;
 - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
 - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
 - e. Flintshire County Council and Conwy County Council;
 - f. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
 - g. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
 - h. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - i. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
 - j. Llanynys Community Council;
 - k. Ruthin Town Council;
 - l. The Welsh Government;
 - m. Estyn; and
 - n. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
 - o. Taith
 - p. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)
 - q. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

- 3.3 A supplementary version of this consultation documentⁱ has been produced for children and young people who are likely to be affected by this proposal. This document will be made available at the school named within the proposal. The children and young people's version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand and engage with this consultation process.
- 3.4 This document, the children and young peoples document and relevant supporting documentation has been published on the Denbighshire County Council website. Please follow this link to view the documents electronically www.denbighshire.gov.uk

4. Making Your Views Known

- 4.1 There are a number of ways in which you can make your views known to us. These are outlined below with relevant details for submitting your views.

In Person: Consultation Events

The dates and times of the consultation events are included within the covering letter. Meetings will be held with staff, parents, pupils and the Governing Body.

The parents meetings will be held in a parents evening format. This allows for attendees to speak with officers on a 1-2-1 basis. To ensure each attendee has the opportunity to make their views known there is a requirement to book a place at the meeting. To do so please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk or call **01824 706127**. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your booking.

In Writing

Attached to the end of this document is a response form. This can be completed and submitted either by hard copy to the address below or scanned to the email address below;

Email: modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Post: FAO Modernising Education Team, Denbighshire County Council, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN.

If you wish to make a further response please use the above details to submit your views.

Children and Young People

A consultation event will be held with members of the School Council. This will be facilitated by an officer from Denbighshire whose role includes engagement and consultation specifically designed for children and young people.

- 4.2 Please ensure that all views are submitted on the 23/03/2015. Any late submissions may not be included within the analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.3 Additionally, any views or responses submitted via any other postal or email address may not be included within analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.4 At the end of the formal consultation period all views will be collated for consideration before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 4.5 A formal consultation report, and all responses, will be collated and presented to Cabinet in May 2015. The report will also contain a recommendation from officers.
- 4.6 It is Cabinet who will make a decision whether to move to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.

School Organisation Proposal Process

Recommendation: A recommendation is made to Denbighshire Cabinet to formally consult- January 2015.

Formal Consultation: A period of formal consultation will take place between 10/02/2015 and 23/03/2015. During this time interested parties can make their views known regarding the proposal.

Formal Consultation Report: At the end of the formal consultation period responses will be collated and presented to Cabinet in the form of a Formal Consultation Report including a recommendation from officers. This will be published on the Denbighshire website.

Statutory Notice: If the recommendation is to move to the next stage of the process Cabinet will need to agree it. If this is agreed a statutory notice will be issued. The statutory notice period must last for 28 days.

Objection Report: Should a statutory notice be published and objections received these objections will be collated to form an objection report. The report will contain a summary of each objection made and the authority's response. The report will be required to be published before the end of 7 days beginning the day of any determination of the proposal.

5. Power to Make a Decision

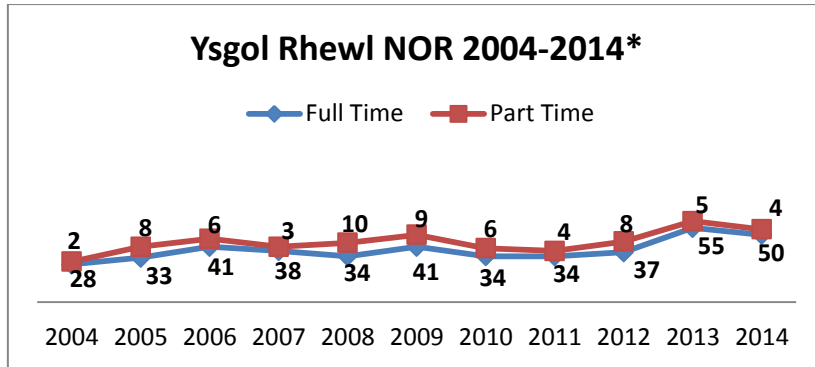
- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to close a school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013ⁱⁱ. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of a school may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure.

6. Background to the Proposal

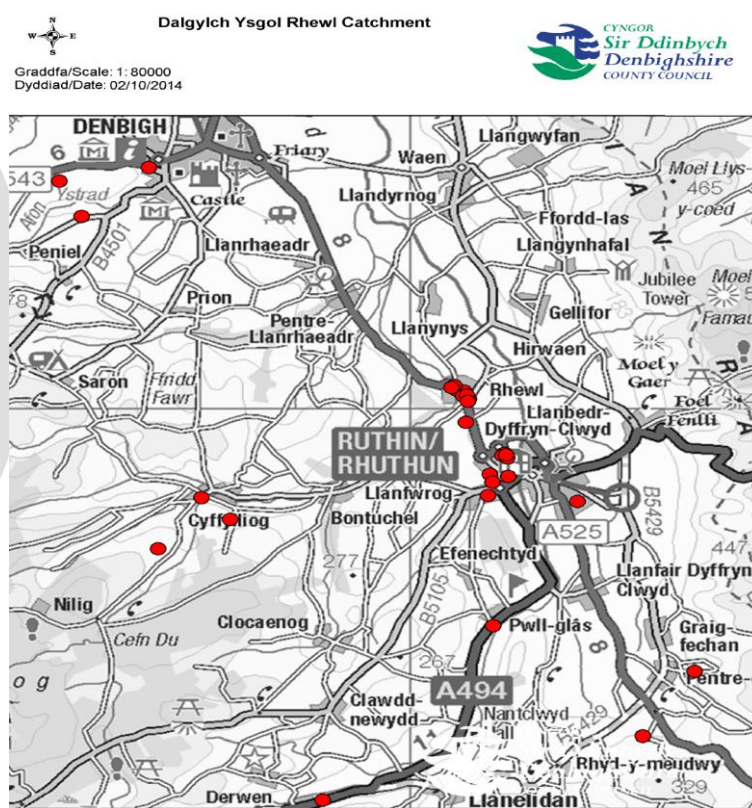
- 6.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Frameworkⁱⁱⁱ in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 6.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 6.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.
- 6.4 It was recommended to Cabinet that no formal proposals should be progressed until a period of detailed feasibility had been undertaken in relation to the town schools. The feasibility works were commissioned in the summer of 2014. The feasibility works provided a more detailed analysis of three site- the current shared site housing Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, the Ysgol Rhewl site and the Glasdir site for development of new school facilities.
- 6.5 The preferred option to emerge is a new shared site school model resulting in the relocation of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to new, purpose built, 21st century school facilities on the Glasdir site.
- 6.6 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in Ruthin, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as;
- i. Proposal for a new area school to replace Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn who are currently on 2 sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog;
 - iii. A new purpose built shared campus in the town of Ruthin to enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the new development on Glasdir.

7. Current Provision

- 7.1 This section details current provision at Ysgol Rhewl . Ysgol Rhewl is located centrally within the village of Rhewl with the Western boundary of the site bordering the A525. The schools serves an age range of 3-11years old. The school is identified as a Category 2 – Dual stream primary school- this is where two types of provision exist side-by-side and parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision.
- 7.2 As of September 2014 the school Census (PLASC) showed there are 53 full time pupils on roll and 3 part time pupils. The chart below displays full time and part time pupil numbers over a ten year period.



7.3 38.5% of current pupils are from the village of Rhewl or immediate area. 61.5% of pupils live outside the village and the immediate area. The map below demonstrates the catchment for the academic year 2014-2015;



7.4 The school has two classrooms with mixed year group classes. The Nursery and Foundation Phase pupils are located within Classroom 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are located within Classroom 2. The table below provides a breakdown of pupils per year group;

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3	5	6	9	8	5	9	11
23 (3 PT/20 FT)				33			

- 7.5 'Pili Pala' playgroup is located at the school, the playgroup has two sessions per day (morning and afternoon) for children aged 2 years 6 months and over. The playgroup occupies a space within the Nursery and Foundation Phase classroom. At the last inspection of the playgroup in 2013 there were 5 children registered, 2 of whom received early years funding.
- 7.6 The proposed alternative provision offers wrap-around-care in the form of playgroups, breakfast clubs and after school facilities. The 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Denbighshire found that there was sufficient childcare available within the area should alternative provision be required, the percentage of childcare places available within the Ruthin area is high with a number of surplus childcare places.
- 7.7 Each Spring Denbighshire undertake an annual round of pupil projections which are sent to all Denbighshire schools in the summer term. These projections are based on the pupil data contained within the January PLASC return of that year. The pupil forecasts are suggesting a decrease in the number on roll over the coming 5 year period for Ysgol Rhewl;

Projected Full Time pupil numbers				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
50	46	42	41	39

- 7.8 The capacity of the school is 82 full time pupils and 11 part time (nursery) pupils. The admission number of the school is also 11.
- 7.9 The surplus capacity at the school is currently 35.4%. Based on pupil forecasts in the above table the surplus capacity is likely to increase, by 2018 this could increase to 52.4%.
- 7.10 The deadline for Reception applications for the academic year 2015-2016 was the end of November. There were 3 applications for the Reception class at Ysgol Rhewl. To date, 1 nursery application has been received.

8. Educational Attainment and Outcomes

- 8.1 The schools last Estyn inspection took place in May 2011. The inspection report commented as followed;

Summary

The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good

Key Question	Outcome
How good are outcomes?	Good
How good is provision?	Good
How good are leadership and management?	Good

Current Performance

Overall the schools performance is good because;

- The school's inclusive ethos and the warm and friendly school community;
- Pupils good standards of achievement and their ability to use skills in their work across the curriculum;
- A good range of learning activities that captures and sustains the interest of pupils;
- High levels of attendance and behaviour, with pupils applying themselves well to learning;
- The way the school successfully promotes pupils wellbeing; and
- Effective procedures for tracking pupils' progress and the quality of provision for pupils in need of additional support, especially in literacy.

Prospects for Improvement

Prospects for improvement are good because of:

- A good track in record in ensuring improved outcomes for pupils;
- The clear commitment to continuous improvement in provision and outcomes;
- A clear understanding of aspects of provision in need of further development and the willingness to take account of the views of governors, parents and pupils;
- A well-structured school development plan that identifies clear and appropriate proposals or schools development;
- The way the schools governing body acts as a critical friend; and
- A commitment to working in partnership with other local school as a professional learning community.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

R1: Ensure that learning activities extend pupils of all abilities in mainstream classes, especially pupils of higher ability in key stage 2.

R2: Improve pupils' understanding of what to do to improve the quality of their work, especially the quality of marking and pupils' involvement in self and peer assessment.

R3: Further develop the planning and implementation of the provision for skills, to ensure continuity and progression in pupils' skill development.

R4: Improve senior management's role in evaluating continuity and progression in provision and pupils' achievements across the school.

8.2 The educational outcomes at Key Stage 2 for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period are displayed below against local and national averages;

	% achieving Level 4+ CSI at Key Stage 2				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%	86.6%
Wales – Average	77%	80%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%

8.3 The pupil numbers in Year 6 have been relatively low, therefore comparisons with local and national averages must be treated with caution. The table below displays the pupils assessed in the corresponding 5 year period;

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Y6	2	2	3	7	4

8.4 The educational outcomes for the Foundation Phase for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period are displayed below against local and national averages;

	CSI			FPOI	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%
Wales- Average	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	??

8.5 Again, the pupils numbers in the years assessed have been relatively low, therefore comparisons with local and national averages must be treated with caution.

9. Language Categorisation

9.1 Ysgol Rhewl is a Category 2 school. Category 2 schools are defined as *dual stream primary schools*. The following definition has been taken from the 'Defining Schools According to Welsh Medium Provision' information document issued by the Welsh Government^{iv};

Dual Stream Primary School Definition

Curriculum: Two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh medium or mainly English medium provision which is usually delivered as in categories 1 and 5 respectively.

Language of the School: Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

Outcomes: For pupils in the Welsh stream, normal expectations are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for Category 5.

9.2 The language categorisation of schools within Denbighshire is currently being audited by the Welsh in Education Strategic Group. It is expected that a report on the findings with recommendations will be presented to Denbighshire County Council scrutiny committee in the Spring of 2015.

9.3 In the most recent Estyn inspection (May 2011) the language provision of the school was described as primarily through the medium of English with Welsh learnt as a second language.

9.4 For the period 2010-2014 no pupils at the school were assessed in Welsh as a first language at the end of Key Stage 2. The table below displays the percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 and above in Welsh Second Language at the end of Key Stage 2;

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
N/A	50%	100%	100%	50%

9.5 The table below displays the numbers of pupils who have been assessed either through English or Welsh at the end of Key Stage 2 since 2007;

Language	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
English	4	5	1	2	3	7	4
Welsh	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Pupils	5	6	2	2	3	7	4

9.6 The majority of pupils transfer from Ysgol Rhewl to Ysgol Brynhyfryd for secondary education. Ysgol Brynhyfryd provides a bilingual provision offering a Welsh Stream, English Stream and a Bilingual Stream. All pupils from Ysgol Rhewl, almost without exception, transfer to Ysgol Brynhyfryd for secondary education. The table below displays the language medium in which pupils from Ysgol Rhewl are taught;

Year	Welsh 1 st Lang	Welsh 2 nd Lang	Total
2009	1	5	6
2010	0	2	2
2011	0	2	2
2012	0	3	3
2013	0	7	7
2014	0	4	4
Total	1	23	24

10. Alternative Provision

- 10.1 Should the current proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council has proposed that pupils could transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras dependent on parental preference for language medium.
- 10.2 Appendix 1 contains all relevant information regarding the potential alternative schools within the area. This includes information on past, current and projected pupil numbers as well as an overview of outcomes at the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

11. Special Educational Needs Provision

- 11.1 If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils but may prove more challenging for pupils with special educational needs.
- 11.2 Currently 16.9% of pupils are registered SEN pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, the Denbighshire average is 20.5%. Any pupils with special educational needs currently attending Ysgol Rhewl will continue to receive the same education support that is required. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as dedicated 1-2-1 support, will transfer to their new learning environment. Denbighshire will provide appropriate help and support for special educational needs pupils, especially for those pupils who experience difficulties due to change. Denbighshire will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.
- 11.3 The new facilities provided on the Glasdir site will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire's SEN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and learning environments for pupils with SEN.

12. Secondary Provision

- 12.1 The proposal is not expected to have any significant impact on secondary provision within the area. All proposed alternative and neighbouring schools feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin. It is not expected that there will be a significant fluctuation in the pupils accessing the English, Welsh or Bilingual streams.

13. The Proposal in Detail- Description and Rationale

- 13.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for its children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with;
- a. The Council's commitment to the Modernising Education Programme;
 - b. The School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential.

- 13.2 There are a number of challenges facing the school that could impact on the ability to sustain educational standards in the future.

Educational Case for Change

- 13.3 As of September 2014 there were 53 full time pupils on roll. The pupil numbers are relatively low with a pupil forecasts suggesting a further decrease in pupil numbers of the coming five year period. The majority of pupils are within Key Stage 2 year groups, the largest year group is Year 6 with 11 pupils. These pupils will transfer to secondary education in September 2015.
- 13.4 3 applications have been received for the Reception class for the academic year 2015-2016. To date 1 application has been received for the Nursery class for the academic year 2015-2016. The deadline for nursery application is February 23rd 2015. Pupil projections for the school suggest a decrease in pupils numbers over the coming 5 year period.
- 13.5 The school has two classrooms, currently pupils are taught in mixed age groups encompassing an entire key stage. The proposed alternative provision will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range. From a staffing perspective, planning for a wide age range is time consuming and demanding.
- 13.6 Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it more challenging to implement senior leadership structures. Larger schools can offer a broader compliment of teaching staff which provides a range of expertise in a variety of curriculum areas.
- 13.7 Small schools often have Headteachers with substantial teaching commitment which can have adverse implications for the senior leadership and management of the school.

Adequacy of School Facilities and Site {Include current condition}

- 13.8 There is a current maintenance backlog of £127k across the school site, for a school of its size this is a substantial maintenance backlog. Whilst the existing facilities allow for the basic delivery of the curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver a fluid and innovative 21st century curriculum. There is a need for significant investment to bring the building up to a satisfactory standard, reflective of a 21st century school.
- 13.9 The building has been constructed using basic construction using timber buildings believed to be early 20th century. Many areas across the site show signs of damp penetration requiring work to the roof and walls.
- 13.10 There is no onsite parking or drop off/pick up provision on the site and the adjoining road is used by parents, staff and school transport vehicles. There currently is outline permission for some parking to be delivered across from the school as part of a housing development.
- 13.11 There is no provision of a playing field on the school site itself however the school utilise the community playing field approximately 100 meters from the school site.

14. What is the Proposed Option?

- 14.1 The proposed option is to close Ysgol Rhewl as of 31st August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras subject to parental preference.
- 14.2 New educational facilities will be operational from the 1st of September 2017 on the Gladir site, enabling the relocation of both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to purpose built, 21st century schools buildings and facilities.
- 14.3 £8.9million will be invested in new facilities on the Glasdir site providing new school buildings and facilities for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. The investment will provide both schools with buildings and facilities that meet a 21st Century Schools standard.
- 14.4 The project will deliver distinct Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 learning environments for both schools, tailored to meet the specific requirements of the respective curriculums.

15. Alternative Options

- 15.1 Denbighshire County Council have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the current proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme which are as follows;
 - a. *Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
 - b. *Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
 - c. *A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*
- 15.2 The main options that have been considered are as follows;
 - Option 1:** Status Quo
 - Option 2:** Do Minimum-Undertake remedial repairs and maintenance
 - Option 3:** Undertake extension and significant refurbishment of Ysgol Rhewl
 - Option 4:** Provide New Build School for Ysgol Rhewl
 - Option 5:** Close Ysgol Rhewl

15.3 The main advantages and disadvantages of each option, including the current proposal, are outlined below;

Option 1- Do Nothing	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No capital spend required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not provide 21st century school facilities. ▪ Shortfalls and deficiencies would remain and likely worsen in the short term with the possibility of impacting negatively on the ability to deliver the curriculum. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 2- Do Minimum	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimal capital spend required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would lead to some improvement of the learning environment but would not meet 21st century school standards. This would be a fire-fighting exercise. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 3- Extend and Refurbish	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would result in some improvement in the learning environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not result in 21st century school facilities with some deficiencies remaining. ▪ Would require significant capital investment. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. Would likely increase surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 4- New Build	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would provide 21st century school facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would require significant capital investment. ▪ The current site does not meet the requirements within BB99 for a standard 105 model build school. ▪ Alternative sites would require land purchase within the village further increasing the capital outlay. ▪ Would not reduce surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the school estate.

Option 5-Closure	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No capital spend required. ▪ Existing pupils would have access to fit for purpose, 21st century school buildings and facilities. ▪ Would reduce surplus places. ▪ A net saving of £150k would be made which could be reinvested within the 21st century schools programme. ▪ Any future disposal of the site may result in a capital receipt which could be reinvested within the 21st century schools programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational provision within the village of Rhewl would cease. ▪ Community use of the school would cease however alternative provision is available in the community pavilion. ▪ Staff would be redeployed or possibly made redundant.

15.4 The table below provides an analysis of the above options against the programme investment objectives and critical success factors;

	Option 1 Status Quo	Option 2 Do Minimum	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	x	✓	✓	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	x	x	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Capital	x	x	x	x	✓
3 Sustainable Education system	x	x	x	x	✓
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	x	x	✓
CSF4 Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness	x	x	x	x	✓
Summary	Discounted	Discounted	Possible	Discounted	Preferred

16. Admission Arrangements

16.1 Admission arrangements to local authority maintained schools are administered by Denbighshire County Council’s Schools Admissions Service. Should the current proposal be implemented the admissions service would write to all parents to outline the options available.

- 16.2 Admissions will be dealt with in line with Denbighshire County Council’s School Admissions Policy. More information can be found on the school admissions page on Denbighshire’s website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

17. Transport Implications

- 17.1 For the current academic year the transport costs for Ysgol Rhewl is £121 per day. Over a school year this equates to £23,111.

- 17.2 Currently 12 pupils, or, 22.6% of the 53 full time pupils utilise free home to school transport. The table below demonstrates the catchment locations for Ysgol Rhewl;

Location	No.
Rhewl	20
Ruthin (town)	14
Cyffylliog	9
Denbigh	3
Pentrecelyn	2
Pwllglas	2
Bryn Saith Marchog	2

- 17.3 From the current school site to the proposed new site on Glasdir the distance is approx.. 1.1 miles. There is a non-hazardous walking route from the village to the site at Glasdir.
- 17.4 Transport to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire County Council’s Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school or part of the route is deemed hazardous. More information regarding the transport policy can be found on Denbighshire’s website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

18. Staffing Implications

- 18.1 Should the current proposal be implemented the authority would work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Rhewl, including teaching and ancillary staff., should they seek redeployment opportunities.
- 18.2 As part of the formal consultation process there will be a full consultation with staff and the appropriate teaching unions. A staff meeting will be held during the period of consultation and a representative from HR will be present.

19. What are the Financial Implications?

- 19.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2014/2015 budget share is £5,977 per pupil in Ysgol Rhewl. The DCC average is £3,931.

19.2 The current and forecasted 3 year financial position of the school is as follows;

School	Actual Balance 2014	Predicted Balance 2015	Predicted Balance 2016	Predicted Balance 2017
Ysgol Rhewl	19,603	6,870	(13,345)	(66,686)

**Based on 3 year existing plan*

19.3 For the 2014/2015 year Ysgol Rhewl's budget is £311k. It is estimated that there would be a non-pupil led saving of £150k which would be deducted from the school budget quantum. An estimated £161k is pupil led funding and therefore would remain on the school's quantum to follow the pupils to the school they transfer to.

19.4 The non pupil led saving will be re-invested within future capital schemes as part of the 21st century schools programme.

20. What are the Disadvantages of the Proposal?

20.1 If the current proposal proceeds educational provision in the village of Rhewl would cease.

20.2 Upon the closure of the school it is expected that some children would be required to travel further to school, subject to parental preference. Due to the current catchment of Ysgol Rhewl the proposed new facilities on Glasdir would be a closer option for some existing pupils. Transport would be provided in line with Denbighshire's transport policy and would ensure travelling times are not excessive.

21. Explanation of the statutory process

21.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.

21.2 The requirements are as follows:

- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
- b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
- c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
 - i) on the council's website;
 - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
 - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
- d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
- e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);

- f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).

21.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

22. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

22.1 As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of the school a Equality, Welsh Language and Community impact assessments has been carried out and this is available on our website.

23. Response Form

23.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.

23.2 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than 23RD of March 2015.

ⁱ The consultation document can be found in the School Organisation & Modernising section or you can follow this link [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

ⁱⁱ Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act;

ⁱⁱⁱ Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation] in the School Organisation &

Modernising section

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Appendix 1

Alternative Provision: Proposal to Close Ysgol Rhewl

1. Introduction

1.1 This section provides information relating to the alternative educational provision that exists in the Ruthin area. Should the current proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl be progressed and implemented it is being proposed that existing pupils could transfer to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin subject to parental preference. The Council recognises that parents may also choose other provision within the area.

2. Current, Past and Projected Pupil Numbers

2.1 The table below provides information regarding current pupils numbers, language designation, the current total capacity for full time and part time parents and current levels of surplus places;

School	Type	Current Pupil No.	Current FT Capacity	Current PT Capacity	No. of Surplus Places	% of Surplus Places
Rhos Street	English	151	189	23	38	20.1%
Pen Barras	Welsh	223	252	36	29	11.5%
Borthyn	English, VC	120	142	20	22	15.5%
Carreg Emlyn*	Welsh	60	80	11	20	25%
Gellifor	English	87	91	10	4	4.4%
Llanbedr	English	22	54	11	32	59.2%
Llanfair DC	Bilingual	92	113	14	21	18.6%
Bro Cinmierch	Welsh	69	80	11	11	13.7%
Totals		824	1001	136	177	17.7%

**Carreg Emlyn is a newly established area school serving the communities of Clocaenog and Cyffylliog. The new area school replaces Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog.*

2.2 The table below displays the information regarding past pupils numbers, Full Time (FT) and Part Time (PT) at alternative schools;

School	Past Pupil Numbers 2010-2014									
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Rhos Street	177	25	179	19	167	25	163	14	161	10
Pen Barras	215	38	216	32	218	36	223	27	223	36
Borthyn	104	11	103	14	113	9	111	18	114	23
Carreg Emlyn*	47	13	53	12	59	14	55	13	58	14
Gellifor	73	5	77	10	85	12	87	11	86	11
Llanbedr	63	8	59	10	37	6	21	4	21	7
Llanfair DC	94	11	96	13	93	10	90	14	84	13
Bro Cinmeirch	51	11	56	12	57	17	62	16	60	14

**Combined numbers for the former Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog.*

2.3 The table below displays the pupil projections for the coming 5 year period;

Pupil Projections 2015-2019					
School	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rhos Street	143	139	134	122	113
Pen Barras	221	216	224	218	218
Borthyn	117	111	114	121	125
Carreg Emlyn	70	74	79	81	85
Gellifor	92	86	84	87	83
Llanbedr	28	30	35	36	37
Bro Cinmeirch	72	76	82	85	88
Llanfair DC	82	80	83	87	87
Rhewl	50	46	42	41	39

2.4 The table below displays a breakdown of full time pupils

Full Time Pupil Numbers Sept 2014								
School	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Rhos Street	12	18	29	24	27	19	22	151
Pen Barras	37	25	32	31	38	23	37	223
Borthyn	22	17	11	14	14	18	24	120
Carreg Emlyn	10	9	12	7	10	7	5	60
Gellifor	12	11	12	16	9	12	15	87
Llanbedr	7	3	6	2	3	0	1	22
Llanfair DC	15	13	11	13	12	13	15	92
Bro Cinmeirch	8	12	11	10	10	10	8	69
Total								824
Overall Capacity								1001
Total Surplus								177

2.5 The table below provides information on current part time pupil numbers;

School	PT Pupils
Rhos Street	14
Pen Barras	36
Borthyn	22
Carreg Emlyn	14
Gellifor	7
Llanbedr	11
Llanfair DC	14
Bro Cinmeirch	17

3. Educational Attainment and Outcomes

3.1 The table below provides information relating to the outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2;

% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2					
School	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rhos Street	93.5%	93.3%	96.6%	92.6%	100%
Pen Barras	97.1%	90%	96.8%	94.3%	89.7%
Borthyn	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%	80%
Carreg Emlyn was					
Clocaenog	100%	100%	100%	75%	100%
Cyffylliog	50%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a
Gellifor	92.9%	92.3%	100%	91.7%	100%
Llanbedr	84.6%	100%	85.7%	100%	N/A
Bro Cinmeirch	100%	80%	100%	91.7%	100%
Llanfair DC	88.9%	91.7%	100%	94.1%	93.3%
Rhewl	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Denbighshire	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%	86.6%
Wales	77%	80%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%

3.2 The table below provides information relating to the outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase;

% of pupils achieving outcome 5 and above at Foundation Phase					
School	2010 CSI	2011 CSI	2012 FPOI	2013 FPOI	2014 FPOI
Rhos Street	88.9%	90%	95.2%	100%	100%
Pen Barras	100%	97.1%	95.5%	94.7%	93.5%
Borthyn	82.4%	77.3%	58.8%	53.8%	100%
Carreg Emlyn* was					
Clocaenog	100%	80%	71.4%	83.3%	100%
Cyffylliog	100%	100%	n/a	60%	100%
Gellifor	100%	94.7%	100%	100%	93.3%
Llanbedr	85.7%	87.5%	100%	83.3%	100%
Bro Cinmeirch	100%	90%	75%	90.9%	80%
Llanfair DC	94.1%	86.7%	100%	100%	92.3%
Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Denbighshire	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%
Wales	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	??

4. Estyn Reports

4.1 Estyn assesses the performance of schools. The inspection framework was changed in 2009/10 to ask 3 key questions, a reduction from 7. The 3 key questions are;

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is the provision?

Key Question 3: How good is the leadership and management?

Schools inspected under the new framework, and their outcomes, are provided below;

4.1.1 Rhos Street School- March 2013

School	Rhos Street School
Date	March 2013
Key Question 1	Good
Key Question 2	Good
Key Question 3	Good
Current Performance	Good
Improvement Outlook	Excellent

4.1.2 Ysgol Pen Barras- May 2011

School	Ysgol Pen Barras
Date	May 2011
Key Question 1	Good
Key Question 2	Good
Key Question 3	Good
Current Performance	Good
Improvement Outlook	Good

4.1.3 Ysgol Borthyn- March 2014

School	Ysgol Borthyn
Date	March 2014
Key Question 1	Adequate
Key Question 2	Adequate
Key Question 3	Adequate
Current Performance	Adequate
Improvement Outlook	Adequate

4.1.4 Ysgol Carreg Emlyn- Formerly Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog

School	Ysgol Clocaenog
Date	October 2012
Key Question 1	Good
Key Question 2	Good
Key Question 3	Good
Current Performance	Good
Improvement Outlook	Good

School	Ysgol Cyffylliog
Date	March 2011*
Key Question 1	Adequate
Key Question 2	Adequate
Key Question 3	Adequate
Current Performance	Adequate
Improvement Outlook	Adequate

*Ysgol Cyffylliog received a monitoring visit in November 2013, it was found that sufficient progress had been made with regard to the recommendations made during the core visit in March 2011 and was subsequently removed from the list of schools that need significant improvement.

4.1.5 Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch

School	Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch
Date	November 2011
Key Question 1	Good
Key Question 2	Good
Key Question 3	Good
Current Performance	Good
Improvement Outlook	Good

4.2 The following schools were inspected under the old framework, the 7 key questions are as follows;

1. How well do learners achieve?

2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?

3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?

4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?

5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?

6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?

7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?

These 7 key questions are graded, as follows;

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

4.2.1 Ysgol Gellifor- old framework

School	Ysgol Gellifor
Date	February 2010
Key Question 1	Grade 2
Key Question 2	Grade 2
Key Question 3	Grade 1
Key Question 4	Grade 1
Key Question 5	Grade 2
Key Question 6	Grade 2
Key Question 7	Grade 2

4.2.2 Ysgol Llanbedr

School	Ysgol Llanbedr
Date	June 2009
Key Question 1	Grade 2
Key Question 2	Grade 2
Key Question 3	Grade 3
Key Question 4	Grade 2
Key Question 5	Grade 3
Key Question 6	Grade 4
Key Question 7	Grade 2

4.2.3 Ysgol Llanfair DC

School	Ysgol Llanfair
Date	June 2010
Key Question 1	Grade 2
Key Question 2	Grade 2
Key Question 3	Grade 1
Key Question 4	Grade 2
Key Question 5	Grade 2
Key Question 6	Grade 2
Key Question 7	Grade 2

5. School Condition

- 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category for the above schools:

School	Overall Condition
Ysgol Pen Barras	C
Ysgol Rhewl	B
Ysgol Gellifor	B
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn was	
<i>Ysgol Clocaenog</i>	B
<i>Ysgol Cyffylliog</i>	B
Ysgol Borthyn	B
Ysgol Llanbedr	B
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	B
Rhos Street School	B
Ysgol Llanfair DC	B

Key:

- A- Good (No deterioration)
- B- Satisfactory (Minor deterioration)
- C- Poor (Major deterioration)
- D- Bad (Life expired)

APPENDIX 4

Ruthin Area Review of Primary School-
Construction of a New Area School-
Llanfair DC/ Pentrecelyn

15 December 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

New Area School- Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn

Contact: Lisa Walchester, Customers and Education Support
Updated: 15/12/14

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 proposal has come from the Ruthin area review of primary education which took place in 2013. The creation of a new area school following the closure of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn subject to consultation. It is proposed that the new area School will initially be opening on the existing school sites.

This EQIA focuses on the construction of a new school building on a single site to replace the existing two buildings.

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)

A feasibility study has been undertaken which has identified a number of potential sites in the area.

- 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 impact will be positive for any user of the site with a disability as it will be fully compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. There are currently limitations with the Ysgol Llanfair site with one classroom accessed only via a narrow staircase.

- 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)?**

No

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

No

<If yes, please provide detail>

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

No

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?

9. Declaration

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

Review Date:	15/12/14
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Lisa Walchester	15/12/14

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

Ruthin Area Review of Primary School
Provision- Proposed Closure of Ysgol
Rhewl

17 December 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Proposal: Closure of Ysgol Rhewl

Contact: Lowri Roberts, Customers and Education Support
Updated: 17/12/14

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

A service review or re-organisation 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?

A decision to progress this proposal would lead to a formal consultation regarding the future sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl. If the proposal were to be implemented primary educational provision would cease in the village of Rhewl.

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

The main impact of this proposal would be a change in the learning environment for existing pupils of the school at the point of closure (should this proposal be implemented).

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)

We have identified all stakeholders prior to commencing the review. We will engage with stakeholders by post, public meeting and online during the formal consultation period. All correspondence with stakeholders will be available bilingually (Welsh and English).

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 proposal could impact positively on some of the protected characteristics, specifically disability. The proposal recommends that existing pupils transfer to new, purpose built educational facilities that would be fully compliant with the DDA.

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)?

No

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

Yes

The proposal has fully acknowledged and set out how transition to a new learning environment would be managed.

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

No

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?

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:	17/12/14
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Lowri Roberts	17/12/14

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

Glasdir: Proposal to provide a shared site
educational facility for Ysgol Pen Barras
and Rhos Street School

16 December 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Proposal to re-locate Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to a purpose built, shared educational facility on the Glasdir development.

Contact: Lowri Roberts, Modernising Education Team

Updated: 16/12/2014

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

A service review or re-organisation 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 purpose of this proposal is to provide Cabinet with the outcomes of the detailed feasibility regarding options for the Ruthin town schools, as part of the Ruthin area review of primary education.

The preferred option is to re-locate Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to a new, purpose built educational facility on the Glasdir development. Additionally, this report seeks approval for the commencement of a Formal Consultation regarding the future of Ysgol Rhewl as a result of this proposal.

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)

--

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)

This proposal will have a positive impact on disability, specifically around DDA and accessibility issues.
--

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)?

No.

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

No	It is not envisaged that there will be any disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics.
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8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

No	
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Action(s)	Owner	By when?

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:	16.12.14
--------------	----------

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Lowri Roberts	16/12/14

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

Ruthin Area Review of Primary School
Provision- Proposed New Area school for
Llanfair & Pentrecelyn

17 December 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

New Area School- Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn

Contact: Lisa Walchester, Customers and Education Support
Updated: 17/12/14

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

A service review or re-organisation 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 creation of a New Area School following the closure of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn. The new area school will initially open on the existing school sites.

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

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

No	The impact of this proposal will be neutral as very little will change. The only changes will be: 1) The existing schools will close; 2) A new school will open but operate from existing sites. 3) The school will only need one headteacher and that post may be filled by one of the existing head teachers or an external candidate. Accordingly the post of the existing headteachers will be redundant and a single new position will be created. Advice will be provided to the governing body of the new school to ensure that the process of appointing a New Headteacher is not discriminatory
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

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

We have identified all stakeholders prior to commencing the review. We will engage with stakeholders by post, public meeting and online during the informal consultation period.
All correspondence with stakeholders will be available bilingually (Welsh and English).

- 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 impact will be neutral as noted in section 3, the proposal will not result in significant change.

- 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)?**

No

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

No

<If yes, please provide detail>

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

No

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?

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:	17/12/14
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Lisa Walchester	17/12/14

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

Ruthin Area Review of Primary Provision
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn New School
15 December 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

Ruthin Area Review of Primary School Provision

Contact: Carwyn Edwards, Customers and Education Support
Updated: 15/12/14

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 construction of a new school building on a single site to replace the existing two buildings.

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	<p>The impact of this proposal will be neutral as very little will change. The only changes will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The existing school sites will be replaced by a new one; 2) The new school building will have better facilities than the existing buildings; 3) All pupils currently will have to attend both sites during their education at the school. Some pupils will have to travel further at a younger age due to a change in location of the foundation phase classrooms. Free home to school transport will be available for all eligible pupils in accordance to Denbighshire County Council policy.
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

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

A feasibility study has been undertaken which has identified current site

constraints including limits on accessibility.

- 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 impact will be positive for any user of the site with a disability as it will be fully compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Currently part of the Clocaenog site is inaccessible for individuals with mobility difficulties.

- 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)?**

No

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

No

<If yes, please provide detail>

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

No

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?

-
- 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:	02.02.15
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Carwyn Edwards	15.12.14

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

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th January 2015

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

Report Author: Richard Weigh, Chief Accountant

Title: Budget 2015/16 (Final Proposals - Phase 3)

1. What is the report about?

The report outlines the latest budget position and presents the final phase of a programme of budget savings and other measures for recommendation to council in order to deliver the revenue budget for 2015/16. The report includes a proposed level of increase to Council Tax and use of general balances.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

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

To formalise a proposal that emerged from a budget workshop held on 12th December that the delivery of the Corporate Plan takes priority in future budget setting rounds.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet supports the budget proposals for 2015/16 as shown in Appendix 1 and recommends accordingly to full Council.

To recommend to Council the resulting Council Tax increased of an average of 2.75% in 2015/16.

To recommend to Council that £500k of general balances are used to support the revenue budget for the next three financial years.

To recommend to Council that the delivery of the Corporate Plan takes priority in future budget setting rounds.

4. Report details

Analysis of Draft Local Government Settlement and the consequences for the council indicated that savings of £8.3m would be required in 2015/16. The saving target included a reduction to the Revenue Support Grant of £5.3m and unavoidable cost pressures of approximately £3m.

The first two phases of the budget process have identified savings of £7.3m for 2015/16' leaving a gap of £1m. This is detailed in Appendix 1. The Final Settlement was received on 10th December and was broadly similar to the Draft but this and a number of other changes impact upon the funding gap and these are:

- The reduction to the Final Settlement is 0.016% lower than the Draft, equating to a benefit of £23k
- Expected reductions to specific grants (PFI and Council Tax Administration Grant) have been confirmed in the Final Settlement and will be pass-ported totalling £63k
- The Council Tax Base for all councils is reassessed using more recent data between the Draft and the Final Settlement. The impact of this reassessment is that the rise in the Base is around 0.65% higher than the forecast which equates to approximately £282k
- The increase to the Fire Service Levy is £51k less than the forecast presented to Council by the Fire Service in September. The Fire Service has made savings and used reserves to limit the increase passed to councils

The four items above contribute £419k to saving requirement for 2015/16.

The local government pay award has recently been agreed as a deal effective from January 2015 to March 2016. The headline increase is 2.2% over the period but staff on grades below Grade 11 will receive a higher increase. The cost of implementing the pay award in 2014/15 is less than had been forecast overall, although it is slightly higher than forecast in 2015/16. Over the two years, calculations to estimate the budgetary impact of funding the pay award mean that it is possible to reduce the overall cost pressure by £54k and this reduction can contribute to lessening the budget gap in 2015/16.

Final budget proposals and the level of Council Tax for 2014/15 will have to be agreed by County Council in February 2015. However, at the tenth budget workshop held on 12th December, those members present expressed views informally that supported an average rise in Council Tax of 2.75%. This is the base planning figure used in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

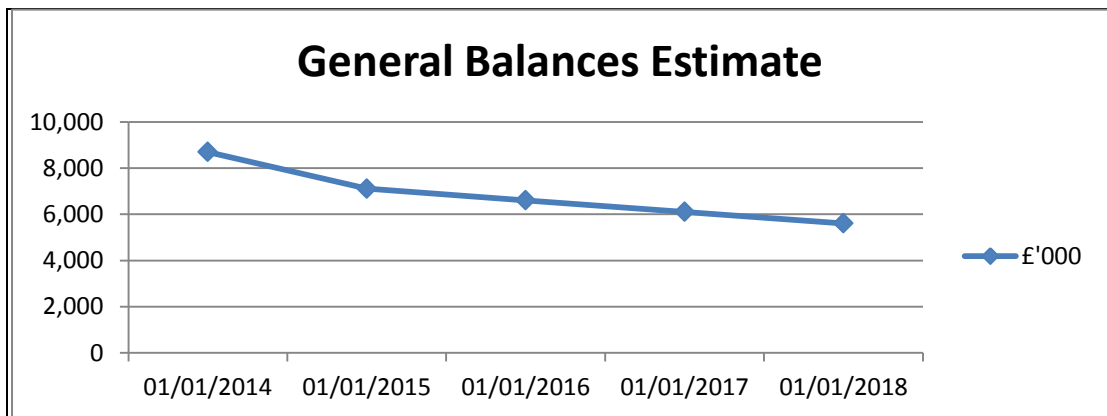
At 2.75%, there is no change to the savings requirement for 2015/16 and with the other proposals in this report, will balance the budget. An increase below 2.75% will result in a further savings requirement and an increase above it will generate additional funding. As the council has to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, approximately 25% of any increase in Council Tax is foregone in reductions provided under the Scheme.

The options and implications were presented at the December workshop in detail and are summarised in Appendix 2.

A further analysis highlighting the impact of this proposal over a range of property bands and income levels is included as Appendix 3.

As part of the 2014/15 budget, it was agreed as a one-off measure to use general balances of £500k to meet the gap in the council's funding requirement. To do this as a one-off would mean that a permanent saving of £500k would have to be found in 2015/16 to bridge this gap. At the December budget workshop, members were presented with an analysis of the council's general balances and a proposal to continue to use £500k to fund the budget for the next three years.

The importance of appropriate levels of balances has been highlighted in recent years with severe weather events as well as an unexpected historic claim from our previous insurance company. In each case the council has been able to respond appropriately in the knowledge that funds are available to pay for any response and subsequent works. With these risks and uncertainties around the future of local government and likely continued reductions to public sector funding, reducing balances further is not the most desirable course of action. However, an assessment of balances in the context of the council's overall revenue budget means that a managed reduction over the next three years is an acceptable approach. The chart below shows the planned reduction in general balances over the next three financial years.



The budget for 2015/16 does not allow for any service specific cost pressures. Inflation has been built into the budget assumptions corporately to include items such as energy, pay and additional employer's pension costs.

Investment in the Corporate Plan is proposed at a level of £500k. The proposed allocation of investment funding for 2015/16 is required to support prudential borrowing and is split as follows:

- Modernising Education/21st Century Schools £400k
- Highways – Road Improvements £100k

The delivery of the Corporate Plan is dependent on both budget and cash resources to facilitate Prudential Borrowing. The current Plan is affordable as long as the resources identified to fund it are available. At the December budget workshop, those members in attendance reiterated a view first expressed when the Corporate Plan was presented at the budget workshop held on 22nd September that the majority present wished to secure delivery of the Plan. The outcome from the December workshop strengthened this view

with a proposal to include a commitment to prioritise the delivery of the Corporate Plan in future budget rounds. In response to this, a formal recommendation is included in this report.

A summary of the Corporate Plan is attached as Appendix 4.

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

Effective management of the council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities. The budget proposals contain £500k funding for schools and highways in line with the Corporate Plan and a further proposal to protect the funding required to deliver the Plan.

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

The council may need to deliver savings of approximately £17.1m over the next two financial years. The budget gap for 2015/16 is £8.259m. Savings of £7.286m have been agreed and further proposals in this report total £0.473m. The remainder, £0.5m, will be met from general balances.

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

An impact assessment exercise, including EqIA was completed for each of the budget saving proposals and was presented to council in September and December. An overall impact assessment was also presented to Council in December.

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

There has been significant consultation around the budget process and it has been considered by CET, SLT, Cabinet Briefing and Council Briefing meetings. There have been ten all-day budget workshops with elected members. Scrutiny committees have reviewed two savings proposals (CCTV and provider services). The Corporate Governance Committee has an oversight role and has received reports to each of its meetings since April. In November, the committee requested further details about two proposals to seek assurance on the transparency of the process.

The report to Council on 9th December outlined in detail the consultation supporting the budget process. This included a detailed analysis of responses to the public engagement exercise. The report also highlighted the following conclusions from the Wales Audit Office following a review of the council's financial planning arrangements:

- The Council has a good track record of delivering identified savings within year against the planned actions that it approved
- The Council's future plans and arrangements to deliver savings are fit for purpose and are being effectively managed

- There are no proposals for improvement or recommendations arising from this review.

In addition to the public engagement exercise, the council had informed all Town and Community councils about the proposed cuts and hosted a meeting for all the councils to discuss and debate the proposals. There are ongoing discussions between some of the county council's services and some Town councils about the impact of the proposals and whether or not the Town councils would consider funding some of the activities if the cuts are made. These discussions are continuing.

The council has consulted its partners, through the joint Local Service Board, and, where requested, attended meetings to clarify the detail behind any of the proposals.

All members of staff have been kept informed about the budget setting process and where proposals become decisions the affected staff will be fully consulted, in accordance with the council's HR policies and procedures.

Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee. A process for engaging with staff and their TU representatives was agreed at LJCC in September and is being adhered to. The same process also offered the Trade Unions an opportunity to make formal comment on budget proposals before they were considered by Council

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This continues to be an extremely challenging process with some tough decisions having to be taken. Approval of the proposals in this report will balance the budget for 2015/16 which is a significant achievement. However, work to develop budget proposals for 2016/17 must continue to ensure the estimated savings target of £8.8m is achieved. The budget process has so far identified proposals totalling £2.7m for 2016/17 so there is a significant gap still to fill. Budget workshops have been arranged in February and March to continue the process. The continued engagement and support of elected members and services in the process is crucial.

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

This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver an effective budget strategy will put further pressure on services in future financial years.

11. Power to make the Decision

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

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Appendix 1 Phase 3 Budget Proposals 2015/16
Cabinet January 2015

Proposal to Finalise Revenue Budget 2015/16

	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
Saving Target 2015/16 (Draft Settlement)		-8,259
Phase 1 Savings		3,715
Phase 2 Savings		3,571
Sub Total		-973
Final Settlement & Other Adjustments:		
1. RSG movement +0.016%	23	
2. Increase to Council Tax Base	282	
3. Passport Reductions to PFI and Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grants	63	
4. Fire Service Levy	51	
		419
Sub Total		-554
Pay Award Provision (2014/15)		54
Sub Total		-500
Total of Phase 3 Proposals		473
Use of Council's General Balances		500
Budget Shortfall 2015/16		0

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Appendix 2

Council Tax Analysis

Notes

1. The analysis below shows the additional income that would be raised over a range of Council Tax increases.
2. The 'Base Case' shown is the current planning assumption. Rates below the base will mean more savings will have to be identified.
3. The references to Average Band D and Average Dwelling refer to the total council tax bill including police and community council precepts. The county council element in 2014/15 is £1,112 which represents 81% of the total bill.
4. The average per dwelling gives an indication of the average amount actually paid per dwelling.
5. Denbighshire's Council Tax was the highest in north Wales and sixth highest in Wales in 2014/15.
6. The county council element of the Council Tax bill in Denbighshire is approximately 15% higher than in Conwy.

7. If current planning assumptions for Tax rises are implemented, it is likely Gwynedd's average level of Council Tax at Band D will be higher than Denbighshire's next year.

£'000						Avg Band D	£1,380	Avg Dwelling	£1,240
Yeild 2014/15		42,513							
	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>C/Tax</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Additional</u>	<u>Avg Band D</u>	<u>Avg Dwelling</u>		
	<u>%</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Benefit</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>		
						<u>Impact</u>	<u>Impact</u>		
	0.00%	0	0	0	-876.83	0	0		
	2.00%	850.26	-212.57	637.70	-239.14	£27.60	£24.80		
	2.50%	1,062.83	-265.71	797.12	-79.71	£34.50	£31.00		
Base Case	2.75%	1,169.11	-292.28	876.83	0.00	£37.95	£34.10		
	3.00%	1,275.39	-318.85	956.54	79.71	£41.40	£37.20		
	3.50%	1,487.96	-371.99	1,115.97	239.14	£48.30	£43.40		
	4.00%	1,700.52	-425.13	1,275.39	398.56	£55.20	£49.60		
	4.50%	1,913.09	-478.27	1,434.81	557.98	£62.10	£55.80		
	5.00%	2,125.65	-531.41	1,594.24	717.41	£69.00	£62.00		

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Appendix 3 - Council Tax Rise Illustrative Examples

	Band A				Band B				Band C				Band D			
	Weekly charge	CTR	Ctax to pay	Increase	Weekly charge	CTR	Ctax to pay	Increase	Weekly charge	CTR	Ctax to pay	Increase	Weekly charge	CTR	Ctax to pay	Increase
Single aged 23 16 hrs min wage	£13.61	£5.43	£8.18	£0.22	£15.88	£7.70	£8.18	£0.22	£18.15	£9.97	£8.18	£0.22	£20.42	£12.24	£8.18	£0.22
Single over 25 20 hours min wage	£13.61	£3.23	£10.38	£0.14	£15.88	£5.50	£10.38	£0.14	£18.15	£7.77	£10.38	£0.14	£20.42	£10.04	£10.38	£0.14
Lone Parent 1 child WTC 16 hours 126.23 per week	£13.61	£0.58	£13.03	-£0.27	£15.88	£2.85	£13.03	-£0.27	£18.15	£5.12	£13.03	-£0.27	£20.42	£7.39	£13.03	-£0.27
Pensioner SC	£13.61	£12.36	£1.25	£0.15	£15.88	£14.63	£1.25	£0.15	£18.15	£16.90	£1.25	£0.15	£20.42	£19.17	£1.25	£0.15
Pensioner Severely disabled	£13.61	£0.82	£12.79	-£0.01	£15.88	£3.09	£12.79	-£0.01	£18.15	£5.36	£12.79	-£0.01	£20.42	£7.63	£12.79	-£0.01

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Appendix 4

1 Corporate Plan Summary

Projects	2012/13 ACTUAL £k	2013/14 ACTUAL £k	2014/15 ESTIMATES £k	2015/16 ESTIMATES £k	2016/17 ESTIMATES £k	2017/18 ESTIMATES £k	2018/19 ESTIMATES £k	Total £k
21st Century Community Schools (50/50 Split)								
Rhyl High School / Ysgol Tir Morfa	25	1,053	5,245	16,074	1,856	333	0	24,586
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	0	5	465	4,978	9,146	1,068	238	15,900
Bodnant Community School	0	69	620	2,099	562	61	0	3,411
Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy	81	1,209	119	0	0	0	0	1,413
Total 21st Century Community Schools	106	2,336	6,449	23,151	11,564	1,462	238	45,310
21st Century Schools - Faith Schools (85/15 Split)	0	13	97	42	5,104	11,653	6,905	23,814
Corporate Plan Potential Projects								
Ruthin Town School	0	0	54	619	5,150	3,063	0	8,886
Clocaenog / Cyffylliog Area School - Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	0	0	8	380	1,066	1,338	0	2,792
Llanfair / Pentrecelyn Area School	0	0	11	487	1,096	1,877	0	3,471
Ysgol Pendref	0	0	0	156	1,167	435	0	1,758
Total Potential Projects	0	0	73	1,642	8,479	6,713	0	16,907
Total Schools Projects	106	2,349	6,619	24,835	25,147	19,828	7,143	86,031
Extra Care				1,000	7,500	6,700	5,800	21,000
Cefndy Health Care Investment		59	441					500
Highways		2,843	5,373	1,650	1,650			11,516
TOTAL CORPORATE PLAN PROJECTS	106	5,251	12,433	27,485	34,297	26,528	12,943	119,047

Funding	2012/13 ACTUAL £k	2013/14 ACTUAL £k	2014/15 ESTIMATES £k	2015/16 ESTIMATES £k	2016/17 ESTIMATES £k	2017/18 ESTIMATES £k	2018/19 ESTIMATES £k	Total £k
Schools funding								
WG - LGBTI and Grant		1,170	3,877	12,252	6,801	11,922	6,875	42,897
Cash Reserves		739	2,599	10,677	3,658	1,735		19,408
Prudential Borrowing				1,890	14,688	5,933	268	22,779
Capital Receipts - planned					0	238		238
Capital Receipts - received		376						376
Other funding used	106	64	143	16				333
Total Schools Funding	106	2,349	6,619	24,835	25,147	19,828	7,143	86,031
Extra Care								
Contributions (development partner)				0	4,000	5,000	5,000	14,000
Prudential Borrowing				0	3,000	440	400	3,840
Cash Reserves				1,000	500	655	400	2,555
Capital Receipts						250		250
Other - Grants						355		355
Total Extra Care Funding				1,000	7,500	6,700	5,800	21,000
Cefndy Health Care Investment								
Cash Reserves		59	441					500
Highways								
WG - LGBTI		2,458	2,458					4,916
Prudential Borrowing		385	2,915	1,650	1,650			6,600
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED	106	5,251	12,433	27,485	34,297	26,528	12,943	119,047
DCC FUNDING ELEMENT	106	1,623	6,098	15,233	23,496	9,606	1,068	57,234

2 Revenue Budget Allocations - Actual and Planned

Programme	2012/13 £k	2013/14 £k	2014/15 £k	Total £k	Balance Remaining £k	Priorities 2015/16 £k	Priorities 2016/17 £k
21 Century Schools (Priorities Budget Allocation)	200	200	611	1,011	1,011	400	150
Contribution from School Modernisation Programme		157		157	157		
Highways (Priorities Budget Allocation)	100	100	100	300	0	100	100
Extra Care Housing (Priorities Budget Allocation)		400		400	400	0	0
Total	300	857	711	1,868	1,568	500	250

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Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13 January 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Hugh Evans & Councillor Huw L Jones

Report Author: Tom Booty
Economic & Business Development Manager

Title: Town and Area Plans

1. What is the report about?

This report presents the actions taken since the Review of Town & Area Plans and outlines the way forward.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A review of Town & Area Plans was completed in June 2014. This report outlines what action has been taken in response to the review, recommends some actions and provides Cabinet with an update on the current financial position for Town & Area Plans.

3. What are the recommendations?

The recommendations for Cabinet are to:

1. Approve the Town and Area Plans Policy Statement;
2. Endorse the Town & Area Plans Champions Group's assessment of projects formally approved by Cabinet but not yet started;
3. De-commit the funding allocation to those projects assessed as not meeting the criteria; and
4. Endorse the preparation of revised list of Town and Area Plan priority projects and the proposed process for allocating funding to these projects.

4. Report details

4.1 Town & Area Plans Policy Statement

In February and March 2014, Cabinet approved the last batch of expanded Town and Area Plans. Concerns were raised about the delivery and funding of the Plans and Cabinet agreed that a review should be conducted. The review was completed in June 2014.

The review concluded that while the concept of using Town and Area Plans to bring the Council 'closer to the community' was sound and allowed the Council to gain an understanding of priorities at local level, there was a lack of clarity around the overarching policy intentions of the Town and Area Plans and a lack of consistency in how they had been developed and were being delivered. To clarify the policy intentions a Policy Statement has been produced which sets out the core policy objectives, along with accompanying key principles. This Policy Statement is attached as Appendix 1 and the recommendation to Cabinet is that they approve this document.

4.2 Assessment of existing Town & Area Plan projects with allocated funding

The Review also concluded that Town & Area Plans as currently written are not sufficiently strategic, do not provide clear information on anticipated benefits and are not clear how impact will be measured. To address this, a review of Town & Area Plan projects that had been agreed for funding by Cabinet was undertaken which identified that:

- 36 projects had been either completed or were in progress;
- A further 18 projects had yet to start; and
- Some local Members had aspirations for additional projects to be allocated funding.

Details of the projects in each category are shown in Appendix 2.

At its meeting on 23rd September 2014, the Town & Area Plans Champions Group agreed to undertake a reassessment of those projects that had been allocated funding but not yet started. A set of assessment criteria and associated scoring matrix was developed, and this is attached as Appendix 3. A special Town Plan Champions Assessment Workshop was held on 17th October 2014 where the criteria were applied to each relevant project. The results of the workshop were:

- 4 projects were assessed as having already started and were recommended to continue;
- 7 projects were assessed as satisfactorily meeting the assessment criteria and were recommended to proceed;
- 5 projects were assessed as not meeting the assessment criteria and were recommended not to proceed; and
- 2 projects were withdrawn

The full results are attached at Appendix 4, and the recommendation to Cabinet is that they validate this assessment.

The cumulative value of the 5 projects assessed as not meeting the criteria and the 2 withdrawn projects is £175,000. In addition and as noted at the end of Appendix 4, one project with an allocation of £40,000 which was recommended to proceed following the workshop on 17 October 2014 has been unsuccessful in its grant application. This gives a total de-commitment of £215,000. The recommendation to Cabinet is that they approve this de-commitment and this sum is added to the existing unallocated balance for Town & Area Plans.

4.3 – Funding position

The table below outlines the current financial position of the Town & Area Plan budget and the impact of the proposed de-commitments on the unallocated balance.

Table 1: Current budget against Town Plan Budget

Total funding budget for Town and Area Plans to 31 Mar 2015	£1,939,000
Allocations to 1 November 2014	£1,332,170
Unallocated balance to 1 November 2014	£606,830
Proposed de-commitments	£215,000
Allocations following de-commitments	£1,117,170
Unallocated balance following de-commitments	£821,830

Of the £1,117,170 allocated budget, £348,887 has been spent as of 1 November 2014.

4.4 –Future allocations

With regard to the unallocated balance, work has begun on working with the Town Plan Champions and MAG's to confirm projects to be progressed between now and the end of council term (March 2017 or 18 depending on merger). The proposed process for progressing this is:

1. examine the existing Town & Area Plans to consider which projects within those plans might be considered for funding;
2. consider if there are any "new" projects that are not currently detailed in the plans (recognising that work on some plans began as much as 3 years ago and that the environments and opportunities may have changed in that time);
3. the combined list from the two actions above will be considered by the respective MAG's for their endorsement;
4. Once endorsed by the MAG's all potential projects will be presented to the Town Plan Champions Group and subjected to the same assessment criteria and process as detailed in section 4.2 of this report;
5. The list of new priority projects will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting for consideration and approval of funding.

The Town Plan Champions Group will also be expected to ensure that there is a reasonable geographic spread in terms of funding allocation. Cabinet is recommended to endorse this proposed approach to preparing a revised list of Town & Area Plan priority projects and to the proposed process for allocating funding to these projects.

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

Denbighshire County Council has long held an objective to be a high performing Council, close to its communities. Closer to the Community is identified as an overarching aspiration in the Council's Corporate Plan. In a review of the Closer to the Community objective in 2013, Town & Area Plans were identified as one of the components for taking forward the Closer to the Community objective, with a focus on mapping local community needs and aspirations, and building community capacity.

The Corporate Plan 2012/17 sets out an ambitious agenda for change across a range of priority areas. Developing the Local Economy is identified as one of these priorities. Vibrant towns and communities are seen as an important element of a healthy local economy.

In 2011, Denbighshire County Council together with its key partners developed the first Big Plan for Denbighshire. The Big Plan set out a long term vision for Denbighshire and identified a comprehensive set of actions to address elements of that vision. The Big Plan has been reviewed and a new more focused Wellbeing Plan is now emerging. The new Plan focuses on supporting people and communities to become more independent and resilient, and developing the right environment in which people can maintain their individual and community wellbeing.

Town and Area Plans have an important contribution to make to these 3 policy objectives, and are therefore considered to be important mechanisms for:

- **Bringing the Council Closer to its Communities**
- **Building Vibrant Towns & Communities**
- **Supporting the Development of Independent & Resilient Communities**

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

The current funding position is detailed in section 4.3, but the table below details how this breaks down at a local level, along with details of the potential match funding. The table below has assumed that the financial de-commitments detailed in this report have been approved.

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
Prestatyn	£245,000	£21,695	£223,305	£0	£7,000	£7,000
St Asaph	£77,800	£58,420	£19,380	£0	£283,500	£283,500
Rhuddlan	£34,000	£16,925	£17,075	£700	£21,300	£22,000
Denbigh	£137,800	£67,933	£69,867	£0	£561,200	£561,200
Ruthin	£169,070	£74,920	£94,150	£41,420	£187,000	£228,420
Corwen	£55,000	£54,001	£999	£18,426	£52,500	£70,926
Llangollen	£98,500	£50,743	£47,757	£3,000	£501,000	£504,000
Rhyl	£300,000	£4,250	£295,750	£0	£200,000	£200,000
Bodelwyddan	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL	£1,117,170	£348,887	£768,283	£63,546	£1,813,500	£1,877,046

Whilst the table above details the financial position in relation to the dedicated Town & Area Plan budget, the plans should also be a key document in influencing the activity and priorities of all Denbighshire Services.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision What consultations have been carried out?

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 Local Government Act 2000
Section 111 Local Government Act 1972

TOWN & AREA PLANS POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

Town and Area Plans were introduced by Council in 2011. The first plans, focusing on the County's main towns, were signed off in early 2012. Since 2012, the Plans have been expanded to include the rural communities surrounding the towns.

A review carried out in 2014 identified the need for greater clarity on the role and purpose of Town and Area Plans. This Policy Statement describes the policy objectives Town and Area Plans are intended to address.

An operational framework will accompany this Policy Statement to give greater clarity on how Town and Area Plans should be developed, delivered, monitored and reviewed. The operational framework will also set out the various roles and responsibilities of officers, Members and other key stakeholders involved in the Plans.

Policy Context

Denbighshire County Council has long held an objective to be a high performing Council, close to its communities. Closer to the Community is identified as an overarching aspiration in the Council's Corporate Plan. In a review of the Closer to the Community objective in 2013, Town & Area Plans were identified as one of the components for taking forward the Closer to the Community objective, with a focus on mapping local community needs and aspirations, and building community capacity.

The Corporate Plan 2012/17 sets out an ambitious agenda for change across a range of priority areas. Developing the Local Economy is identified as one of these priorities. Vibrant towns and communities are seen as an important element of a healthy local economy.

In 2011, Denbighshire County Council together with its key partners developed the first Big Plan for Denbighshire. The Big Plan set out a long term vision for Denbighshire and identified a comprehensive set of actions to address elements of that vision. The Big Plan has been reviewed and a new more focused Wellbeing Plan is now emerging. The new Plan focuses on supporting people and communities to become more independent and resilient, and developing the right environment in which people can maintain their individual and community wellbeing.

Town and Area Plans have an important contribution to make to these 3 policy objectives, and are therefore considered to be important mechanisms for:

Bringing the Council Closer to its Communities

Building Vibrant Towns & Communities

Supporting the Development of Independent & Resilient Communities

Key Principles

Taking these 3 policy objectives, Town and Area Plans can be seen to be an important mechanism for articulating the Council's local response to the needs of its communities, and for delivering its overarching priorities at local level.

Town and Area Plans therefore should:

- Identify the needs and the short, medium and longer term aspirations of a local community and set out a vision for a sustainable future
- Act as living documents that can adapt and respond to changing circumstances
- Support the Council's Corporate Plan priorities as a whole, with a particular focus on Developing the Local Economy
- Demonstrate what action is needed at local level to build and maintain the vibrancy of Denbighshire's towns and communities
- Be based on the premise that towns and their surrounding rural communities are economically interdependent and cannot be treated in isolation from each other
- Reflect 'natural' groupings of communities that make sense on the ground regardless of organisational boundaries
- Recognise that we have a network of towns and communities across Denbighshire with similar challenges and opportunities, that should be tackled collectively, but equally some challenges that are unique to a particular community and may need a more tailored response
- Be supported by realistic and achievable action plans that demonstrate how progress towards the future visions can be delivered
- Show a clear link between the evidence of need in a local community, the vision for a sustainable future that is set as a consequence and the activities that are included in the supporting action plan
- Be owned and led on behalf of local communities by their local elected representatives.
- Recognise that everyone – agencies and residents alike - has a responsibility for progressing the priorities set out in the plans.

In practice, this will mean that:

- Plans will show a clear understanding of how towns, their centres and their associated communities interact with each other, and how they affect each other's future sustainability.
- Plans should demonstrate how the issues affecting towns and their associated communities have been considered in drawing up both the vision statements and the resulting action plans. Actions should be based on evidence that an issue requires to be addressed and that the action is an effective means of delivering the anticipated benefit. There should be a clear focus on benefits and outcomes in all Plans.

- Whilst based on local knowledge and reflecting local needs and aspirations, as County Council plans, the responsibility for deciding what to include in plans must remain with the Council. Local consultation will form an integral part of developing the plans. Local Councillors will provide the link from the local community to the Plan. To assist with coordination, a Champion will be appointed for each Town and Area Plan.
- Where actions align with projects supporting the Council's Corporate Plan priorities or individual Service Plan commitments, a case for allocation of resources may be possible. It is a clear expectation that communities will play an important role in identifying sources of funding for their local priorities. There can be no assumption that the Council will fund all or any of the priorities arising from the Plans.
- As agreed statements of evidenced local need and priority, there will be an expectation that Council Services – and increasingly partner organisations – will pay due regard to the issues and actions set out in each Plan. Wherever possible within financial constraints, Services will reflect priority actions in their Service Plans. In recognition of this, actions should only be included a Plan with the involvement of the relevant Service.

The detail of how Plans are developed, how they are structured and who should be involved at each stage is contained in the Operational Framework document.

August 2014.

PROJECT LIST

Town & Area Plan projects were identified as falling into 3 categories:

1. Projects approved by Cabinet and either completed or in progress by 1 October 2014
2. Projects approved by Cabinet but not yet started as of 1 October 2014, including projects approved by relevant MAG following a reallocation; and
3. Projects on the “horizon” that Members are considering (eg Rhuddlan Library)

CATEGORY 1

Ideas, People & Places Phase 1, Corwen (£11.2k)
Corwen Station platform contribution (£18.5k)
Gritter Garage makeover, Corwen (£6.4k)
Community Buildings survey, Corwen (£6k)
Youth Club provision, rural communities, Corwen (£3k)
Feasibility studies – Glyndyfrdwy, Llandrillo & Bryneglws schools (£5k)
Denbigh Museum project (£50k)
Chapel Quarter feasibility study, Denbigh (£3k)
Town Trail Board, Denbigh (£1k)
Llandyrnog Sports Association kitchen upgrade (£2k)
Sports Association car park, Llangollen (£30k)
Footpath feasibility study, A542, Llangollen (£6.25k)
Chain Bridge restoration works contribution, Llantysilio (£20k)
Tractor gritter attachments, Llangollen rural areas (£13k)
Shopping precinct improvements, Prestatyn (£50k)
Ffordd Talargoch environmental improvements, Meliden (£25k)
Meliden Football club changing rooms (£25k)
Signs & orientation, Phase 1, Rhuddlan (£1.3k)
Dropped kerbs, Phase 1, Rhuddlan (£1k)
Open the Book/Library feasibility study, Rhuddlan (£3k)
Marsh Road footpath feasibility study, Rhuddlan (£2k)
Railing repairs, Rhuddlan (£12k)
Environmental Improvements, Rhyl High Street (£200k)
Replacement play equipment, Dyserth (£12k)
Play area, Rhuallt (£12k)
Ruthin Art Trail contribution (£20k)
Town Co-ordinator post contribution, Ruthin (£30k)
Town Marketing Strategy, Ruthin (£5k)
Llanbedr Village Hall improvements (£8.4k)
Llanarmon Playing fields improvements contribution (£24k)
Llanarmon shop, Cyfenter project match (£23.4k)
Cwrw Ial Brewery, Cyfenter project match (£18k)
Clawddnewydd Joint Venture (£40K)
Town Trail boards, St Asaph (£1k)
Red Hill steps repairs, St Asaph (£8.4k)
St Asaph Cricket club building contribution (£50k)

CATEGORY 2

Pre-school provision, Llangollen (£30K)
Valuation report, Llantysilio burial ground extension (£0.5K)
Meliden Goods Shed (£50K)
Marsh Road pavement construction, Rhuddlan (£25K)
Interpretation of sculptures, Rhuddlan (£1,200)
Ditched defences interpretation, Rhuddlan (£0.8k)
Eyesore properties, Dyserth (£38K)
Gateway Improvements, Rhyl (£50K)
Orientation & Signage Strategy, Rhyl (£50K)
Trefnant Yellow Lines ((£2K)
Cefn Meiriadog Layby (£5K)
Bodelwyddan finger posts (£4K)
IPP, Corwen (£40k)
Lon Garn footpath, Henllan (£85K)
Denbigh Golf Club footpath (£85K)
Aberwheeler footpath (£20k)
Strategic development and employment sites, Denbigh (£30K)
Public Realm Improvements – Nova seafront (£92K)

CATEGORY 3 (This list is not complete)

Rhuddlan Library
Rhuddlan highways signs
Rhuddlan dropped kerbs
Gwas Gee, Denbigh
Cilmedw, Llangollen
Wernfrwdd, Llangollen
Mile End Mill, Llangollen

TAP Projects Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Score 2	Score 1	Score 0
Likely to start	Within 6 months of 1 October 2015	Within 12 months	Over 12 months
Future revenue implications	Future revenue implications have been fully considered and are budgeted for	Future revenue implications have had some consideration but insufficient budget provision has been made	Future revenue implications have not been considered or budgeted for
Delivery Confidence	Full confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome	Limited confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome	No confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome
Budget	Current budget estimates are below the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan	Current budget estimates are the same as the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan	Current budget estimates exceed the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan
Cost/Benefit	Project offers good value for money in terms of cost/benefit	Project offers some value for money in terms of cost/benefit	Project offers poor value for money in terms of cost/benefit
External Funding	Project levers 50% external funding	Project levers between 20% and 50% external funding	Project levers less than 20% external funding
Community Need	Clear and significant evidence of <u>community need</u> for project	Some evidence of community need	No evidence of community need
Clear benefits	Benefits of the project are clear and well articulated	Limited benefits have been identified	No clear benefits have been identified
Local benefit	Some evidenced benefit to a wide range of local residents	Some evidenced benefit to "communities of need" (eg sports club, local interest group)	No evidence of significant local benefit
Corporate Priority	Clear and direct link to corporate priority	Some link/contribution to corporate priority	No link/contribution to corporate priority

TAP Unstarted Projects Re-assessment – Results

Project	Assessment Score	Comment
Pre-school provision, Llangollen (£30K)	17/20	Recommend to proceed. Spend of up to £30k approved. Any underspend to be returned to TAP budget. Potential for external funding to be explored
Llantysilio burial ground extension (£0.5K)		Proceed, already started
Meliden Goods Shed (£50K)	17/20	Recommend to proceed. Community Group to be aware that DCC will not pick up any revenue costs
Marsh Road pavement, Rhuddlan (£25K)	13/20	Recommend not to proceed. Consideration of need for footpath to be included in development brief for Rhuddlan triangle site as a whole
Interpretation of sculptures, Rhuddlan (£1.2k)		Proceed, already started
Ditched defences, Rhuddlan (£0.8k)		Proceed, already started
Eyesore properties, Dyserth (£38K)		Withdrawn. Funding not now needed. Work appears to be progressing with property owners. Suggest overall allocation for eyesore sites across the County is considered.
Gateway Improvements, Rhyl (£50K)	17/20	Recommend to proceed Town Council will pick up revenue maintenance costs
Orientation & Signage Strategy, Rhyl (£50K)	17/20	Recommend to proceed
Trefnant Yellow Lines ((£2K)	5/20	Recommend not to proceed Limited evidence of need or benefit.
Cefn Meiriadog Layby (£5K)	3/5	Recommend not to proceed Limited evidence of need or benefit
Bodelwyddan finger posts (£4K)	16/20	Recommend to proceed Town Council to be approached to seek contribution to costs
IPP Phase 2, Corwen (£40k) ¹	19/20	Recommend to proceed Significant external funding levered in through project

APPENDIX 4

Project	Assessment Score	Comment
Lon Garn footpath, Henllan (£85K)		Withdrawn
Denbigh Golf Club footpath (£85K)	4/20	Recommend not to proceed Limited information available on which to assess proposal. Concerns about cost and ability to deliver
Aberwheeler footpath (£20k)	8/20	Recommend not to proceed Costs have increased leading to concerns about value for money. Deliverability also of concern
Strategic employment sites, Denbigh (£30K)		Proceed, already started
Public Realm Improvements – Nova (£92K)	19/20	Recommend to proceed Supports larger Council project. MAG have reprioritised other spend. Town Council will also make contribution.

Notes:

1. The Corwen Ideas, People & Places Phase 2 grant application to Arts Council Wales was unsuccessful. Funding provisionally from the Town & Area Plan budget (£40k) will be added to the unallocated balance.

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.**

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

Yes	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.
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Action(s)	Owner	By when?
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9. Declaration

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

Review Date:	2 December 2013
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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: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th January 2015

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

Report Author: Rod Urquhart

Title: Corporate Debt Policy

1. What is the report about?

To seek approval for the new Corporate Debt Policy, the policy provides a holistic approach in dealing with customers who owe multiple debt types to Denbighshire County Council

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To adopt a new policy, treating customers holistically where the customer owes multiple debts, rather than individual services pursuing the debt separately.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members approve the 'Corporate Debt Policy' as shown in Appendix A to this report.

4. Report details.

Background

Denbighshire County Council raises and collects debt in the following areas:

- Business Rates
- Council Tax
- Housing Benefits Overpayments
- Housing Rents
- Sundry Debts (Social Services, Leisure etc)

All the debts are collected by the Revenues Services Team with the exception of Housing Rents, which is dealt with by the Housing Service. This has led to both services dealing with the same customer for two or more types of debts. This has obvious implications for the customer and the approach should be more joined up.

The majority of customers pay their debts in line with their payment schedules, with high volumes of transactions being processed by Direct Debit. For these customers the new policy would not be relevant to their circumstances.

However when a customer fails to pay in line with their agreed schedule then recovery action from the appropriate legislative frameworks commences. Again in most cases the debt is resolved easily and whilst the ethos of the new policy is used there is not the need for the actions contained within the policy to be invoked.

The final two categories of customer with debts are the 'won't pay' or 'can't pay' taxpayers. Again individual services have processes and procedures for dealing with both classes but this is done within that service, rather than joining up and finding a common solution for the customer.

4.1 Issues for consideration

The new policy addresses both categories in a fair, dignified and customer friendly manner. The key issue is dealing with multiple debts early so that the Council has the best chance of recouping its debts, and to do this in a joined up and consistent approach.

As stated earlier most debts are processed by the Revenues Services team, however Housing Rents are dealt with by Housing. Most Housing debts are paid promptly but problems arise when the case goes beyond an acceptable level of arrears, which triggers the start of an eviction process. This is costly, time consuming and damaging to the customer.

The policy uses some innovation whereby in multiple debt scenarios we will engage with the third sector earlier in the debt cycle to see whether the customer may be entitled to any welfare benefits, which could reduce the level of indebtedness, easing the amounts to be repaid. Alternatively if the customer has large debts outstanding (not necessarily Council debts) then the third sector will be able to review the customer's circumstances and suggest a remedial course of action. This may be a payment schedule that will be equitable to all parties, a debt relief order or even insolvency.

4.2 Operational use

It is anticipated that if the policy is approved the Housing Rents team will work closely with Revenues Services, highlighting potential cases and working together to treat the customer in a single view of debt. It is suggested that this is run as a pilot to gauge the impact both in terms of customer service and debt recovery. It will also enable us to strengthen our links with the third sector and ensure robust processes are in place prior to a full rollout.

A review period will be put in place three months after the pilot has started, to see the benefits it has given to all parties and also to refine any processes or procedures.

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

By bringing together the different debts we will have a single view of debt, as such we can help vulnerable people more promptly, ensuring they live as independently as possible.

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

Initially whilst in the pilot stages there will be no cost, however if this initiative is really successful then a dedicated resource may need to be employed. However the full cost of this would be more than offset by the additional income generated. There would also be an increase in efficiency as debt collection would be dealt with by a single team.

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.

Not applicable as the policy will have a positive impact on all customers.

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

The policy has been considered and supported by internal departments, Registered Social Landlords and the Third Sector

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications directly related to this report, however, this new approach to debt recovery will treat the customer as a single entity and will resolve debt issues sooner than at present.

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

The current risk is that customers are dealing with individual departments for different debts and will have difficulty in prioritising them. By adopting this policy all debts can be brought together and a payment plan put into place, which will protect the income streams to Denbighshire County Council

11. Power to make the Decision

Local Government Finance Act 1988
Council Tax and Enforcement Regulations 1992
Housing Act 1988, 1996 & 2002

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APPENDIX A

Denbighshire County Council

Debt Management and Recovery Policy

**Revenues and Benefits Service
Author: Rod Urquhart**

28th Nov 2014

Debt Management and Recovery Policy

DOCUMENT SPONSOR (Client Officers): Finance - Paul Mcgrady
Housing - Paul Mcgrady
Social Services – Phil Gilroy

DOCUMENT AUTHOR: Rod Urquhart
Revenues and Benefits Service

DATE : 28th November 2014

DOCUMENT APPROVED AT: -

LAST REVISION DATE: 28th November 2014

NEXT REVISION DATE: 28th November 2015

Debt Management and Recovery Policy

Denbighshire County Council

INTRODUCTION

Effective debt management is crucial to the success of any organisation. In the current economic climate of high personal borrowing, reduced incomes and increases in the cost of living, it is essential that this authority has clear policies and procedures to manage the recovery of debt. If Denbighshire County Council is to achieve its aim of effective income management, then it must seek to recover all debts due, and sustain collection rates. This policy has therefore been designed to address these concerns.

POLICY STATEMENT

Denbighshire County Council will deal with all stages debt management and recovery in a professional manner that shows respects for customers, members of staff and anyone else involved in the process and deal with each case as stated in this Policy document.

This policy will be available to all internal and external stakeholders and will be on the Council's website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

OBJECTIVE

The Debt Management and Recovery Policy ensures that the legislation is adhered to, and that debts are dealt with appropriately, in a fair and open manner.

EQUALITY

Denbighshire County Council is committed to equality of opportunity and valuing diversity in both the provision of services and in its role as a major employer. We believe that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We are committed to the elimination of unfair and unlawful discrimination in all our policies, procedures and practices. We are determined to ensure that no member of the public, employee or job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of their age, child care or other caring responsibilities, disability, gender, HIV status, language, marital status, race, religion, sexuality, membership or non-membership of a trade union, or by any requirement which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

AIMS

The key aims of this policy are as follows:

- ◆ To consider fully the customer's circumstances in the light of their ability to pay and so endeavour to distinguish from the outset between the customer who won't pay and the customer who genuinely can't pay.
- ◆ To encourage prompt payment to minimise the level of debt at any given time
- ◆ To work with the customer to clear the debt as soon as possible. To ensure a professional, consistent and timely approach to recovery action.
To cost effectively pursue all debts owed to the Councils, seeking to maintain and improve on the levels of income collected by the authorities.
- ◆ To promote a co-ordinated approach towards sharing customer information and managing multiple debts owed to the Council.
- ◆ To actively work with approved advice agencies to seek resolution where clients are failing to meet multiple debt liabilities and support the principles of financial inclusion.
- ◆ To empower and assist customers in claiming all Welfare Benefits they may be entitled to, internally or by signposting to advice agencies etc.
- ◆ To only write debt off in accordance with the Council's write-off policies.
- ◆ To treat individuals consistently and fairly regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation and to ensure that individuals' rights under Data Protection and Human Rights legislation are protected.
- ◆ To support the Council's objective to ensure organisational effectiveness through good management, optimising external income and listening to local people.

SCOPE

The main sections involved in debt recovery are Housing, Finance and Revenue Services. The debts involved are primarily:

- Council Tax
- National Non Domestic Rates
- Overpaid Housing Benefit
- Discretionary Housing Payments (Overpayments)
- Housing Rents
- Sundry Debts
- Social Services
- Leisure Services

The Legal and Policy Framework for Recovery

The teams will work on behalf of the Council to fulfill the legal duty to ensure cost-effective billing, collection and recovery of all sums due to the Council.

Local Taxation

Council Tax recovery procedures are laid down by statute in The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 and subsequent amendments. National Non-Domestic Rates recovery procedures are laid down by statute in The Local Government Finance Act 1988 and subsequent regulations and amendments.

Where it is decided it is appropriate to use the services of the Councils' bailiffs, they will recover local taxation arrears in accordance with an agreed code of conduct. Only certificated bailiffs can levy distress for local taxation and fees charged to the customer are governed by legislation.

Housing Benefits

Housing Benefit overpayments are reclaimed in accordance with the relevant acts and regulations.

Discretionary Housing Payments

Discretionary Housing Payment overpayments are reclaimed in accordance with the relevant acts and regulations.

Sundry Debt

Sundry Debt arrears are collected within a well-established framework. On certain debts, interest may be charged for late payment. The customer will be made aware of any additional costs in advance so that they have the opportunity to avoid this wherever possible. s will also be made aware of legal fees and costs that will be incurred for non-payment.

Housing Rents

The Housing Act 1985, The Housing Act 1996 and The Housing Act (1985 Amendments) in 2002

General Principles

- Full names, contact address and a phone number will be established wherever possible prior to service provision or invoicing/billing.
- All Council bills and invoices will be raised as soon as reasonably practicable and will include clear and relevant information as to:
 - What the bill is for;
 - When payment is due;
 - How to pay;
 - How to contact us if there is a query in relation to the bill or in relation to making a payment.
- All letters and reminders will:
 - Explain what has been agreed and the consequences of non-payment;
 - Include appropriate contact details, including details of debt advice agencies.
- Customers will be encouraged to make prompt contact if they disagree with a bill or have difficulty in making payment on time. Contact can be made by:
 - Telephone
 - Letter
 - Email
 - Fax
 - In person at the Council Offices or One stop shops.
- Problems and bill discrepancies raised will be resolved as quickly as possible to prevent unnecessary delays in payment and incorrect debits.
- Customers are encouraged to make payments, prior to any recovery action, using payment methods such as Direct Debit, Internet Payments, telephone payments etc.

- Where applicable and / or appropriate the Council Departments will share certain data, relating to the customer to enable prioritization of the debt balances, whilst ensuring the customer can meet their other financial obligations.

- Customers seeking help due to financial difficulties will:
 - Be given the opportunity to have their ability to pay reviewed by the relevant collection officers in an objective, professional and courteous manner;
 - Be given the opportunity to have their entitlement to Welfare Benefits reviewed;
 - Be invited to use the money and debt advice services available from the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Benefits Advice Shop (BAS) or other third sector providers.
 - Be asked if they have other debts owing to the Council that they also wish to be considered;
 - Be given access to the Councils' interpreter service if required.

- Payment Arrangements will always endeavour to collect ongoing liability by due dates e.g. Housing Rents or Council tax, and make arrangements for arrears, as this will aid the customer by reducing costs which may otherwise be incurred every year.

- Customers given time to pay should be advised to contact the Council immediately if they experience a change of circumstances affecting their ability to pay.

Specifically when considering further recovery action which may include Bailiff Action, Bankruptcy, Commitment to prison, Eviction or Charging Orders the Council must:

- Have undertaken a review of the history of the debt and attempts to recover it
- Be sure that all disputes regarding benefit claims or other Council Tax reductions have been resolved.
- Have offered or undertaken a review of entitlement to other Welfare Benefits.
- Assess that the customer has assets to cover the debt in the event of bankruptcy proceedings or equity in their property in the event of charging order proceedings
- Assess that there is no realistic prospect of recovering the debt in a reasonable timeframe

- Be confident that there is sufficient information about the customers circumstances and consider if failure to pay is a result of a disability or illness.
- Consider if the customers personal circumstances warrant protection from such recovery action.
- Ensure sign posting to relevant independent debt advice agencies
- Ensure all steps taken are recorded and documented as completed

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING

This policy will be made available to all staff dealing with income collection and recovery. This will be reinforced with training and management supervision of all staff involved in collecting debt.

COMPLAINTS

The corporate Compliments and Complaints Procedure will be applied in the event of any complaint received about this policy.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be managed and reviewed every year and, from time to time, updates and re-issues will be circulated. However, the policy will be reviewed sooner if a weakness in the policy is highlighted, in the case of new risks, and/or changes in legislation. Each service will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to and effective.

Author	Rod Urquhart
Review Date	28th November 2014
Next Review	28th November 2015
Document Version	1.1
Document Location	

REVISION HISTORY

	Description	Date	Author(s)
1.0	Draft Policy	Feb 2014	Rod Urquhart
1.1	Amendments made from feedback	Feb 2014	Rod Urquhart
1.2			
1.3			
1.4			
1.5			
1.6			

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Corporate Debt Policy

Equality Impact Assessment

Corporate Debt Policy

Contact: Rod Urquhart, Revenues and Benefits Service
Updated: 28.11.14

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 deal with customer indebtedness to Denbighshire County Council in a holistic, fair and sensitive manner. The change to the customer / community is to try to resolve payment indebtedness to individual services from one central point, rather than at present and also to signpost cases to the third sector for specialised support.

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

This policy will benefit all customers within DCC regardless upon age, gender, ethnicity, religion, belief, sexual orientation etc. because it is treating the customer as a single entity, rather than a debtor of multiple departments, as such it simplifies and assists in the resolution of debts owed to the Council

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: | <28.11.15

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
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Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th January 2015

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

Report Author: Richard Weigh, Chief Accountant

Title: Finance Report

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2014/15. The report also provides a summary update of the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the council's current financial position.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members note the budgets set for 2014/15 and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4. Report details

The report provides a summary of the council's revenue budget for 2014/15 detailed in (**Appendix 1**). The council's net revenue budget is £188m (£192m in 13/14). The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast under spend of £309k (£327k under last month). Further narrative is outlined below. Savings of £7.1m were agreed as part of the budget and are detailed as **Appendix 2**. The appendix shows that 90% are classed as achieved with 10% in progress.

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

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

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

Relevant service narrative is shown in the following paragraphs.

Communications, Marketing & Leisure - the current forecast is to break-even, although presently the membership numbers at the leisure sites are

continuing to increase and if trend continues it is likely that the Department will show a cash under spend at the year end.

School Improvement & Inclusion – The service is currently projected to under spend by £240k (£226k last month) due to expenditure being lower than planned on Early Years placements for 3 year olds (approx. £50k less than budget) and vacancy savings, relating partly to a secondment to Welsh Government and partly due to the restructures within the service in response to the Freedoms and Flexibilities exercise. The movement this month relates to a further increase in vacancy savings relating to the early achievement of 2015/6 efficiency savings.

Legal, HR & Democratic Services – the under spend is as a result of a vacant post and external income from a successful prosecution.

Finance & Assets – is forecast to under spend by £40k due to the Strategic Property Investments Team costs being less than planned in the year and savings from vacancies in Finance. The under spend will be used to fund restructure costs as part of 2015/16 budget savings.

Highways & Environment Services – the service continues to face a number of pressures and risks in 2014/15. An over spend of £438k is currently projected although the service is continuing to try to identify actions to contain these pressures. Use of service reserves is likely to be considered as a funding option in the current year.

The over spend within the School Transport Service remains at £221k and is based on September pupil numbers and transport needs. There is a Task and Finish Group currently working towards identifying permanent solutions to this problem.

The reduction in income from parking that was seen during 2013/14 has continued along with a continued reduction in Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) income. Management action around the PCN income has now reduced the projected overspend to £200k.

As previously highlighted, there is a concern around the design fees income that the council attracts from North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA). There is a projected an underachievement of income of £116k due to a continuing trend of the number of jobs received from NMWTRA reducing. The service is looking to reduce costs in order to limit the impact of this change however the fee income budget is £221k so reductions in expenditure can only partly rectify the problem.

Adult & Business Services - the current forecast for 2014/15 is for a non-recurring under spend of £43k (slightly lower than the £66k reported last month) due entirely to staffing costs that would normally be charged to the revenue budget being allocated against the one-off Intermediate Care Fund grant for 14/15.

Currently the Cefndy Healthcare and Manufacturing Unit is forecast to come in on budget but historically there has been an over spend at year end. Therefore caution needs to be taken with this assumption as there is an element of risk associated with the external sales market.

Children & Family Services – the current forecast is for a net under spend of £227k (slightly down from the £242k reported last month). The overall under spend is due to several of the agreed budget savings proposals for 15/16 having already been fully implemented this year together with a projected under spend on the specialist placements budget - although the latter has reduced this month which accounts for the small reduction in the overall under spend.

The Council agreed to set aside £250k in 2013/14 to fund adaptations to in-house foster carers' properties to potentially reduce the number of external placements required in future. The business case is nearing completion and it is pleasing to report that 5 foster carers have provisionally agreed to take part in the project. Property Services are currently working on the likely cost implications of carrying out the works

Schools - at the end of December the projection for school balances is £2.605m, which is a reduction of £1.287m on the balances brought forward from 2013/14 (£3.892m). The non-delegated budget is currently projected to under spend by £20k.

Corporate budgets are forecast to be under spent by £170k. It is assumed that any corporate under spends will contribute to the funding of the Corporate Plan. **Corporate Plan** cash reserves at the beginning of 2014/15 were £14.4m. Allowing for projected funding and expenditure during the year, the Corporate Plan balance at the end of the year is estimated to be £15.6m.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The latest revenue position assumes a reduction in balances at year end of £100k compared to a budgeted increase of £163k. HRA balances are forecast to be £1.2m at the end of the year. The Housing Capital Plan forecast expenditure is £5.0m.

Treasury Management - At the end of December, the council's borrowing totalled £148.546m at an average rate of 5.45%. Investment balances were £32.1m at an average rate of 0.60%

Expenditure on the council's **Capital Plan** was £17.3m against a Plan of £39.4m at the end of December. The Capital Plan includes an estimated £13.1m expenditure on the Corporate Plan. A summary of the Plan is included as **Appendix 3** and an update on the major projects is included as **Appendix 4**.

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

A summary EqIA was submitted to Council to support the savings in this year's budget.

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

Prior to approval by County Council, the savings were agreed with Heads of Service and Lead Members, presented to member budget workshops and circulated to staff. The proposals to balance the budget were discussed in detail at member workshops and members were given the opportunity to raise issues prior to the final report going to Council. The Corporate Governance Committee was provided with regular updates as it has an oversight role in respect of the budget process.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

It is important that services continue to manage budgets prudently and that any in-year surpluses are considered in the context of the medium-term financial position, particularly given the scale of budget reductions required over the coming two or three years.

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

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

11. Power to make the Decision

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

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

Dec-14	Net Budget	Budget 2014/15			Projected Outturn							Variance
	2013/14	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Net	Previous Report £'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Communication, Marketing & Leisure	5,958	11,829	-6,130	5,699	12,077	-6,378	5,699	248	-248	0	0.00%	0
Customers & Education Support	2,004	2,960	-515	2,445	2,935	-490	2,445	-25	25	0	0.00%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	4,873	13,382	-8,841	4,541	13,454	-9,153	4,301	72	-312	-240	-5.29%	-226
Business Improvement & Modernisation	3,733	4,945	-1,228	3,717	5,185	-1,468	3,717	240	-240	0	0.00%	0
Legal, HR & Democratic Services	2,445	3,488	-1,108	2,380	3,517	-1,164	2,353	29	-56	-27	-1.13%	-30
Finance & Assets	6,733	13,930	-5,615	8,315	14,124	-5,838	8,286	183	-223	-40	-0.48%	-40
Highways & Environmental Services	19,866	36,006	-17,233	18,773	36,109	-16,898	19,211	103	335	438	2.33%	447
Planning & Public Protection	2,540	4,211	-1,750	2,461	4,739	-2,278	2,461	528	-528	0	0.00%	0
Adults & Business Services	33,505	46,543	-14,345	32,198	47,159	-15,004	32,155	616	-659	-43	-0.13%	-66
Housing & Community Development	1,879	1,581	-164	1,417	1,611	-194	1,417	30	-30	0	0.00%	0
Children's Services	8,779	10,716	-2,320	8,396	10,576	-2,407	8,169	-140	-87	-227	-2.70%	-242
Total Services	92,315	149,591	-59,249	90,342	151,486	-61,272	90,214	1,884	-2,023	-139	-0.15%	-157
Corporate	17,593	45,433	-28,995	16,438	45,263	-28,995	16,268	-170	0	-170	-1.03%	-170
Precepts & Levies	4,593	4,342	0	4,342	4,342	0	4,342	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	13,230	13,330	0	13,330	13,330	0	13,330	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	35,416	63,105	-28,995	34,110	62,935	-28,995	33,940	-170	0	-170	-0.50%	-170
Council Services & Corporate Budget	127,731	212,696	-88,244	124,452	214,421	-90,267	124,154	1,714	-2,023	-309	-0.25%	-327
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	63,840	73,855	-10,124	63,731	73,981	-8,983	64,998	126	1,141	1,267	1.99%	1,109
Total Council Budget	191,571	286,551	-98,368	188,183	288,402	-99,250	189,152	1,840	-882	958	0.51%	782
Housing Revenue Account	-102	13,097	-13,260	-163	13,180	-13,080	100	83	180	263		81

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APPENDIX 2 SAVINGS AGREED 2014/15			Status	Savings
Service Area	Description			
<u>CORPORATE EFFICIENCIES</u>				
Reduce Contingency for balances and impact of Recession	Phase out budget provision over 3 years	Achieved		£k 600
Pension Costs	Introduction of 50/50 Scheme	Achieved		300
Workforce Efficiencies	Includes Removal of Essential Car User Allowance	In Progress		363
Modernising the Council	Agreed target per 2013/14 Budget only - further projects being developed and will be included within Service targets	In Progress		300
Removal of one-off funds	Social Care Additional Funds in 12/13	Achieved		905
Carbon Reduction Commitment	Dropping out of payment scheme	Achieved		150
Capital Financing Budget	Repayment of loans to generate ongoing revenue saving	Achieved		250
Single Status	Scheme now fully implemented, no additional budget needed	Achieved		315
Property Running Costs	Energy efficiency, NNDR reductions	Achieved		120
Insurance Premiums	Negotiated reductions in some premiums	Achieved		20
Inflation Budget	Balance of 2013/14 allocation	Achieved		142
LDP contribution	Reduce Corporate contribution to LDP from £25k p.a to £15k p.a	Achieved		10
				3,475
<u>SERVICE EFFICIENCIES</u>				
<u>Communication, Marketing & Leisure</u>				
Modernise Library Service Provision	Better use of space eg Gallery, Museum, TIC, location and suitability of some buildings etc	Achieved		30
Scala	Reduced Council subsidy	Achieved		12
Clwyd Leisure	Reduced Council subsidy	Achieved		50
ECTARC	Reduced Council subsidy	Achieved		30
Ruthin Craft Centre	Reduce Council's financial support	Achieved		20
Llangollen Pavilion	Reduce Council's financial support	Achieved		25
Youth Services	Reconfiguration of elements of the service	Achieved		40
				207
<u>Highways & Environmental Services</u>				
Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Contracts currently being tendered - increased competition likely to drive down prices	Achieved		27
Environmental Services	Other Small savings	Achieved		10
WAG Waste Target Pressures	Increase in Landfill Tax, costs of collection etc	Achieved		-50
Reduced subsidy of School Meal Service	Increased take up of meals	Achieved		50
Management Restructure	Integration of Environment & Highways into one structure	Achieved		400
Emergency Planning	Savings arising from joint service with Flintshire	Achieved		30
Waste Management	Efficiencies from investment in transfer station and reduced contribution to Sustainable Waste Management Grant reserve	Achieved		200
Fleet Efficiencies	Reduction in vehicle numbers	Achieved		80
Building Cleaning	Renegotiation of Contracts	Achieved		100
				847
<u>Planning and Public Protection</u>				
Review Pest Control	Only carry out statutory part of function	Achieved		20
Review of Planning Policy Service	Reduce LDP contribution	Achieved		20
Review of CCTV service	Reduction of overtime costs and collaborative project	Achieved		65
Review of Management	Management Restructure	Achieved		30
				135
<u>Adults & Business Services</u>				
Cefndy Healthcare	Planned reduction in Council subsidy	Achieved		31
Impact of investment in reablement	Reduced need for care services as more people are able to live independently for longer	Achieved		75
Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	Less people needing residential care due to preventative services and more independent living opportunities	Achieved		150
Reablement Intervention	Reduce need for care services through targeted intervention	Achieved		13
Telecare	Regional partnership will reduce running costs	Achieved		10
Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	Process improvements to reduce admin and other costs	Achieved		90
Social Care Regional Board - Procurement Hub	Better commissioning of high cost placements	Achieved		18
Service Managers	Streamline Management structure	Achieved		60
Day & Work Opportunities	Modernise Day & Work Opportunities (Learning Disability)	Achieved		50
Mental Health Services	Reduce management commitment within service	Achieved		46
Welfare Rights Service/CAB Grant	Channel Shift	Achieved		50
Community Development	Refocus service delivery	Achieved		25
				618
<u>School Improvement & Inclusion</u>				
Special Education	Review of Recoupment and Out of County Placements	Achieved		200
Pupil Support	University related fees	Achieved		8
ABA	Specific budget no longer required	Achieved		25
Training	20% reduction in budget	Achieved		6
Outreach	Budget Re-alignment	Achieved		5
Music & Arts	Review of Service Provision	Achieved		52
				296
<u>Customers & Education Support</u>				
Supplies & Services	Targeted reduction in spend	Achieved		30
				30

APPENDIX 2 SAVINGS AGREED 2014/15			Status	Savings
Service Area	Description			
Children's Services				
Budget used to fund external placements for looked after Children to reflect revised demand	Currently exceptionally high due to type of placements. These will change as certain individuals become adults	Achieved		64
West Rhyl Young Peoples Project	Reduce / remove grant funding	Achieved		41
Social Care Regional Board - Procurement Hub	Better commissioning of high cost placements	Achieved		17
Outcome Agreement	Funding no longer needed in CS	Achieved		69
Tir Na Nog	Reconfigure service provision	Achieved		64
Staffing Budgets	Adjust budgets to account for staff turnover	Achieved		195
				450
Housing & Community Development				
Review of Economic & Business Development	Review of Management Structure	Achieved		50
Non HRA	Review of commissioning	Achieved		10
				60
Finance & Assets				
Property Services	Management Restructure and review of process / admin	Achieved		100
Finance	Includes not replacing vacant posts and reduction in hours	Achieved		75
Internal Audit	Not replacing vacant post and reduction in hours	Achieved		25
				200
HR				
Training	Re provision of service	Achieved		10
Occupational Health	Review of service	Achieved		3
Lead Business Partner	Efficiency saving	Achieved		3
Capital Financing	Investment repaid following 2010 Restructure	Achieved		12
				28
Legal & Democratic Services				
Registration of Electors	Capacity within the budget for canvassers fees	Achieved		30
Registrar	Improved efficiencies within the service	Achieved		20
Civics	Reduction in resource available for civic events	Achieved		5
Legal Library	Reduce expenditure on publications	Achieved		8
Administration	Review administration provision	Achieved		20
				83
Business Planning & Performance				
Improvement Team	Delete Vacant Manager Post	Achieved		81
Partnership & Communities Team	Delete Performance Officer Post	Achieved		45
Programme Office	Reduce Core Funding	Achieved		13
Partnership & Communities Team	Restructure Phase 2 (net savings)	Achieved		68
				207
Schools				
School Reorganisation	Non-pupil related elements of budget (Area 2)	Achieved		150
School Reorganisation	Saving related to Formula Review for Middle Schools	Achieved		80
Schools	Release of Non-delegated contingency fund	Achieved		200
School Reorganisation	Non-pupil related elements of budget (Area 1)	In Progress		88
				518
Total Service Savings				3,679
Total Council Savings				7,154

Summary:	£'000	%
Savings Achieved/Replaced or Pressures Confirmed	6,403	90
Savings In Progress/Being Reviewed	751	10
Savings Not Achieved or Deferred and not replaced	0	0
Total	7,154	

General Capital Plan

Capital Expenditure

Total Estimated Payments - General
Total Estimated Payments - Corporate Plan
Contingency
Total

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Total Estimated Payments - General	26,612	5,103	100	100
Total Estimated Payments - Corporate Plan	12,340	18,173	2,418	394
Contingency	481	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	39,433	24,276	3,518	1,494
Capital Financing				
1 External Funding	18,901	12,141	5,021	4,605
2 Receipts and Reserves	5,557	7,025	562	61
3 Prudential Borrowing	14,975	8,957	1,540	433
5 Unallocated Funding	0	(3,847)	(3,605)	(3,605)
Total Capital Financing	39,433	24,276	3,518	1,494

Corporate Plan

Approved Capital Expenditure included in above plan

Cefndy Healthcare Investment
 Highways Maintenance and bridges
 Feasibility Study - New Ruthin School
 Rhyl High School
 Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy - Dee Valley West Review
 Bodnant Community School
 Ysgol Glan Clwyd
 Faith Based Secondary

Estimated Capital Expenditure

Total Estimated Payments

	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Cefndy Healthcare Investment	441			
Highways Maintenance and bridges	5,373			
Feasibility Study - New Ruthin School	60			
Rhyl High School	5,245	16,074	1,856	333
Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy - Dee Valley West Review	119			
Bodnant Community School	620	2,099	562	61
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	465			
Faith Based Secondary	17			
Estimated Capital Expenditure	787	13,089	30,140	28,222
Total Estimated Payments	13,127	31,262	32,558	28,616
Approved Capital Funding included in above plan				
External Funding	4,036	9,730	416	
Receipts and Reserves	2,931	6,726	562	61
Prudential Borrowing	5,373	1,717	1,440	333
Estimated Capital Funding	787	6,522	11,384	16,920
External Funding		6,522	11,384	16,920
Receipts and Reserves	787	3,744	2,701	3,831
Prudential Borrowing		2,823	16,055	7,471
Total Estimated Funding	13,127	31,262	32,558	28,616

Approved Capital Funding included in above plan

External Funding
 Receipts and Reserves
 Prudential Borrowing

Estimated Capital Funding

External Funding
 Receipts and Reserves
 Prudential Borrowing

Total Estimated Funding

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Appendix 4 - Major Capital Projects Update

Rhyl Harbour Development

Total Budget	£10.622m
Expenditure to date	£10.357m
Estimated remaining spend in 2014/15	£ 0.252m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.013m
Funding	WG £2.613m; WEFO £6.165m; Sustrans £0.700m: RWE £155k; WREN £69k and DCC £0.920m
Comments	<p>Programme</p> <p>The replacement barrier at the entrance to the harbour has been manufactured and now needs to be fitted. This work is imminent. Work will commence this month to rectify the defects identified at the final inspection of the works undertaken with the Contractor.</p> <p>Further to the assessment of the quotations for the works to the boardwalks WREN will issue a contract. The proposed works are likely to commence during January 2015 and will be complete before the Easter holiday season.</p> <p>The project is being audited by the European Funds Audit Team (EFAT).</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£0.428m

Rhyl Going Forward

Total Budget	£14.319m
Expenditure to date	£12.291m
Estimated remaining spend in 14/15	£ 2.028m
Future Years estimated spend	£ Nil
Funding	WG £14.319m
Comments	<p>Former Honey Club Site</p> <p>This project is no longer under the control of the Council, but officers continue to monitor progress to ensure compliance with the Development Agreement.</p> <p>The tenants of the development are confirmed as Premier Inn, operating a 70 bed hotel with Brewers Fayre at ground floor. There will also be a small retail outlet.</p> <p>The agreement between the developer – Chesham Estates and Premier Inn was signed on Friday 12th December 2014. Pre-construction stages will commence in the New Year, with a start on site anticipated during the second quarter of 2015. Construction is likely to take 12 months.</p>

	<p>West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project</p> <p>Green Space Construction</p> <p>Progress on site is excellent with turf now laid and trees/shrubs being planted.</p> <p>Costs remain within budget.</p> <p>A date in January 2015 will be arranged with the contractor for further planting with community involvement.</p> <p>A proposal for Rhyl Town Council to take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance for the site post 2020 was well received following a presentation to the Town Council. Confirmation of a final decision is awaited.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£3.305m

North Denbighshire Welsh Medium Provision

Total Budget	£4.876m
Expenditure to date	£4.679m
Estimated remaining spend in 14/15	£0.112m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.085m
Funding	WG £3.061m, DCC £1.800m, Other Contributions £0.015m
Comments	<p>The Welsh Government has provided funding as part of the transitional 21st Century Schools Programme. This approval will allow for improvement works to be undertaken at three Welsh Medium schools. Work at Ysgol Dewi Sant has been completed.</p> <p>Ysgol y Lllys, Prestatyn This project has delivered an extended, remodelled and refurbished school for 420 pupils.</p> <p>The final completion and handover date for the works was achieved on 2nd September 2014. Any outstanding snagging works are currently being addressed.</p> <p>The final account is expected to deliver an under spend of up to £40k against budget.</p> <p>Ysgol Twm o'r Nant, Denbigh This project has delivered an additional school hall, classrooms and administration area. The project has enabled the removal of mobile classrooms on the site. Handover was completed at the end of August 2014.</p>

	Minor snagging works have taken place over the October half term. The final claim has been submitted by the contractor and this is currently being reviewed.
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£1.844m

Rhyl New School

Total Budget	£24.586m
Expenditure to date	£2.857m
Estimated remaining spend in 14/15	£3.466m
Future Years estimated spend	£18.263m
Funding	DCC £12.293m; WG £12.293m
Comments	<p>The project will provide a new school building for Rhyl High School to serve up to 1,200 pupils in mainstream education whilst also housing approximately 45 pupils from Ysgol Tir Morfa, the community special school in Rhyl.</p> <p>Construction works are progressing as planned; the piling activities completed last month, and work is now underway on the foundations, and the installation of the drains and services.</p> <p>The erection of the steel frame for the building is due to commence in February.</p> <p>The new school is programmed to complete in February/March 2016, at which point the pupils will transfer to the new school, and the existing school buildings will be demolished and the grounds reinstated to school playing fields.</p> <p>The anticipated completion date of the project is August 2016.</p> <p>There is ongoing consultation with key stakeholders which includes the neighbours.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£5.245m

Nova Development

Total Budget	£4.424m
Expenditure to date	£0.011m
Estimated remaining spend in 14/15	£1.549m
Future Years estimated spend	£2.864m
Funding	DCC £4.380m; Other contributions £0.044m
Comments	

	<p>The refurbishment of Prestatyn Nova Centre commenced on 5th January 2015. This scheme includes external environmental work to improve the look of the building as well as the creation of a new entrance , reception, 60 station fitness suite, café, retail units, three storey soft play structure, multi-purpose studios and refurbishment of associated toilets and changing areas throughout the complex. The scheme has also been extended to include the complete refurbishment of the public toilet block to the east of the property together with improvements to the promenade area.</p> <p>ISG, the principal building contractor have been on site since the end of November carrying out enabling works such as asbestos removal, site clearance and soft strip out.</p> <p>The works are expected to be complete by 3rd August 2015.</p> <p>Local residents and businesses have been provided with relevant information regarding the forthcoming works which will result in some limited pedestrian access due to pavement closures and closure of the public toilets. There will be no road closures during the refurbishment.</p> <p>Regular progress meetings will be held between the contractor and the Council's development partner, Alliance Leisure Services Ltd. A separate project team has been established to look at operational, management and marketing of the new centre going forward.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£1.560m

West Rhyl Coastal Development Phase 3

Total Budget	£4.469m
Expenditure to date	£0.185m
Estimated remaining spend in 14/15	£2.700m
Future Years estimated spend	£1.584m
Funding	DCC £0.520m; WG/WEFO £3.949m
Comments	A funding package for this phase of work has now been agreed with the Welsh Government. Internal procurement matters have all been satisfactorily resolved and the scheme has been reviewed by the

	<p>Strategic Investment Group.</p> <p>A contract for the works has been awarded and the contractor will be setting up the site compound during January. The overall scheme is anticipated to take five months.</p> <p>Funding for regeneration/amenity betterment – to include work proposed on the cycle track, car park and shelters has not been secured as yet, but officers will continue to pursue any external funding that may become available.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 14/15	£2.885m

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Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
17 February	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group	To consider the capital bids reviewed by the Strategic Investment Group for inclusion in the 2015-16 capital plan.	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady / Richard Humphreys
	3	HB/CTRS Telephone Recording Policy	Tbc	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson_hill / Rod Urquhart
	4	Council Tax/Business Rates Telephone Recording Policy	Tbc	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson_hill / Rod Urquhart
	5	Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Policy 2015/16 onwards	Tbc	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson_hill / Rod Urquhart
	6	Investigating Intentionality: Implementation of the Housing Wales Act 2014	To determine how homelessness will be administered within the county after implementation of the Act.	Yes	Cllr Hugh Irving / Phil Gilroy / John Sweeney

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	7	6-8 Nant Hall Road and WC Block, Ty Nant, The Former Library and the Central Car Park, Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn	To consider declaring buildings and land surplus to requirements	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / David Mathews
	8	Housing Rents	To formally set housing rents	Yes	Cllr Hugh Irving / Paul McGrady
	9	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
24 March	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group	To consider the findings of the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group	Tbc	Cllr David Smith / Graham Boase
	3	Business Rates Write Offs	To seek approval for uncollectible Business Rates Debts to be written off	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson_hill / Rod Urquhart
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
28 April	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			the Council		McGrady
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
26 May	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline
<i>February</i>	3 February	<i>March</i>	10 March	<i>April</i>	14 April

Updated 07/01/15 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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