

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 22 July 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, 28 JULY 2015** in **CONFERENCE ROOM 1A, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS

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

4 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 June 2015 (copy enclosed).

5 THE FUTURE OF IN-HOUSE CARE SERVICES (Pages 15 - 68)

To consider a joint report by the Chair of the In-house Social Care Task & Finish Group and Head of Community Support Services (copy enclosed) detailing the findings of the information gathering exercise and seeking approval of future actions.

6 IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING ACT WALES 2014 (Pages 69 - 80)

To consider a report by Councillor Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Customers and Libraries (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's endorsement of their original decision to retain the homelessness intentionality test following a revision of the prescribed timescale.

7 BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS (Pages 81 - 82)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Corporate Plan and Performance (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval to write off irrecoverable business rates arrears.

8 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 83 - 98)

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

9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 99 - 102)

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

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, 30 June 2015 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for the Economy; Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care, Adult and Children's Services; Hugh Irving, Lead Member for Customers and Libraries; Huw Jones, Lead Member for Community Development; David Smith, Lead Member for Public Realm; Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Corporate Plan and Performance and Eryl Williams, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education

Observers: Councillors Joan Butterfield, Meirick Davies, Martyn Holland, Merfyn Parry, Arwel Roberts and David Simmons

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM); Corporate Director Economy and Public Realm (RM); Heads of Service: Head of Customers and Education Support (JW), Education (KE), and Planning and Public Protection (GB); Deputy Monitoring Officer/Solicitor (LJ); Strategic Planning Team Manager (LG); Development Planning & Policy Manager (AL); Chief Accountant (RW); Finance and Assurance Manager (SG) and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Barbara Smith, Lead Member for Modernisation and Housing

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 –

Councillor Joan Butterfield – Governor Ysgol Tir Morfa
Councillor Meirick Davies – Governor Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog & Ysgol Trefnant
Councillor Bobby Feeley – Governor Rhos Street School
Councillor Martyn Holland – Governor Ysgol Bro Famau
Councillor Huw Jones – Governor Ysgol Caer Drewyn & Ysgol Carrog
Councillor Merfyn Parry – Governor Ysgol Bryn Clwyd & Ysgol Gellifor
Councillor Arwel Roberts – Governor Ysgol y Castell & Ysgol Dewi Sant
Councillor David Simmons – Governor Ysgol Tir Morfa
Councillor David Smith – Grandson in Ysgol Pen Barras
Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill – Governor Ysgol Clawdd Offa

Councillors Bobby Feeley, Hugh Irving and Julian Thompson-Hill declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11 relating to Cefndy Healthcare. As those members had been nominated by the Council to the Cefndy Healthcare Management Board they had been granted an exemption under the Code of Conduct and permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the item.

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 2 June 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

5 ITEMS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - CABINET DECISIONS OF 2 JUNE 2015 RELATING TO YSGOL LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD & YSGOL PENTRECELYN AND YSGOL RHEWL

Councillor David Simmons, Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee presented the report detailing the scrutiny committee's conclusions and recommendations following consideration of the call-in of the Cabinet decisions in respect of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd & Ysgol Pentrecelyn, and Ysgol Rhewl.

Following careful consideration Performance Scrutiny Committee had upheld Cabinet's decisions and made a number of recommendations in the case of Ysgol Rhewl in order to alleviate community and stakeholder concerns. Officers confirmed they were happy to implement the scrutiny committee's recommendations during the consultation process and report back thereon. As local member for Rhewl, Councillor Merfyn Parry was invited to speak and confirmed he had nothing further to add.

Cabinet considered the report and agreed to endorse the recommendations. For clarity Councillor Simmons agreed to amend the wording of recommendation 3.2 to reproduce the committee's recommendations in full instead of referring to the recommendations in Appendix 1b. This would ensure the recommendations would be reproduced in full in the Cabinet minutes.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) receives Performance Scrutiny Committee's conclusions and recommendations in relation to both decisions that were made the subject of the call-in notices, and
- (b) with regards to the recommendations relating to Ysgol Rhewl endorse the additional work recommended to be undertaken, as outlined below –
 - officers be instructed during the consultation period following the publication of the statutory notices to undertake work to assess and mitigate the effects of the loss of Welsh language provision on the community and to ensure that the loss of a dual stream school will not disadvantage the area's pupils in future

- *further work is undertaken with pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders of Ysgol Rhewl to address their concerns relating to the capacity of the Glasdir site, the transport management of the new school site and road safety concerns for primary school children walking between Rhewl and the Glasdir site, and*
- *that the findings of the work outlined above is reported to Cabinet in the autumn of 2015 when presenting the objections report in response to the publication of the statutory notice.*

6 TOWN AND AREA PLANS

Councillor Huw Jones presented the report recommending approval of funding allocations for Town and Area Plan (TAP) projects following evaluation.

Cabinet had endorsed the TAP review recommendations in January 2015 and agreed to invite Member Area Groups to nominate remaining projects for funding. The evaluation of those projects had been set out in the report against criteria intended to test benefit, value for money and deliverability. Review dates had been set for each project and a contingency allocation made for the Bodelwyddan Town Plan. Councillor Huw Jones commended the work of the Town Champions in their evaluations and presented their funding recommendations.

The Leader welcomed the investment in communities and community benefits arising from the TAPs. He also reported upon future intentions to align TAPs more closely with the economic strategy and highlighted the importance of service departments supporting the plans delivery. Cabinet was satisfied clear processes had been established with an assessment criteria to promote fairness and transparency in funding allocations but sought further assurances regarding the swift progression of projects and match funding elements. The Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm reassured members regarding the robust monitoring processes in place to oversee the progression of projects within appropriate timescales. It was suggested further regular monitoring could be undertaken via an appendix to Cabinet's regular finance report to show progress against spend and funding could be reallocated if projects failed to progress. Most of the recommended schemes had identified or secured match funding and the introduction of review dates would enable the match funding element to be assessed. Councillor Eryl Williams suggested a report back to the Town Champions or Group Leaders to ensure councillors were kept up to date with progress of particular projects. In terms of future funding of TAPs reference was made to the Rural Development Plan, windfarms and European funding as potential sources to continue the investment in towns/villages.

As an aside Councillor Eryl Williams highlighted that local government reorganisation proposals would impact on the availability of external funding. In order that Denbighshire did not lose out in that regard he suggested clarification be sought on the financial implications directly from the Minister and Assembly Members. The Deputy Monitoring Officer/Solicitor agreed to draft a letter in that regard in consultation with the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services.

Members thanked officers for their hard work on various projects and highlighted the important role of the Town Champions within the process. Members also commented on various projects submitted for evaluation and expressed disappointment in cases where they had not been supported with no appeal mechanism in place. Councillor Huw Jones advised that projects not currently recommended for funding may have a further opportunity to bid from reallocated funding if other projects failed to progress. Work was underway to examine different ways of working and potential external funding sources to enable TAPs to continue in the future.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the funding allocations recommended in Appendix 1 of the report.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK & FINISH GROUP

Councillor David Smith presented the report seeking endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations from the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group. The Group had been set up to review the Council's approach to delivering affordable housing and its recommendations would inform the Housing Strategy and be reflected in Council's strategies, plans and guidance as appropriate.

During consideration of the report the following matters were discussed –

- assurances were provided that further detail and timescales in which to progress the recommendations would be taken forward through the Housing Strategy
- there was some frustration that due to national legislation it would not be possible to progress some recommendations as soon as members would like
- much debate focused on the problem of 'land banking' where developers and landowners failed to proceed with development following planning permission and were waiting for land values to increase. The Council had some control over the timescale for developments to commence but could take no action in cases where development had commenced in line with planning permissions but not progressed – this aspect was governed by national legislation. It was agreed that Welsh Government be provided with evidence of the problem within Denbighshire and lobbied to change legislation to require completion of development within a defined time period. Officers agreed to progress the issue outside of the meeting and raised the possibility of a joint approach with other local authorities and putting forward alternative suggestions for consideration
- an explanation was provided in terms of member involvement on the Housing Strategy Group with those Cabinet members having elements of housing in their portfolios being involved at an early stage to provide a member perspective before the strategy was submitted through formal channels – Communities Scrutiny Committee in September and full Council in October
- Councillor Joan Butterfield referred to homelessness issues and difficulties finding suitable accommodation, advising of an existing case in order to illustrate the point, and the need to address the issue as a matter of urgency – officers confirmed that homelessness had been identified as a priority within the Housing Strategy and members would have the opportunity to scrutinise the strategy at Communities Scrutiny Committee in September. With regard to the

existing case referred to, it was agreed that the matter be looked into further by officers outside of the meeting

- concerns were raised regarding the Council's eyesore sites and the need for a more vigorous approach to be undertaken to address them.

Cabinet paid tribute to the work undertaken by the Group and its supporting officers in producing clear recommendations to deliver benefits in matters relating to affordable housing and noted some recommendations were already being actioned. Councillor David Smith reported upon the dynamic approach undertaken, most notably the Supplementary Planning Guidance approved by Planning Committee which permitted the conversion of redundant rural buildings for market housing.

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorses the conclusions and recommendations agreed by the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) to be taken forward through the Housing Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan.

8 DELEGATION OF POWERS UNDER THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 AND AMENDMENTS REQUIRED TO THE OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION IN RESPECT OF POWERS PREVIOUSLY DELEGATED TO THE HEAD OF HOUSING

Councillor David Smith presented the report providing an overview of the new provisions for tackling anti-social behaviour contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and seeking delegation of powers to relevant Heads of Service to ensure effective implementation of the new powers and reflect other changes in legislation and responsibilities following the recent restructure.

The new provisions streamlined tools for tackling anti-social behaviour with six new powers to replace the nineteen existing ones; there were also two new powers. The responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour was shared between a number of agencies and the new legislation encouraged those agencies to work in partnership to address anti-social issues. Examples were provided where the Council could work jointly with the Police on matters involving Community Protection Notices and Public Space Protection Orders. In response to a question regarding powers for dealing with street drinking in the Rhyl area, the Deputy Monitoring Officer/Solicitor advised that subject to resources the Council could exercise its powers in that regard but would need to rely on the Police to assist. She also made reference to one of the new powers – Community Trigger – which gave greater powers to victims to seek a review in cases where they felt local agencies had failed to respond effectively. The reforms were designed to give professionals flexibility to deal with any given situation.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the Officers listed in Appendix 1 to the report be given delegated authority to exercise the new powers and additional functions brought in under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in order to enable the Council*

and its partners to tackle anti-social behaviour in an appropriate, consistent and proportionate way and within resource constraints;

- (b) the level of fines for Fixed Penalty Notices issued as a sanction for breaching Community Protection Notices and Public Spaces Protection Notices be set at £100 which is the maximum under the legislation;*
- (c) the Monitoring Officer is instructed to amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation to reflect these new and amended powers in respect of anti social behaviour, and*
- (d) the Monitoring Officer is also instructed to amend the Officer Scheme of Delegation to reflect that the Head of Planning and Public Protection has taken on the responsibilities under a recent restructure in respect of the Councils housing functions and to carry out a 'tidy up' of the listed legislation set out in the Scheme due to repeals and amendments of legislation which are within the purview of the public protection service.*

9 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 - 2014/15

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report providing an update on the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012 – 17 as at the end of quarter 4 of 2014/15.

The report covered three elements –

- Corporate Plan 2012 – 17 – a number of indicators had been highlighted 'Red' which meant they were identified as a 'Priority for Improvement' or where there was an issue with the data that needed to be raised – an explanation behind the 'Red' status of each indicator had been included within the report and elaborated upon further at the meeting and in response to questions
- Corporate Project Register – there were no projects with a 'Red' Priority for Improvement' status, details had been provided of three projects at an 'Orange' Acceptable level where there were particular issues but they were as expected
- Outcome Agreement – the Council had achieved the required number of points for full payment of the Outcome Agreement Grant for 2014 – 15, however reference was made to two main areas where targets had been missed.

Most Cabinet members had attended training on the Verto Performance Management System and therefore could access information in real time. Training would also be rolled out to Performance Scrutiny Committee members.

Debate focused on the following –

- it was recognised that the green indicator for 'the percentage of principle A roads that are in overall poor condition' could be misleading but it was in fact a positive outcome – unfortunately it would not be possible to amend the wording for the indicator as it was set nationally
- 'the percentage of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) that had a full licence' had missed its outcome agreement target by 8% - it was explained that recent changes to the licensing regime had resulted in an increase in the number of

HMOs which required licensing. At the request of Councillor Joan Butterfield the Head of Planning and Public Protection agreed to report upon the recent changes and latest position to the Rhyl Member Area Group

- the two red indicators from the Residents Survey in which residents had not responded positively to the Council was queried as it seemed at odds with feedback and meetings involving members – the Strategic Planning Team Manager advised that the data was from the 2013 survey and results from the 2015 survey reflecting the latest views would be available later in the year
- members reflected upon a recent training session about Corporate Parenting which had been well received and included an overview of looked after children in Denbighshire, routes into care and the support needs of looked after children and care leavers – members felt it was important to publicise and promote positive experiences and work carried out through the Communications Teams and also discussed their own responsibilities in that regard
- it was clarified that the Council had protected their funding element of school budgets but had no control over cuts to other elements of school funding provided directly by Welsh Government – the management and mitigation of school budgets by the Schools Budget Forum was also discussed.

The Leader stated that the report provided evidence of the robust and challenging processes implemented by the Council. He highlighted the Council's significant achievement in maintaining a consistently high level of performance despite the difficult financial climate and congratulated all those involved. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill welcomed members' comments on the report and asked that Cabinet receive and note the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet receives the report and notes the progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2012 – 17 as at the end of quarter 4 of 2014/15.

At this juncture (11.55 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break.

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 £0.534m was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- savings of £7.3m were agreed as part of the budget and at this stage 72% had already been achieved and progress on the remaining 28% would be closely monitored with a high degree of confidence that most would be achieved
- 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).

The following matters were discussed in more detail –

- in terms of treasury management an explanation was provided on the Council's investment strategies taking into account security, liquidity and yield factors
- some frustration was expressed over the involvement and reaction of some members to the decisions made on the budget cuts and whether those decisions should be more vigorously defended
- much discussion focused on the role of scrutiny's Cutting Our Cloth Task and Finish Group and the Chief Executive reported upon the first meeting during which its terms of reference had been agreed – he clarified that their role was to scrutinise the impact of some of the cuts on the public. It was important to allow sufficient time for implementation of the cuts to ensure an evidence based assessment and measurable outcomes. Members were encouraged to refer specific cuts they wished to be scrutinised to the Group. Cabinet was keen for the Group's outcomes to be fed back to members and it was confirmed that findings would be reported back to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Lead Member or Cabinet as appropriate. Lessons could be learned from measuring the impact and inform future decision making. The Leader was keen for Lead Members to be kept abreast of any work undertaken relating to their portfolio and it was confirmed that the Group's terms of reference allowed Lead Members to be called when matters within their portfolios were being considered
- assurances were provided that the Council was financially better off after exiting the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System and any surplus over and above the Housing Stock Plan would amount to additional funding to be invested in improving existing housing stock or new build.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the budgets set for 2015/16 and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

11 FINAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report on the final revenue outturn position for 2014/15 and proposed treatment of reserves and balances.

Members were guided through the detail of the report and appendices. In brief the overall outturn position showed an underspend against the approved budget which, together with a better than forecast council tax yield, strengthened the Council's financial position. Consequently it was possible to make recommendations for services to carry forward balances and make transfers to specific reserves that would assist in addressing future financial pressures and meet the cash commitments required to deliver the Corporate Plan. The final position on service and corporate budgets was an underspend of £1.075m which was 0.57% of the net revenue budget.

During consideration of the report the following matters were raised –

- the reasoning behind the creation of specific reserves was explained, particularly in social care in order to accommodate peaks and troughs in demand for care packages and placements. With regard to Supporting People, this reserve had been created in order to mitigate the threatened future removal of the Supporting People Grant by Welsh Government – assurances were provided that reserves were reviewed on a regular basis

- grants received by the Council at the end of the financial year were initially allocated to Revenue Grants Unapplied before being processed and reallocated to individual services – there was flexibility during the year and some grants had been reallocated earlier in the year
- it was noted that earmarked reserves had been considered as part of the budget workshops and that they were regularly reassessed and reviewed on an annual basis. In order for comparisons to be made with previous years Councillor Eryl Williams asked for a more detailed report showing both historical figures and future projections with a view to identifying trends
- work would soon be undertaken to review the Council's reserves policy following the requirement that all Welsh local authorities publish details of their treatment of reserves in a manner that could be more easily understood – it was suggested that Welsh Government should also be more open and transparent about their reserves and that the issue be raised with them when the opportunity arose
- in terms of funding for the Corporate Plan it was confirmed that based on current assumptions it was affordable and deliverable – any changes to those assumptions would require a further review and it was recognised that the Council was not in overall control over all elements within the plan
- with regard to the schools balances in deficit assurances were provided that each school had a financial recovery plan in place.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the final revenue outturn position for 2014/15 and approves the proposed treatment of reserves and balances as detailed in the report and Appendices 1 and 2 attached to the report.

12 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

RESOLVED that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1.20 p.m.

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Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	28 July 2015
Lead Member / Officer:	Chair: In-house Social Care Task & Finish Group / Head of Community Support Services
Report Author:	Head of Community Support Services
Title:	The Future of In-house Care Services

1. What is the report about?

This report from the Task & Finish Group provides Members with the results from the first stage of the consultation process regarding in-house social care services, i.e. the information gathered from reviews of individuals and families who use the services. The report also includes recommendations to enter into formal consultation with all stakeholders, including the public.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide Cabinet with the detail from the information gathering exercise and to ask Members to agree to consult with relevant stakeholders, including the public, on the suggested future for each service.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members agree to publicly consult on the suggestions for Awelon, Cysgod y Gaer, Dolwen and Hafan Deg.

That Members agree to enter into a tender for the provision of domiciliary care in Llys Awelon, Nant y Mor and Gorwel Newydd Extra Care Schemes.

4. Report details.

4.1 On 20 March 2014, Performance Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Members' Task & Finish group be established to "examine value for money options for delivering high quality social care services in the County".

4.2 The Group developed an options appraisal for each of the in-house services which was discussed by Performance Scrutiny on 2 October 2014 and Cabinet on 16 December 2014, who agreed 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.

4.3 In January 2015, CET agreed the methodology for assessing the needs of individuals and gathering their views on the future of the service as well as the terms of reference and timescales for the consultation. However, advice was received from the

Consultation Institute regarding the methodology and this clarified that the first stage, i.e. assessing the needs of individuals, was actually an information gathering exercise in order to inform proper consultation, with the terms of reference for the second stage to be agreed by Cabinet based on that information.

4.4 Members will note that the suggestions from the Task & Finish Group below clearly demonstrate that the assessments and views of individuals and families have been taken into account (see Appendix 1 for feedback report) in offering solutions that focus on modernising service delivery through meeting the expectations of Welsh Government and the wider population on what modern care and support looks like, at the same time as focusing resources towards the areas of highest demand while also delivering the savings required.

4.5 The results from the information gathering are as follows:

4.5.1 Hafan Deg

The assessors looked at a range of criteria for the 24 individuals who currently attend Hafan Deg between 1 and 3 days per week and found that most individuals require medium or high level support. The report is attached at Appendix 2.

Locally, there is a range of existing community alternatives which are already used by a few of the individuals as well as a number of residential care homes that offer day care, albeit on an ad hoc basis at present. While most individuals expressed a view that they would not want to use other services, alternatives are available which would meet their needs. It would also be possible to contract for a bespoke service that would enable those individuals who require that level of care to continue to meet their friends together.

The suggestion for Hafan Deg is to enter into a partnership with an external organisation and transfer the building to them, commissioning a day care service within the building and, in addition, enabling 3rd sector agencies to provide early intervention activities for older people that reduce social isolation, support independence and promote resilience.

This would enable the building to continue to be used for the benefit of older people in Rhyl, including those with low level needs who currently attend, while supporting the principle of promoting independence and enabling the existing group of service users to continue to attend together, with the same staff group. There would be a revenue saving of £100k on the current running costs.

4.5.2 Dolwen

The assessors looked at a range of criteria for the 22 individuals currently placed in this 30 bed standard residential care home, including Welsh language, available alternatives and relationship with local community. The report, which showed that most people would be impacted to some degree if moved, can be found at Appendix 3.

There are 13 vacant standard residential beds in a reasonable distance from Dolwen and there are no vacant Elderly Mental Health (EMH) or nursing beds.

The suggestion for Dolwen is to enter into a partnership with an external organisation and transfer the whole service to them, while registering for EMH care.

This would ensure that individuals living there could continue to do so, supported by the same staff as they currently are and accessing the local community as much as they do now. There would be a revenue saving of £200k on the cost of the existing 22 individuals and £75K on maintenance costs as the new provider would be commissioned using standard rates. However, this means that it is unlikely that there would be a capital receipt

as the new provider would need to spend a lot of money to ensure the building meets minimum standards. It would also develop a level of EMH provision in the area, a growing area of demand. Plans for the development of Extra Care Housing within the town will continue.

4.5.3 Awelon

The assessors looked at a range of criteria for the 20 individuals currently placed in this 26 bed standard residential care home, including Welsh language, available alternatives and relationship with local community. The report, which found that most people would be impacted to some degree if moved, is attached at Appendix 4.

There are 8 vacant nursing beds and 8 vacant standard residential care beds in a reasonable distance from Awelon.

The suggestion for Awelon is to stop new admissions and work with the individuals and their families at their own pace to move them to suitable alternatives as appropriate and to enter into a partnership with the owner of Llys Awelon to develop additional Extra Care apartments on the site.

This would ensure that individuals living there have plenty of time to find appropriate alternative provision and that the demand for additional Extra Care in Ruthin (currently 50 people waiting) can be met. There would be a requirement on the landlord to ensure that the community activities currently provided at Canolfan Awelon would continue. There would be a revenue saving of £300k on the cost of the 20 individuals as well as a £165k maintenance cost.

4.5.4 Cysgod y Gaer

The assessors looked at a range of criteria for the 11 individuals currently placed in this 23 bed standard residential care home, including Welsh language, available alternatives and relationship with local community. The report, which found that most people would be impacted to some degree if moved, can be found at Appendix 5.

There are no alternative residential services to Cysgod y Gaer in a reasonable distance.

The suggestion for Cysgod y Gaer is to enter into a partnership with relevant stakeholders (including BCU and the 3rd sector) to develop the site into a 'support hub' offering both residential and extra care type facilities as well as an outreach domiciliary care and support service to the tenants of local Sheltered Housing Schemes and the wider population of Corwen and the surrounding area.

This would ensure that the individuals living in Cysgod y Gaer currently can continue to do so but also develops services that support independence and improved outcomes for others in the local area. While this would result in no immediate saving it would bring together elements of external domiciliary care with residential services, creating a holistic support offer to a low demand area much more cost effectively. This may result in savings on the current costs of external domiciliary care.

4.5.5 Extra Care Schemes

The 3 Extra Care Schemes are owned by Housing Associations and individual tenants pay their rent and management costs directly to them. Each scheme also has an on-site domiciliary care team staffed by Council employees.

Conversations have taken place with those tenants who receive domiciliary care to gather their views on transferring the domiciliary care staff to external agencies. The general feedback is that, if this ensures that the provision of care by individual staff members is

continuous and provides no disruption to individuals' care and support, then most individuals would be comfortable with that.

The suggestion for all 3 schemes is to tender for a care provider for each of them and enter formal consultation with the staff involved regarding transfer of employment. This does not require a formal public consultation as it involves only a change in provider, not the service.

This has the benefit of ensuring continuity of care for individuals and, allowing for higher than usual agency costs to allow for existing terms and conditions, it is still feasible that savings of £80k will be made.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities

The provision of modern social services such as Extra Care Housing supports the priority to enable people to live as independently as possible.

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

The total amount of the savings identified in the suggestions above equate to £680k but not all within the original timescale of 2 years.

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.

A full Equality Impact Assessment can only be completed during the formal consultation. However, the information gathering exercise has shown that there would be a negative impact on many older individuals should they need to move from their current services.

However, modern alternative services would more than mitigate against any potential negative impact on population groups with protected characteristics.

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

The review of services was requested by Performance Scrutiny and was undertaken by a Member Task & Finish Group.

Discussions have taken place with service users and families and the results of this can be found in Appendix 1.

The report has been scrutinised by Performance Scrutiny Committee, who have made the following comments:

- The Committee supports the recommendation that the suggestions within the report should be consulted on.
- It is suggested that the information provided within the Consultation Papers includes concrete examples of the wider vision for modern social care based on models of good practice and sharing relevant evidence and research from both local and national sources.
- The consultation should not be constrained by artificial time limits.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The options contained in this report form part of the agreed Council's Freedom and Flexibilities Budget Savings Proposals for the 2016/17 financial year. Failure to progress the proposals may mean that the potential savings earmarked will not be realised and will therefore need to be substituted by alternative proposals.

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

There are risks to the required savings should the above options not be finally enacted.

There is also a risk of judicial review if changes are made without adequate consultation. This can be mitigated using the support of the Consultation Institute to conduct a thorough consultation, should Cabinet agree to this.

There are also risks to vulnerable individuals' health and wellbeing in the event of a move from their existing services.

Finally, there are risks to the future provision of modern services that support independence if these actions are not taken.

11. Power to make the Decision

The National Assistance Act 1948 and the NHS & Community Care Act 1990 detail Local Authorities' responsibilities for meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals, including the ability to meet needs as the Local Authority sees as appropriate. The latter also includes the power to commission services from external providers.

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COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME'S & DAY CENTRE'S
RESIDENTS/FRIENDS/FAMILY/ADVOCATES

Between March – May, residents and their family, friends and advocates were given the opportunity to give us feedback on their views as to the future of these services. Whilst there was some confusion in their interpretation of the sliding scale numerical key, in which 1 indicated strong agreement and 5 strong disagreement, (with 6 as 'don't know'), some clear themes were evident in the comments they offer. Details of all comments follow but the key messages, which come across strongly can be summarised as:

- All services and the staff who work in them are hugely valued by all who use them, their friends and families. (This has come across in every piece of feedback received and is replicated in the feedback thus far from tenants in extra care housing).
- There is a perception that the quality of care provided by DCC staff will not be equalled elsewhere and that a move/change would be detrimental to service users.
- Nevertheless there is agreement amongst many respondents, that if the same staff continued to be employed and residents did not have to move, it would be far preferable to alternative as long as standards of care are kept to the current high standards.
- The fact that the majority of staff working in the residential care homes are Welsh speakers and respectful of Welsh culture is very important and highly valued.
- Homes were often chosen because of the ease with which friends and family can and do visit, whether or not they are able to drive. Many residents and their families predict that this would not be the case with an alternative home and thus fear that residents would become lonely and isolated elsewhere.
- Loneliness and isolation is cited in many responses, in relation to both day care and residential services. Many service users have forged important friendships with fellow residents and day centre users and are loathe to lose touch with the informal but important support they provide.
- Mention is made many times about the importance of day care to carers to offer some respite to carers to catch up with jobs and have time to themselves as well as the stimulation and company provided to the service user
- Many respondents talked about the particular challenges of change for those with a degree of dementia or mental health difficulties. For this client group, a change in familiar staff and surroundings would be particularly distressing and detrimental to their health and wellbeing. Similar concerns were expressed for the oldest and most frail residents, particularly those who are over 100 years old.
- Many residents are living in the town where they have lived/worked for most of their lifetime, attending (and in some cases preaching in) church, chapel, attending clubs and societies and often bumping into familiar faces when out and about. This is very important to their sense of identity and place in society. They are also often seen by the family doctor who in many cases they have used and trusted for decades.

- Some expressed concern that alternative providers have a higher staff turnover and use more relief staff including those from other countries whose English/Welsh is poor.
- Many people believe that there simply is no alternative. This is expressed most vehemently in relation to Cysgod y Gaer.
- Significant concerns were expressed by family members who wanted reassurance that if there is a change, that they will be given details of any financial implications and a list of alternative service they could access well in advance of any changes.

Suggestions offered included:

- Working more closely with the health board to support residents with health needs and encouraging hospitals to refer to assist with bed blocking problems and to provide step up/step down facilities.
- 1 person suggested combining the homes and having 1 large one rather than 3 small ones, however this is contrary to many messages.
- Enabling the business to become self - supporting and not reliant on local government funding. One idea was to use the facilities at Awelon to provide services for the local community, for example in the late afternoon and evening the lounge, dining room and kitchens are not used. The hair dressing facilities are only used twice a week, in a building that is fully DDI approved. The respondent asks if these excellent facilities not be made available to the wider community.
- Further promotion of the respite and day care services thus ensuring no vacancies.
- One suggested: *'...If payments were taken directly from allowances, it would encourage more people to use the service. Many assume they are paying from their own pockets. Maybe funding could then become less of an issue.'*
- Another person asked (in relation to Dolwen) : *'Why is it not possible for the disabled and autistic of all ages i.e. 16yrs-over 55 as it would benefit considerably for all and make financial sense.'*
- In view of Cysgod y Gaer's geographical location and demographic make-up, one suggested that consideration should be given to developing mixed provision on this site - day care, respite, nursing, residential including extra care. Many mentioned the lack of services in the area and need for flexibility
- Partnership arrangements between the local authorities were regarded as essential. Some asked what is the reason for refusing applicants from out of county when Gwynedd and Conwy boundaries are so near? Neighbouring villages which are in Gwynedd and Conwy are still considered to be part of the general local community where people know each other.

AWELON

- 1) The closure of Awelon is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently reside in Awelon

AWELON – All strongly disagreed with the proposal. Responses are as follows:

- *If I was to move elsewhere my friends would be unable to visit me and I would not know where I was. (entered 1 but presumably meant 5)*
- *The first letter you wrote on this subject (dated 09/02/2015) stated that the closure of Awelon was consequent on the reduced budget. I do not believe closing Awelon saves money. Unless this results in lower wages and lowering care for the residents. The second letter (see the front of this form) states that the closure is a rationalisation due to vacant beds. Why is it that Glan Clwyd hospital has a "bed blocking" problem if there are vacant beds? (5)*
- *Awelon Care Home is in the centre of town and all the elderly friends of my mother-in-law can walk to visit her which they do on a daily basis and could not do if she is stuck outside Ruthin. Awelon has become her home and the thought of being evicted is causing her great distress (5)*
- *I walk to visit my mother every day as do her elderly friends. To move her would isolate her.(5)*
- *This is my home. ALL my friends and family live within walking distance and visit every day.(5)*
- *My mother has been a resident of Awelon for a few years and feels safe and secure there. She has got to know and trust the staff, is very happy with the care she is given and knows there is always someone at the end of the 'bell' should she need them. She is very elderly and we feel as a family any changes .e. a move to another care home would be detrimental to her wellbeing.(5)*
- *As I myself a resident at Awelon I would be extremely upset if it was to close. I am settled here, enjoy my life here in a safe, warm, clean, caring and friendly environment. Awelon's location for me is perfect as I see family and friends regularly, they can visit anytime taking me out walking around Ruthin where I see things familiar faces and I often bump into other people I know.(5)*
- *Any agreement to allow purchase or to lease the management of Awelon by organisations other than Denbighshire County Council amounts to a repudiation of the responsibility as a last resort that is devolved by law upon local councils. Many of the resident clients are in a state of forgetfulness and confusion, with limited capabilities in the areas of physical self-care and mental cognition. Many do not have the financial means to buy care in the private sector and therefore rely on this council provision, which in my view could not be bettered outside the present set up. In an area where profit and time are the main concerns, the undoubted quality of love and care that they now receive would deteriorate. At a time when we face a rise in the numbers of elderly people needing this service it is folly to close what few places are already in existence for any scheme that offers only a short period of relief to a burgeoning problem.(5)*
- *See articulate attached comments in full from the daughter of one of the current residents who used to live there (5)*

- *I agree that for some people there are alternative ways of meeting needs however, for my relative I strongly believe this is not the case. My relative has severe mobility issues and is wheelchair dependant. The location of Awelon enables him to maintain some independence but more so his well-being as he is able to go out to town; attend to his business in the bank/post office as needed. The location of Awelon also enables frequent visits from family and friends also important to his well-being as well as him being able to go to the chapel at Llys Awelon - as a previous 'blaenor' in his local chapel this is very important to my relative. There is no other residential facility in Ruthin that would be suitable and enable my relative to maintain his contacts. An option to re-consider may well be Llys Awelon (5)*
- *To keep residents in their own environment. Ongoing test for my brother to establish suitable accommodation. D is very happy and told the social worker over the moon. Not right to move clients out of their future environment. (5)*
- *The provision of care at Awelon is excellent and meets the resident's needs now. The fact that there are 4 residents over 100 years old shows this. To move or disrupt these people at their time of life would not be fair on them or the staff who have cared for them.(5)*
- *Of course there are alternative ways to meet the needs of residents. But try putting yourself in the position of a 97 year old with Parkinson's disease. 1) forced to leave after 9 years what she fully expected to be her permanent and final home, in which she is fully happy. Asked to leave all her friends - both residents and staff for somewhere undoubtedly more remote from her closest family. I do not think it is being over dramatic to say that she is unlikely to survive the upset. I think she deserves better than that. Further, there are a good many elderly residents of Trem y Foel (and elsewhere, I am sure) who have felt reassured by the existence of Awelon for when they are no longer able to cope alone. With an increasing elderly population , to close Awelon seems irresponsible.(5)*
- *1) The closure and any attempt to move me at this stage in my life would have a catastrophic effect on my well-being. 2) Because of my mental health issues (as well as physical), it has taken me a long time to feel safe and at home here. I now consider this my home and I don't want to move again in my lifetime. (5)*
- *Awelon is more than a care home. My mothers' visits to the day care centre provided her with a much needed social life outside her home. It also provided me as her carer a break and enabled me to keep her bungalow clean. I cannot be the only carer in that position. The social aspect is vitally important, especially for those whose mobility problems make it difficult to get out and about. Awelon is a great asset to the elderly members of the community. My mother died in Awelon three weeks ago. Thanks to the compassion and excellence of the staff there, she was able to die peacefully in the place she called home, looked after by people she knew well and liked. A far better death than in a hospital ward where (judging by previous experience) she would have been far less of a person with far less individual attention. Also, what would happen to the people in Llys Awelon, who were promised food in Awelon, and the loss of the facilities?(5)*
- *Awelon has been at the heart of the community in Ruthin and its surrounding area since 1970. It provides a welcoming and homely environment to me and my fellow*

residents. I cannot fault the care I receive and the staff (mostly Welsh speaking), are caring, and nothing is too much trouble for them. Awelon was my first and only choice. Other residential homes were considered, but Awelon provides a much higher standard of all-round care. I wish to remain in Awelon in Ruthin as I have lived here for almost 50 years. My friends and former neighbours are here and as many don't drive, they would not be able to visit me if I moved away to a different area. I do not require nursing care but I need 24hr care as I am prone to falls. (5)

- I can't see that there are alternative ways to meet my mother's needs. Awelon was her 1st and only choice. There are no suitable alternatives for her in Ruthin. She wishes to remain in a Welsh speaking community, with Welsh speaking staff to care for her. She also wishes to remain in Awelon, so that her friends & family can visit.(5)
- Prior to my mother coming to live at Awelon she was in sheltered accommodation in Corwen, trying to be independent and living alone with a care package in place. The care package consisted of four visits a day, helping her dress, wash, preparing food and helping her back to bed in the evening. This form of care did not stop her being alone for long periods of time, particularly at night. On several occasions, during the night she fell, whilst trying to deal with her personal needs, despite having care line in place she remained on the floor for several hours which resulted in hospitalisation - on more than one occasion these admissions to hospital lasted for many weeks. Since my mother has resided at Awelon, which is now for a period of just short of 12 months, she had only had one hospital admission and that was only for a couple of days. One example of how the care at Awelon has improved my mother's wellbeing and overall health.(5)
- Awelon has been a local authority home for over 40 years. It has a solid reputation especially in the local community. Both individuals and their families choose Awelon over and above other residential homes for these reasons. The staff team and management of the home excel in the care and support they provide, Awelon is truly a home from home. My relative always maintained that when the time came that they needed care Awelon was the only home they would choose and for that reason as family we do not want Awelon to close or its excellent team to change.(5)
- Awelon is very important to the Welsh people in this area. Mr B has lived with his family on the outskirts of Ruthin his whole life and likes to communicate in his language of Welsh. Mr B likes to chat and hear about old times in the neighbourhood with people of the same background.(5)
- There is no similar care provision in the town of Ruthin apart from extra care. My roots are all in Ruthin including my friends, acquaintances, bank and post office where I go with my family to socialise. For example my family take me to the auction and to the craft centre. Because I am a wheelchair user a home outside Ruthin would make it difficult for me to continue to do this. This would have a very negative effect on my life and wellbeing. My two daughters work in Ruthin and they can come and see me regularly because I am in Ruthin. I have my newspaper delivered to Awelon this is important to me. I also use the chapel in Awelon. As a former elder this is important to me and keeps me part of Welsh culture. When I got my motorised wheelchair I could go outside around the town like I used to when I had my mobility scooter. Moving from Ruthin would prevent me from doing this.(5)

- *After retiring I moved to Ruthin over 40 years ago. I have made lots of friends in the area, joined the bowling club and I go to chapel. They look after me here no complaints at all about the place. Most of the staff speak Welsh and that is a big help to me. My friends and family come to visit me often. Because I am close to 103 and having to move from the area I would lose my friends and it would be more difficult for my family to look after me. (5)*
- *My uncle MD is nearly 103 his has lived in Ruthin for over 40 years and he knows a lot of people in the area. My uncle has lived in Awelon for 3 years and is very happy being looked after. He never complains and only praises the place. He was a member of the bowling club and also the chapel so he gets a lot of visitors calling to see him and it is convenient for the family to visit too. The vast majority of the staff speak Welsh and this is a big help to him. If he had to move to a different area he wouldn't know anyone and there would be more barriers to visit and also his friends wouldn't be able to visit him.*
- *There is no other suitable accommodation or care for my husband in Ruthin. I would not be able to visit him if he was outside Ruthin due to my age and my own decreasing mobility. At Awelon he still lives in the community he has lived in for over 60 years, friends (who are all over 80) can visit and he also sees his vicar who visits the home. The lack of regular public transport means I would not be able to visit elsewhere. My husband needs constant care and is not mobile at all - he often has to use a wheelchair. He has difficulty dressing himself and cannot get to bed on his own. He is unable to sort out which tablets he should be taking and when. He often has difficulty feeding himself. At Awelon both he and I know a lot of the carers which is a great comfort. The only other option would be for him to be in hospital.*

2) **If a person or organisation wished to purchase or take over the responsibility for running Awelon, would that be an option you would agree with?** (2 '1's, 8 '2's, 2 '3', 1 '4', 1 'don't know), most '5's)

- *If I was to move elsewhere my friends would be unable to visit me and I would not know where I was. (4)*
- *Why should you want to do this? Are the current staff incompetent? Not in my opinion. The council has the benefit of bulk purchasing e.g. for food, maintenance and energy across its whole remit, including schools. How can any outside agency beat this? The only way an outside agency can run the home cheaper than the council is to reduce staff hours and wages! Both would lead to poorer care. (5)*
- *If conditions in the home remain the same, with the same staff and no additional costs then I would agree (5)*
- *Would agree if conditions, staff and costs remain exactly the same (5)*
- *Would agree if present staff are still employed and there is no change to conditions or costs.(5)*
- *Am neutral because of course it would depend on the level of care any other body would offer. If they could offer the same care and put the residents before profit that maybe something we would agree with (3)*

- *My relative is my mother who is now in her 106th year. Born 10th Jan 1910. While she is still responsive, her memory has become unreliable and concentration powers diminished. She also has considerable mobility and continence difficulties. Being unable to walk or propel herself in a wheelchair she has to rely on the staff to move her about the home. I was present at the assessment carried out on 26/02/2015. This showed a marked deterioration from the last assessment carried out in October of last year. Nevertheless she has good relations with the staff whose care and attention is vital to her well-being. I visit Awelon at fortnightly intervals and have every admiration for the staff who are always caring and considerate. Any move at the moment would, I am sure, result in shock and destabilisation of my mother's condition.(5)*
- *We would prefer that Awelon stays as it is for all the resident's sakes and their families. But if this was the other option to keep Awelon open, we would as a family be extremely happy. (1)*
- *As long as it was guaranteed that my relative's care would be to the standard it is now; if staff received appropriate training as they do now as LA employees and he was able to have care by a mix of Welsh and English speaking carers. An option would be to partner with say Health Board to offer step up/down facilities - a provision that is not available in this area which would maintain bed usage and be able to accommodate current residents (2)*
- *As long as the care is the same principal staffing levels and the costs of care do not increase unduly. Not capable of looking after himself (2)*
- *Awelon is a well-run and caring place. This is due in no small part by the consistency in staff who are well trained. Another person or organisation taking over Awelon may not provide this stability to staff or residents.(5)*
- *If you mean that a private firm should take over the running of Awelon then I could not disagree more strongly. Neither G nor I nor anyone else in the family has ever had a word of complaint to make about her treatment in Awelon. Quite the opposite - we have nothing but praise for the staff. Compare that to the stream of media reports about treatment in private homes, where care comes a distinct second to profit. The thought horrifies me. If that were the only option I would have to consider bringing G to our home and try our best to make her comfortable here. It is not a very practical option but at least we would know she was safe.(5)*
- *This would be good in that it would avoid me having to move home. BUT ONLY if the SAME standards and culture are maintained. Staff have and make time for us as individuals as well as a community and I know this is not always the case in other care homes. (2)*
- *It is the staff at Awelon who make it such a special place, and I would be concerned that the high standards would not be maintained except by an owner with a proven track record. Also, where would people go who were too frail to be moved? (2)*
- *It is with distress that I learn that Awelon could be closing. Certainly over the past 20 years I've had members of my family attending Awelon - Long and short term, always with the best of care by all members of staff. My concern is for a dear family friend I've known all my life and she's certainly in need of 24hr care. This she has*

received at Awelon. The staff are all aware of her needs and give her the best of attention always. She knows her carers and puts her trust in them. I do worry how she would respond to change at her great age. I understand that no definitive decision has been made, so I sincerely hope a way will be found to keep Awelon open for the current residents and for the future use of people of Ruthin and surrounding areas. I trust that a lot more thought will be given and made on the views of the local residents. More importantly the adverse effect a move could have on the present residents of Awelon. (5)

- It is hard to predict whether the excellent level of care I currently receive in Awelon would continue should it be sold to the private care sector. I would hope that the current members of care staff would remain and that the same high standard of care would continue, but who knows? This could not be guaranteed. A profit driven organisation would do things differently, and perhaps there would be a higher turn over of staff? (3)
- It is difficult to say. Yes, my mother wishes to remain in Awelon. However, if a private organisation takes it over, things may not change for the better. Would the current high standard of care be maintained? The whole ethos of the place would change? Would the current, very competent staff remain? Would there be a high turn-over of staff? Private care facilities are prone to close with little notice, as soon as they become unprofitable! (6)
- If this was the only option to keep Awelon open we would agree as the community of Ruthin would miss this vital asset and the residents of Awelon need their home. I do believe the council should make every effort to keep Awelon. (2)
- The location is important to me. This would be dependent on the standard of care and the ability to have care through the medium of Welsh.(2)
- It would be better not to move from the area. I was declined because my care needs were too high to meet extra care plan.(2)
- This would keep my uncle in the area in which he has lived for over 40 years and also keep him in touch with friends and family. My uncle doesn't have any children so he depends more on family. (2)
- If Awelon was run by a private organisation, I feel this would cause great anxiety not only for my husband but also me. I feel it would not be subject to the same standards of care and is likely to have fewer carers and therefore a higher staff to patient ratio. It could close without any consultation. It is likely to be even more expensive.(5)

3) Thinking back to when you or the person/people you represent first moved into Awelon, if ECH had been available, would you have considered that as an alternative to a care home:

If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please use the box below. (some gave no number, most gave 5, 3 '4's 2 '2's and a 1)

- I see no alternative to the council continuing to maintain Awelon (4)

- *Of course all options were considered, however at the time my mother moved to Awelon, Extra Care Housing would have been inappropriate. I believe there is no alternative to the council continuing to run this home. (1)*
- *There is no alternative (5)*
- *Extra Care Housing is not suitable - No alternative(5)*
- *I need more care - There is no alternative (5)*
- *My mother was in warden controlled sheltered housing before going into Awelon. She had carers attending daily. The warden (on site) was stopped and mum felt isolated especially at weekends. She wanted to go into Awelon having had my dad there for respite many years ago she knew how good it was. For her there was no other option. We, her children, are OAP's ourselves and have various ailments which make it difficult to look after her on a regular basis. Awelon is the best care home in the area and we hope it remains so. (5)*
- *There is no alternative option regarding the closure of Awelon. There is nowhere else in Denbighshire where I can be cared for with my illness (vascular dementia). (no number).*
- *I think that the council should consider that the provision already made is better than any of the options given. It retains both control over conditions and a measure of lawful accountability to the public. If improvements can be made they should be out in situ now and not waste valuable money trying to change a system that will be needed much more in the future. (5)*
- *Maybe if the local Heads of Denbighshire County Council and AM Members refused this year's pay rises and insisted that the monies they didn't receive in pay rises or extras..... and would prefer that the money went back into the funds to help keep Awelon and the other care homes open for the residents, future and present. This would surely be a better solution to this ludicrous idea that Ruthin would be a better place without Awelon. (no number).*
- *This was considered but at the time this wasn't appropriate but may well need to be considered again. As mentioned previously offer other facilities from Awelon to maintain the provision i.e. step up/down reablement, nursing beds (there are never beds available for discharge from YGC to the community hospital) use the facility as a community well-being hub, respite. There are many options if the LA partner with others (no number)*
- *No other option as long as the needs are there for the clients (4)*
- *For a start, stop wasting money on that waste of space called a craft centre. I do not know of any local who can understand why so much was spent on that in the first place or of what use it is to anyone. You could even consider selling the site to Tesco for a petrol station which at least would have the merit of being something useful (5)*
- *NO - it is really critical that the local authority retains some care homes for older people that it can manage and run to high standards and set an example as well as provide a home for some of its older members. (5)*
- *In principle a great idea. Sadly by the time Llys Awelon was ready my mother was unable to care for herself. Had she been in there, it would have meant that we would still have been responsible for cleaning, washing, finances etc. All of which can be problematic. Also, no matter how many alarms were there, my mother would never use them. The advantage of a care home was that someone would always hear her cries for help. Would this kind of help give people the same social life? I wish I could think of an alternative. My preferred option would be to keep Awelon as it is, or put it in new ownership with the retention of the staff. (2)*

- *This type of care is not suitable for all and would not have met my needs. The council should look at other non-essential services when considering cuts, theatres, cinemas etc. The residential homes it currently runs are essential to the counties they serve. With the increase in the population of people aged 65+, I think the council is being very short-sighted. Not all people can be cared for in their own homes or in extra care housing. This type of care is unsuitable for me. I need 24hr care and I am prone to falls. Being left on my own overnight would be dangerous/hazardous for me.(5)*
- *Nor suitable for my mother, as she needs 24hr assistance. Make cuts to non-essential services, such as leisure and cultural services. Education and social services should be protected. Rationalise the number of leisure centres, art galleries and small libraries. Is the home library service essential? My mother is an avid reader but she could survive without books. She can't survive without the good standard of care provided by social services and particularly Awelon Care Centre. It has been at the heart of the community of Ruthin for over 40 years. Throughout the UK, the population is ageing. There will be more of a demand for places like Awelon in the future. Extra care housing/homecare is not suitable for everyone. A decision to cease funding for the services provided by Awelon, Dolwen and CYG will have far reaching consequences. It will also adversely affect future generations of Denbighshire residents.(5)*
- *As previously stated my mother moved to Awelon from sheltered housing which no longer met her needs. My mother now needs 24/7 care and would not survive back in the community. We do not feel there is any alternative other than to keep Awelon open. Prior to my mother moving to Awelon we investigated every alternative in the Denbighshire area and whilst all met the minimum standards of care required, and many at substantial cost, only Awelon provided friendly, dedicated and efficient care that elderly people deserve and are entitled to. Some suggestions: A) Perhaps the funding position should be readdressed to enable the business to become self-supporting and not reliant on local government funding. b) One idea could be to use the facilities at Awelon to provide services for the local community, for example in the late afternoon and evening the lounge, dining room and kitchens are not used. The hair dressing facilities are only used twice a week, in a building that is fully DDI approved, could these excellent facilities not be made available to the wider community? c) Is the respite and day care that is provided at Awelon fully promoted within the area.(5)*
- *We have tried this over a number of years and the help we received enabled my husband to remain at home for around 10 years. Sadly my husband's health has deteriorated to the extent that he needs full time care 24/7 and I can't provide that due to my age and own health issues.(5)*
- *Yes, however, extra care did not provide the level of support that is required for my relative that Awelon does. I believe that the council should strive to keep Awelon open and celebrate this excellent council resource.(2)*
- *He came from a care home to Awelon. Think more about the lives of the dear old people not money. They are mothers and fathers to someone, sisters and brothers. Try to find someone to buy the place and run it as it is now. Closing Awelon would be a very silly thing to do destroying people's lives. We need to think of a way to keep Awelon alive. (no number)*
- *I did consider this but at the time being in a flat on my own was not suitable. Rather than moving from Ruthin I would consider this. The council should consider working with the*

Health Board to create a joint provision to include current residents and people who need respite but are not sick enough to go the Glan Clwyd Hospital.(no number)

- *I don't want to go back to Trostant or Llanrhaeadr Hall as I wasn't happy there at all. (no number)*
- *An application was made for one of the houses at Llys Awelon and had an opportunity to go and view it in Aug 2011 but in Oct 2011 we had a letter notifying us that my uncle's care needs were too high to meet extra care housing facility. Before moving to Awelon he was sent to Trostant Ruthin 14/03/11 to 30/03/11 and then to Llanrhaeadr Hall 30/03/11 to 18/02/12. He was not at all happy and complained each time I visited. He was sent by Social Services. Julia Edwards and the family were not contacted at all even though he was paying for it all himself. (4)*

DOLWEN (residential)

1. **The closure of Dolwen is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently reside in Dolwen (All 5s)**
 - *I strongly disagree with this option because all the residents of Dolwen, including my very frail 94 year old mother would be unable to survive with any alternative option than the full time care they currently receive. I do not feel that the claim made on your covering letter that people at Dolwen have been telling you that they prefer to live in their own homes is true as my mother only went to Dolwen on medical advice when she was unable to live independently in her own home. I am sure that is the case for all the other residents too from what I can see myself when I visit and after talking to staff here. Her health and mobility issues mean that unfortunately there is no way she would ever be able to live in her own home again whether she wished to or not. I am pleased that you state that nobody will be required to move from Dolwen unless their needs can be appropriately met elsewhere as I feel that any move would adversely affect my mother's health and well-being and would result in her needs not being met*
 - *F is very settled on Dolwen and has only just had to deal with a move from Grove Hall where she lived for many years*
 - *Where will these clients live as some need more care than others?*
 - *I have been in Dolwen for a few years and it has become my home, if I had to move away from Denbigh my family will not be able to visit me very often. I'm feeling very upset about it*
 - *I don't think there is a home in or near Denbigh that can take my aunt with the care she needs, then to visit her will be a problem. To close Dolwen will be a big loss to the elderly it's such a good home*
 - *Dolwen has good support for me. Good friendly atmosphere. My visitors are always made welcome at all time. The food is excellent and all the staff are excellent*

- *My aunt retired to Denbigh and lived in a bungalow for twenty years before going into Dolwen. It was her choice to go to Dolwen so that friends and relations can visit. If it was closed some would not be able to travel to see her. We are all living older and longer and will need somewhere to go when we are unable to cope. Dolwen is Welsh speaking and provided work for the local community and the residents are well looked after.*
- *Dolwen was chosen because it was convenient for relatives and friends living close by to be able to visit regularly. It is a happy, friendly and homely environment where the residents are well cared for. It is also a Welsh speaking home. If she were to be moved we would not be able to visit as often if it is to a residential home outside of Denbigh. We also have to remember elderly people do not like change they get used to being with the same residents, they get to know each other and split them up and this will upset them. Visitors are made very welcome at all times.*
- *My mother is a long term resident of Dolwen, she suffers with dementia. I would be extremely concerned the effects of a move would have on her physical and mental health. Familiarity with her environment is an essential part of her wellbeing and ability to function on a day to day level. The distress caused by a move and unfamiliar environment for a person suffering with dementia can be catastrophic and one I am not prepared to put my mother through.*
- *The residents of Dolwen are extremely vulnerable and are unable to look after themselves hence why they have been assessed before arriving to the home. These residents are Welsh speaking along with the staff and this could be detrimental to the resident's health and wellbeing.*
- *The quality of care received at Dolwen is second to none in the Denbigh area. The ability to speak Welsh is of great importance to many Dolwen residents as this is their first language. At a time in the life of many of the residents, communication is of paramount importance.*
- *My mother is a long standing resident of Dolwen. She is ninety four and extremely frail. It is in large measure due to the professional care of the staff that she continues to enjoy life. The threat of closure is extremely worrying. The disturbance to the vulnerable residents would very likely to be fatal for many. The vast majority who live in independent sector homes do not receive the standard of care provided at Dolwen. The claim that people have a preference for living in their own homes or supported housing does not ring true. Neither does the claim of vacant beds and reduced demand for residential care. The only reason for the recent reduced waiting list at Dolwen was due to the instruction to halt admissions. In common with many others, my mother lived at home with supported care long beyond the point when it would have been better to enter into residential care. Therefore, I think it is disingenuous to claim a widespread preference for supported living in their own homes. It is usually only when this becomes impossible that the reluctant decision is made to go into a residential home. The assurance that nobody will be required to move from Dolwen unless their needs can be met elsewhere does not reassure anyone. Who will decide on the "appropriateness"? For these reasons we are very worried and strongly opposed to the possible closure of Dolwen.*

- *My mother has settled in Dolwen very well. She gets along with all the other residents. Having lived in Denbigh all of her life she would find it difficult to have to move elsewhere.*
- *I am appalled that the council should even be thinking of closing Dolwen. My aunty has been a resident there for the past 2 years and is very happy there. The staff there are very good and it is very important that they are Welsh speaking as it is the first language of my aunty. Her family and friends live close by and this is very comforting for her knowing this. She is a lovely but frail old lady in her 90's now and for her to move now would be extremely distressing for her. I hope common sense will prevail.*
- *Dolwen is the only home which provides Welsh speaking whose residents use Welsh as their first language.*
- *I strongly disagree with the closure of Dolwen. As many of the residents are first language Welsh and feel there will be many difficulties maintaining this if they are moved elsewhere. For some at this stage of their lives the move alone will cause great stress to themselves and their families and adjusting to a different language and culture (which we should be trying to maintain) is simply unfair.*
- *We strongly disagree with the removal of the service from the locality. The elderly and vulnerable need this local provision. The staff have knowledge of the residents and their backgrounds, their families and the local area. The service provides employment for ancillary and care staff. Client choice should come first, and the service provided at Dolwen caters very adequately for their needs. If payments were taken directly from allowances, it would encourage more people to use the service. Many assume they are paying from their own pockets. Maybe funding could then become less of an issue. The care of our senior citizens in their own area should be paramount to our social care service, people are living far longer. There is no substitute. Please hear our plea.*
- *Following the death of her husband in 1982, Nan was unable to cope for herself, so in 1983 she came to live with us. We cared for her until 2009 when she was admitted to Dolwen. Nan is of a nervous disposition and with her medical needs, the 26 years of providing 24/7 care was very demanding. Nan came to reside at Dolwen in early stages. Firstly she attended Denbigh Infirmary Day Unit and was then transferred to Dolwen Day centre where she got to know many of the carers and residents before becoming a resident herself. Nan has been very happy at Dolwen and has received excellent care and much friendly support. If the worst happened and Dolwen was to close we would be unable to resolve the situation. My husband and I would not be able to give 24/7 care to her. I am in my mid 70's with a weak heart (following a heart attack 12 years ago). My husband is now 80 and has limited energy. Physically it is impossible for her to reside here as her bedroom and sitting room are upstairs - she can no longer cope with stairs. Financially it would be impossible for us to consider anywhere other than Dolwen. She has been there well over 6 years - most of the time she has paid the full charge which has now exhausted her savings and alternative accommodation would cost the full commercial rate. If Nan had to be transferred from Dolwen she would be devastated and unable to cope with new surroundings, and unless several of the existing staff moved she would be completely*

lost. She will soon be 104 years and we implore you to find a solution to let Dolwen Day Centre continue. It is run very efficiently and in a most caring way and the carers and staff are excellent.

- Dolwen has served the community for many years. It has provided a safe 'haven' for the elderly of Denbigh and surrounding area in order to live out and enjoy their latter years. Furthermore, there is a day centre at Dolwen which is an important facility and asset. The elderly make friendships there which could be lost due to closure.
- The residents of Dolwen consider Dolwen their home - a comfortable home and they enjoy the company and close Welsh society that's there. The Denbigh Community is so close to Dolwen. It is not possible to find an alternative way in our opinion
- The resident that I represent/support attends CYG weekly. Because I am a carer 24/7 this facility enables me to have a couple of hours to do the food shopping and such things. Without this I wouldn't be able to look after him at home as effectively.
- There isn't another home in Denbighshire that is 100% Welsh speaking or as good or clean.
- I can't look after myself at home this is why I have come to Dolwen. The staff look after me fantastically and speak Welsh so I can understand everyone. I am not very good at speaking English. I have lived in the area all my life and know a lot of the residents and I am very happy here.
- My relation has been in Dolwen for many years now and is completely settled. Their first language is Welsh and they can hear it spoken throughout the day in Dolwen. There is a real Welsh homely atmosphere. Members of the Welsh community visit to chat and entertain. They will break their hearts if they have to move. They pay the full amount for their place and they hope to be here for the rest of their life if possible. They are in their 90's and they really hope that their final days are at Dolwen.
- My husband has been cared for with such excellence at Dolwen. I don't feel he would receive such care in the private sector. He is always spotlessly clean (despite his double incontinence) and completely odourless which is, in itself, an achievement. I am too ill and disabled to care for him at home and our house is not suitable.
- There remains a need for residential council led homes in the county. Firstly, these homes are monitored for standards of care, be this from the care staff provide to residents, to the overall environment of the building itself. Residential homes should be available for all county residents within their own environment when such a need occurs. Yes, its good to keep people at home, however, with an ever ageing population - which will continue to grow, a time comes in most people's lives from the age of 85+ that one cannot guarantee that being at home is the safest environment for them to be. As residents who pay rates in the county all ones working life - having such a facility local is the least I expect.
- Due to an ageing population there is a need for council residential homes, people who need this service want be near to their relatives and friends so as not to be isolated and able to speak their language (i.e. Welsh). They have usually been living within the county paying rates etc. It is the least they could expect to be within their own community!

- *It is essential that these homes are kept. The generation here worked since they were very young 14 yrs. old, many of them did the work of the men during the 2nd world war and in their hour of need are being thrown out of their "Home". This isn't going to be good for their minds and when they are in their 90's it is important that they can speak their mother tongue - Welsh - and stay within their community in order for family and friends to visit because these are also older and infirm*
2. **If a person or organisation wished to purchase or take over the responsibility for running Dolwen, would that be an option you would agree with?**
- *If the organisation run Dolwen on the same care principal they have now (2)*
 - *If the company who took over were a reliable company and willing to employ the current staff(2)*
 - *The nature of who owns Dolwen does not particularly matter to me as long as any new owner would guarantee to maintain the excellent standard of care that is currently provided. I would prefer things to stay as they are as that way more assured that the care level will be kept as it is now and my mother's well-being would not suffer any disruption that a change of ownership would probably bring. (3)*
 - *Dolwen should not be closed. This is where I am very happy.(5)*
 - *If it was sold to a private sector then standards would fall in order to make more money. And the residents of Dolwen would suffer. The council should have an obligation to provide care for the elderly of Denbigh which Dolwen is doing and doing very well. (4)*
 - *I would not agree with that option, whoever took it over would want it to make a profit. The standards at Dolwen are excellent, clean, good food, resident well cared for and staff are excellent with the care they provide and friendly. Having been to see other homes, Dolwen was far better and a much happier atmosphere and environment for the residents.(5)*
 - *I would agree as long as the standard of care was not reduced in any way and I would also prefer the staffing to remain the same. A change of staffing can also cause distress, familiar faces are essential for my mother, she has built up a good relationship with the staff at Dolwen who she trusts.(2)*
 - *The residents have a good relationship with the staff who some have worked for over 30 years plus. If this is done the residents will have new faces (who are not as experienced as the staff at Dolwen today) which could confuse their situation even more and again is detrimental to the residential health and wellbeing.(5)*
 - *It would be an option if the quality of care is not diminished. If the staff levels and nationality of the staff were the same. The introduction of foreign staff (cheaper labour) with the inability to speak Welsh would be unacceptable.(3)*
 - *I would agree with this if it meant the home would be kept open and the same staff would remain. Also that the council could inspect the property at least twice a year to know the same standard of hygiene and care was being carried out.(2)*
 - *Yes, any organisation which can see the need for the access of Welsh to be spoken primarily would be coming from the local area(1)*
 - *As long as the running of Dolwen is kept fairly similar to as is now and any disruption to the residents kept to a minimum it seems the best option by far.(2)*

- *If Dolwen was sold or responsibility transferred, it would be preferable to closure, as to be removed to another area would be confusing and detrimental to the clientele, both in the residential and day care facility. Out of locality brings problems for residents and their families. Travel is often difficult for the aged and disabled. Many private sector homes do not provide transport for day care. There is peace of mind in emergency situations that Dolwen is nearby for carers and family. Many may not drive. Family doctors are available with knowledge of their patients. Denbigh Infirmary is across the road. Community benefits include visits by local schools, local organisations, councillors etc. These people know most clients personally which creates stimulation and opportunities for conversation. Dolwen is a local care facility and in our opinion should be allowed to remain so.(1)*
- *Only as a last resort to prevent closure. Dolwen should remain within the ownership of DCC, Once it's gone it's gone! (2)*
- *This would be preferable to closure. You would also need to ensure that the homely and Welsh atmosphere would be kept.(2)*
- *It depends if everything can be kept the same especially the staff.(6)*
- *The staff are especially good at looking after me and know everything about me and my family. Also I understand everything in my life and how I have come to be here. If I have to move I wouldn't be able to look after myself as well as the staff at Dolwen.(5)*
- *If I have to. If you can ensure that the new owner keeps the homely Welsh atmosphere that is there now I would be happy for my relation to stay there.(2)*
- *Selling to outside organisations means that have to make profit and this will come before resident's care quite often. I have seen examples in my working career across North Wales, visiting clients in private homes, where their living accommodation did leave much to be desired, given the high fees being charged.(5)*
- *It depends on who takes over. Are the staff going to be staying, will it still be Welsh in its ethos, and will it be run as it is at the moment? Or are they out to make as much money as they can out of the elderly like so many other homes the length and breadth of the country. What is going to happen to these people when their money runs out? At the moment your council has taken over their home and if these people ask for ????(crogbri) for care there won't be any left and what then?(6)*

3) **Thinking back to when you or the person/people you represent first moved into Dolwen, if ECH had been available, would you have considered that as an alternative to a care home:**

If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please use the box below.

- *What other option is there for these clients (5)*
- *Preferable that Dolwen remains open and ran by local authority (5)*
- *Because we tried our best to support our mother with help from social services in her own home for two years, but became impossible due to the deterioration of her illness - Alzheimer's and her general health. Sell the 3 homes and build one new home to accommodate the current clients plus any future clients, a central location in the South of the county. Saving would also be made of staffing costs.(5)*

- *Even if extra care Housing had been available when my mother first moved to Dolwen it would not have been a viable option for her. She already had carer visits three times a day and it was adjudged by the doctors after she fell again that she should not be left unattended at any time and needed constant 24hr care for the rest of her life. (5)*
- *No as this was not suitable for me. Dolwen should be kept open (5)*
- *Because it would not have been suitable. She was unable to cope for herself in the bungalow. Dolwen should be kept open. I can't understand why something like Dolwen should even be considered for closure, I've never heard a bad word said about Dolwen and the residents get to know each other and the staff and it's like one big happy family(5)*
- *The extra care housing, if there had been one in Denbigh, would not have been suitable. It would have been similar to living in her bungalow, and I feel she would become isolated as she does need bit of encouragement to join in activities and outings. In the extra care housing, it is up to the residents themselves to organise these. I think the council should be looking after the elderly by keeping Dolwen open. The council should be ashamed of themselves to even consider closing Dolwen because there may be a time when they will be looking for a residential home for themselves and a convenient place for their relatives and friends to visit them.(5)*
- *My grandmother needs around the clock care by doing this it could be a set back and also she is happy in the company of other residents and is not alone at any time which is a great comfort and reassurance for her and our family. These residents are all from the Denbigh area and to move them to an alternative place of home is NOT an option as they are familiar to their surroundings and all residents speak to each other about their past and have an understanding as the area is known to them.(5)*
- *The situation with my parent meant there was no alternative than an admission into full time care. I think without this it would no longer be alive. The attention to detail the staff provide at Dolwen have improved my parent's life quality beyond measure.(5)*
- *At the time my mother moved into Dolwen she did not feel safe in her own home and putting extra help would not have helped her (5)*
- *Combine 3 into 1 with one side Welsh speaking and the other English. Financially leave well alone.*
- *There is no alternative to local provision by local staff who have, over the yards created "home" for the aged and vulnerable and who have become dependent on the excellent service that has always been provided there. The inability to fund this would be shameful. It would be disgraceful to close down such an invaluable service. We sincerely hope a solution can be found and that the closure NEVER happens.*
- *This is a hypothetical question. DCC should wait until the outcome of the election. A new government may provide extra funding to keep Dolwen open. Denbigh Town Council is opposed to the closure. DCC should make cuts in Chief Executives salary, NO to pay rise. Also cuts in cabinet members pay and county councillors pay. Finally I believe the care of the elderly and vulnerable should be kept in house. As before we had a proud reputation and a good record for the care of the elderly and we need to continue so.(5)*
- *This would not be possible. Require assistance to get up and move around. We beg the council to exercise restraint - things are going to change under the new government perhaps. Wouldn't it be better to keep your assets and focus on running it more professionally.*

- *Look more at wasting money like high wages, planting trees on the High Street in Rhyll!! Consultation and so on.(5)*
- *I enjoy the company at Dolwen and my family and friends can come to visit me often and the staff here welcome them whatever time, day or night. I don't feel lonely here. I am very happy in Dolwen, everything is clean and the food is fantastic. I like speaking to the residents and staff about my life and they are knowledgeable about the area so it is easy to communicate with people in Dolwen. Through communicating in the medium of Welsh helps me to understand everything that is happening at Dolwen(5)*
- *Our relative couldn't cope at extra care housing. I strongly believe there is a duty on the council to ensure there is at least one home with a Welsh atmosphere and language in Denbighshire. It is a Welsh area both in language and culture and this is promoted in Dolwen. I looked around before deciding that Dolwen was the suitable for my relative. Our elderly people have the right to spend their final years in a Welsh language/Welsh culture atmosphere in their own country where possible. I appeal to you as a council to consider carefully every step you can before deciding to close this unique home. Is there a chance for you to put on hold such a critical decision so quickly, given that the political climate/financial is likely to change.*
- *My relative was no longer able to care for herself, was no longer safe to be at home without 24hr supervision and the cost of providing such care where one has to have someone sleep in 7 nights a week is beyond most people financial ability. We have a duty of care for our elderly I suggest strongly that you live up to your responsibility and keep Dolwen open for the thousands of local people who contribute via taxes and rates to maintain this facility for future generations to come. It is your responsibility and closing it or selling it should go out to public vote before you proceed further.(5)*
- *My aunt was no longer able to look after herself so had to go into a care home, the most important thing when considering where was: cost and Welsh speaking staff. Dolwen provides both. So I think the county needs to be able to offer this to its residents, people who have supported it for many years!(5)*
- *My sister in law is no longer able to look after herself, she was unable to walk because something had happened to her feet. I had looked after her for 8 years but following her falling more than once I took her to the hospital and then to the home which provides excellent care to her. She needs two members of staff to lift her using the hoist, she is a permanent wheelchair user. The nurse from hospital comes to treat her legs three time a week and another one comes to maintain her catheter. This service is very important to her.(5)*

DOLWEN DAY CARE

- 1) **The closure of Dolwen is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently use Dolwen**
 - *It's a valued service which I don't want to lose as it provides me with an opportunity to go out, meet new friends and enjoy the stimulation of activities. This service has enhanced my life and also enables my carer to have some quality of life to enjoy doing things he required to do for himself.(5)*
 - *Please state what alternative ways have been highlighted. Transport to venue who will fund? Cost to user? Private owner or Council funded. Overseen by Social*

Services? Choice of days of attendance by users. Who decides if it's a suitable alternative - as officers have no experience of use/services. Have council considered the social interaction and community aspect for users and national survey results regarding depression loneliness of single persons living alone.(5)

- *Not in the Denbigh area. I have heard there is a day centre opportunity in St Asaph, but I want to stay with Dolwen (1?)*
- *Before my days at the day centre I spend all week at home with just my carer. Since day centre, I meet people my age and talk about old days etc. I feel the centre helps me and other people mix plus it gives carers a day off.(5)*
- *If there are always alternative ways to meet the needs of the elderly. However, in the case of my mother who is very disabled, partially sighted, severely deaf with very limited mobility, day care is vital for her well-being. It allows her to socialise with people her age. It stimulates her mind with quizzes and games and finally gives me two days a week break from caring full time for mum.(4)*

2) If a person or organisation wished to purchase or take over the responsibility for running Dolwen, would that be an option you would agree with?

- *If an organisation purchased the service and it didn't change what I presently receive I would be happy to give the service a trial period. Without knowing who or what is being offered makes it difficult to make a decision. I do not want to lose the services I presently receive as it would have an impact on mine and my carers life.(2)*
- *Private sector charges would be too high. Assessment of venues cause for concern. Are private sector employees for day care assessed to same level as Council employees? Ratio of staff to clients would this be assessed to council requirements? National media have highlighted many cases during the past year which is a cause for concern.(5)*
- *I don't care who takes it on as long as it keeps going so my wife can go there. She likes going there 3 days a week, she wishes she could go every day to Dolwen Day Centre (1)*
- *I agree as long as prices are the same plus the staff were the nurses who are there now. As when like me you get old you don't like change(2)*
- *I would only agree to some other organisation taking over Dolwen if continuity of care would continue. It would be important to my 90 year old mother that: 1) the same staff would be employed. 2) the same residents would attend. 3) The quality of the food would not diminish. 4) The same high quality of care would be given. Adjusting to a new environment is difficult for the elderly. Also developing new friendships is difficult and building trusting new relationships with staff is not easy.(2)*
- *Attending centre gives us the opportunity to converse freely with all who attend centre including staff. Why is it not possible for the disabled and autistic of all ages i.e. 16yrs-over 55 as it would benefit considerably for all and make financial sense. To close it would be wrong for every reason. All*

alternative flats etc. would not be suitable as that are not staffed to give medical service or trained for 24 hrs use and needs.

3) Thinking back to when you or the person/people you represent first moved into Dolwen, if ECH had been available, would you have considered that as an alternative to a care home. If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please use the box below.

- *If there is a financial change when or if the service is to be changed it would be advisable to share the information with me prior to any changes being made. If changes go ahead will I receive a list of alternative service I could access?*
- *No option in Denbigh. I like Dolwen and don't want day centre in St Asaph because I would lose touch with my friends - and in any case it would mean my husband (who needs the break) would have 1 hour a day less of a break, because transport to Denbigh is 30 minutes each way.*

HAFAN DEG DAY CARE

1) The closure of Hafan Deg is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently use the centre.

- *It would be a great loss to those attending Hafan Deg. Speaking on behalf of my husband - I know it would be very confusing for him to leave familiar surroundings - friends and staff. I have peace of mind knowing he is well cared for and enjoys attending. It has also provided me with much needed respite. (5)*
- *I have been attending Hafan Deg for 13 or 14 years. I pay to go and would miss it greatly - I do not want to go anywhere else and I will not go anywhere else - I've made many friends there and would miss them greatly - so please do not close Hafan Deg. I think I pay enough to help keep Hafan Deg open.*
- *My husband goes here, I am ill as well and this is my only respite he couldn't go anywhere by himself as he has had a stroke and can't go to toilet by himself so if it closes I would be looking for respite as I can't cope.(5)*
- *The proximity of Hafan deg to residents in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area is very important to users of this service. It would not be easy to travel longer distances to another centre.(5)*
- *The closure of this centre will certainly compromise the health and welfare of the clients that attend. In particular my husband already struggles when anything changes in his life. He becomes agitated and seriously disorientated. This centre has now become a part of his life and after taking a very long time to settle he is now orientated and feels safe.(5)*
- *It took me a very long time to get my mum to go here as she hides away a lot as she is very shy when she goes anywhere, so when I did get her here it took her a bit to settle in but I seen her happy in a long time (5)*

- *I strongly disagree of this centre closing, as I have been going there for over 11 years and made lots of friends and the staff and look at them as my family. If there is a day I do not attend I really miss it as I suffer depression and get very lonely sitting at home on my own as I can not get out a lot on my own this is why I look forward to going. Please don't close it down. (5)*
- *Elderly people need somewhere to go and meet other people, especially those who live on their own, this pending closure owing to financial cuts, will hit the most vulnerable in our society, namely the old, infirm, and those less able. It will also affect myself, I rely on Hafan Deg day centre for my lip reading classes, I have been retired for the last ten years, and owing to my profound deafness - my only socialising is my lip reading class without which I would be house bound. I hope you will rethink this proposal of closing down this day centre which is a lifeline as I have aforesaid to the most vulnerable in our society, such as those in my predicament that life has dealt so cruelly. Every generation goes through this phase of getting old, which brings omits own maladies, and I wish those in authority who have thought up this closure scheme, would stop and think of the distress and confusion that it will bring the elderly people that attend this and other council run day centres. It in some cases affect their partners, and families who need respite as well as bringing hardship to the staff of the centre. Please think again! These centres and other buildings of care were seen by progressive thinkers who placed the needs of elderly as paramount in a civilised society. As these threats of closure will turn good deeds into draconian measures, sending the welfare of the elderly and vulnerable back centuries. It is times like these that fat cats in government and local government stop lining their own pockets, and take a pay cut, which would hopefully safeguard the services to the elderly and vulnerable(5)*
- *Hafan Deg have good craft facilities, day trips, lunches out, staff take me to medical appts, staff help with my financial difficulties (5)*
- *I enjoy company, carrying out little jobs in the workshop. I would prefer it to stay open for as long as we can but I understand if the funding runs out. Too many clubs have closed down.(4)*

2) If a person or organisation wished to purchase or take over the responsibility for running Hafan Deg, would that be an option you would agree with?

- *It has been suggested an alternative might be St Asaph. I would only agree if transport would be provided as I am not happy driving in the winter months.(4)*
- *If whoever took over Hafan Deg kept the staff, who are really great and kept the place running more as it is now. I would miss it greatly it gets me from the flat being picked up and brought back. I pay £188 more a month some don't pay; why? I do not want to go anywhere else. Keep Hafan Deg OPEN I and the rest of us so keep Hafan Deg open. We are happy at Hafan Deg. Hafan Deg OPEN - Please we love it and staff (2?)*

- *This would be acceptable if all remained the same, but a change in the provision structure and staff would impact seriously on my husband and I believe all who attend. This is not just about looking at ensuring people's needs can be met. The nature of the illness is about feeling secure and safe in the environment that they have come to know, staff and structure. Obviously needs also are a priority but I don't think anyone is looking at a holistic approach. (2)*
- *I agree as long as the conditions are the same as Hafan Deg day Centre I would not like a private firm to take over. (2)*
- *I think if you close this place it will be a big mistake as all the old people really look forward to going there. Some go there because they have no family to even call around to see them from day to day.(3)*
- *So long as Hafan Deg stays open I really don't mind who runs it as all the people who go here are so lovely and it's like home from home.(2)*
- *As long as the same level of support and activities carry on, and the same staff (1)*
- *If it continues to run as it does now(1)*
- *So long as Hafan Deg stays open I really don't mind who runs it as all the people who go here are so lovely and its like home from home. (5?)*
-

3) If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please indicate.

- *There will be no other option for my mum as she finds it very hard to meet new people at her age. She has been going for over 11 years now and she looks forward to getting up and going. When I first told her to go she was "like no way am I going there" and now is and when she can not go she misses it i.e. when she is ill or it is closed for bank holidays. Please keep this place open as you have a lot of people going there and they will be upset if it closes.*
- *No there is no other option for me as I am very shy when having to meet new people as it took me a long time to settle into Hafan Deg Day Centre and I feel at my age 75years old I don't think I can do this all over again, so if it does close my life will be sitting at home 7 days a week and this is not something I want to do.*
- *Reconsider closure plans, improving funding for craft activities*

CYSGOD Y GAER

1) The closure of CyG is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently use the centre.

- *My dad has been with the residents of Cysgod y Gaer for almost 10 years and his care has been faultless for the entire time. He has my mum and several friends that are reasonably local to CYG but all of which have poor or diminishing mobility and who would find it difficult to visit if he were somewhere other than Corwen. I stay with my mum and if the home were to shut this would also affect the convenience to see him. There are few homes that would also be able to cater for his needs as he is not ill enough to warrant a nursing home but does require care over and above the usual level.(5)*
- *DCC should be ashamed of themselves to think about closing CYG. We the residents pay our way here don't we, and we have paid rates all our lives on our homes.(5)*
- *Please do not close CYG as it is a very popular residential place. The staff at CYG are second to none very kind, very thoughtful and loyal to all the residents.(5)*
- *We are related to GW and DR. We are sisters and also pensioners whose birthplace is also Betws GG and empathise greatly with G's wish to remain within a Welsh community. We currently live in Ruthin which is about 12 miles from Corwen and as we both still drive makes visiting relatively easy at the moment. if, however, G is moved out further afield, the situation could be very different. We would also be very concerned if she is moved to a home where there is little or no bilingual provision and feel that this would be a contravention of her human rights. There is a risk that moving G could affect her health leading to long term stay in hospital if there is nowhere suitable for her to go. G's sister would also be affected. She may not be able to visit her sister as often (currently twice a week as she uses a local bus service enabling twice weekly visits to CYG)*
- *The council is wrong. There is a need for a facility like CYG, because some people will need residential care, 24hr supervision, and more help than one carer visiting can provide. The people in CYG may have been supported at home until they had to move in. The alternative accommodation is either in Llangollen, Ruthin or Denbigh outside the community.(5)*
- *Before my parents became permanent residents at CYG my mother had a care package at home but my father refused to have a care package. They drank heavily and would often leave the key in the lock so care staff could not get in. They didn't eat even though hot meals were being delivered and hadn't got dressed for months on end! Even with care package in place my parents were living in squalor. They were both admitted to hospital before they went to CYG for respite. It was then decided that they were not able to look after themselves. It has been a year and the difference in their health is very much improved. They now eat 3 meals a day. They have both put on weight and look healthy. They are able to talk to other people whereas at home there were isolated. They take their medication. It has also taken the worry away as I know they are well looked after and have 24hr care. At home the phone would often not be put*

down properly and so I couldn't check if they were ok. Going home is not an option for my parents and I live too far away.(4)

- I strongly disagree with this statement. I believe that CYG is the only care home in the area and that there are no alternative options for the residents, unless the residents are uprooted and placed in care homes miles away. This will have a big impact on the residents, who are all elderly. Some have families and some do not.(5)*
- I feel that there is no suitable accommodation in the local area as I visited the local options and feel that this would cause extreme distress. The out of area options are not suitable and would cause a huge amount of problems. The care at CYG is exceptional and cannot see this happening elsewhere(5)*
- As a family we are very concerned about DCC's intention to close CYG in Corwen. Even though there is consultation around the future of the home, isn't it true that the decision to close has already been made and this letter is just a formality?(5)*
- I strongly agree that they should not close CYG. I will be 91 this year and I have been very happy since coming here in Dec 2009. So I am against moving out of my environment to an area that is totally strange to me. Welsh is my first language. Most of the staff and residents at CYG are Welsh speakers. I would not be happy moving to a home where the majority are not Welsh(5)*
- You should not close CYG. I am the sister in my 80's of G and I still live in Betws GG, my birthplace which is 6-7 miles away. At the moment I can utilise the bus service which take me from door to door to see my sister. This bus service is extremely convenient to someone my age. Also I enjoy having dinner with my sister when I visit her twice a week. If they close CYG and G has to move to somewhere else this will make it much harder for me to visit her regularly.(5)*

2) If a person or organisation wished to purchase or take over the responsibility for running CyG, would that be an option you would agree with?

- This would only be a suitable option if the person or organisation who took over the responsibility were to provide and maintain the existing level of care without any disruption to my dad's current care.(2)*
- As long as the staff here presently would be employed at this residential home care, why don't you come here yourselves DCC and see the staff at their work. The staff at CYG are second to none.(2)*
- Only if they would consult the relatives and keep all the present staff(2)*
- We would be more than happy for another organisation to take over CYG if it means that G can stay. In view of its geographical location and demographic make up, consideration should be given to developing mixed provision on this site - day care, respite, nursing, residential including extra care. The local community needs these essential health and social care facilities. If an extra care facility (or supported housing) was available when G moved in Dec 2009 this would have been deemed more suitable at the time. She had no choice but to go into a residential home if she wished to remain within her local community. Partnership arrangements between the local authorities is essential. What is the*

reason for refusing applicants from out of county when Gwynedd and Conwy boundaries are so near? Neighbouring villages which are in Gwynedd and Conwy are still considered to be part of the general local community where people know each other. It is a great pity that provision at CYG has been scaled down over the years and that no permanent residents are accepted any more.(2)

- *There is a real need for standards in the care home sector to be maintained and set an example and standard to aspire to. A commercial organisation would need to make a profit margin and push up costs for the council. It would not be accountable to the local people. It seems wrong to upset a successful home. (5)*
- *This would depend upon whether is remained affordable(3)*

3) If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please indicate.

- *I have thought long and hard about whether there are any alternatives for dad and don't believe that there are. Many of the private homes are far away and would make it difficult for him to maintain his existing visitors. The move from his current home may have a huge negative impact on his existing poor health. Many of the alternative homes may not be able to cater for my dad's needs. The staff are so familiar to my dad I just can't imagine that the upheaval of not just moving but losing the carers who have become like his family.(4)*
- *There is no alternative and I wish DCC will have in time visit CYG and see how tis care home is thriving.(5)*
- *The council should think ahead that some of the councillors might need a home or residential place to go when they can't look after themselves, think ahead DCC(5)*
- *By the time my relative moved in, she needed medication administered up to 6 times a day and two people to assist her when seeing to everyday needs. Extra care housing would not have worked. The council must recognise that CYG serves a rural area, with elderly people living in homes often affected by severe weather. It needs to be sees as a resource, for a variety of care. For example, my relative was able to be looked after there in Feb 2014 when gales destroyed power lines and phone lines, meaning some elderly people could not use stair lifts etc. It should be recognised as a care centre, providing daily services eg. baths, meals, day centre social activities. It also relieves local hospital beds with the re-enablement unit.(5)*
- *There is no other option far as I'm concerned. Uprooting residents once they are settled I feel would be detrimental to their health. Also my parents did not cope at home with a care package, carline and meals on wheels so it is certainly not an option for them to go home.(4)*
- *I really don't think that the council should consider closing down CYG. As I mentioned on the previous page, the closure would have a huge impact on the residents and the families of the residents that includes my sister PG and I. We live in London and Leicester, respectively. Our parents were alcoholics when were unable to look after themselves. They were also in debt, unable to pay for*

heating, they didn't eat properly and their home was a health hazard - rotting food caused mice. They would fall over and end up in hospital. In September 2013, we started to have carers go in and see my parents three times a day to wash and dress them (my mother in particular, needs assistance with this) Meals on wheels were also provided for my parents. We found that things didn't improve. Even though we took out power of attorney for health and finances, began to take control and try to reduce the alcohol intake, my parents were still not coping. In April 2014 my mother got pneumonia and spent 3 weeks in hospital. My father struggled on his own but got through it with visits from us. Two days after my mother come from hospital my father was taken ill with cellulitis and spent 6 weeks in hospital. The day he went to hospital my mother moved to CYG. My father joined her. Since they have lived there we have noted a huge difference in their well-being and mental and physical state.(5)

- *There is no other alternative locally and why upset what is an excellent run ship. The care of the patient is paramount, not figures!! (5)*

Cysgod y Gaer day care

- 1) **The closure of CyG is the Council's preferred option. The Council believes that there are alternative ways to meet the needs of the people who currently use the centre.**
 - *The resident that I represent/support attends CYG weekly. Because I am a carer 24/7 this facility enables me to have a couple of hours to do the food shopping and such things. Without this I wouldn't be able to look after him at home as effectively.(5)*
- 2) **If you think that there is another option or alternative which the Council should consider, please indicate.**
 - *There is strong a need for day services for residents of the Cerrigydrudion area for carers to have respite for a couple of hours. It is a 24/7 job.(5)*

HAFAN DEG DAY CENTRE

Summary

Hafan Deg is a local authority day care centre situated in Rhyl. There is a large population of over 65s in this area and along the Northern coastal towns (See appendix 1)

Hafan Deg is situated amongst a sheltered housing scheme and is used by the wider community for various groups throughout the week including The Deaf Club and Lip reading classes. Hafan Deg has a range of facilities, many of which have been wound down over the years such as the laundry and adapted bath. It provides hot meals and there is a smaller kitchen off the main lounge that would be suitable for a reablement type focus. There is an arts and crafts room that is used by day centre attendees and other groups.

Hafan Deg offers full day day care (Approx 10-3pm) on 3 days a week. One day is for 6 week reablement however this service is not well used.

24 Service users currently attend Hafan Deg between 1 and 3 days per week.

Only one service user uses Welsh as their 1st language. All were assessed as part of the review. One new service user has just started and assessments being carried out for 3 further service users to attend. 8 service users have dementia, 2 have mental health issues/learning disabilities.

Of the 24 assessed, 18 were opposed to moving to alternative provision. The 6 service users who said they were prepared to try alternative provision, 3 stated "*...Only if my friends from here also went*"

Other reasons given for being willing to consider alternatives include:

- Pays privately for day care in a residential home which offer longer hours to give husband a longer break.
- Able to access the community by self and does so already
- Willing to adapt if an alternative were comparable to Hafan Deg (i.e include transport, hot meals, entertainment, trips)

Service users and families gave one or more reasons why they wanted to remain attending Hafan Deg.

The main objections given by service users at Hafan Deg to the idea of ceasing to attend were

- loss of established friendships within the centre,
- need to give their carers a break and
- the support they received from staff.

We explored alternatives in the area and outside. There are 2 groups, the 'Get Together Club' at Wellington Road community centre and the 'Cozy club' on Wednesdays at Fforddlas community centre both 1-4pm and offering similar services. These include occasional outings but mainly chat and bingo. There are a number of other groups around Rhyl and Prestatyn which may be suitable for some service users who are more mobile and do not need assistance with personal care such as an art group, tai chi, singing for the brain but these tend to only be for an hour or two.

One concern in relation to an alternative was a comment made that they had to have locks put on the toilet doors because they found 3 drug addicts passed out on the floor. The code for the door is written on the wall in the building which had no form of security during my visit.

The only alternative for service users with personal care needs (column 3 below) is full day day care within a care home which many offer, some only on a temporary basis, at a cost of £50-£65 per day without transport.

I have broken down service users into

- those who would be able to access the community with little or no support,
- those that could access the community but will require frequent monitoring due to POVA, require escort due to variety of reasons or a small degree of personal care assistance and
- those who would be unable to access community without considerable 1:1 support due to personal care needs/MH etc (See Appendix 2)

Can access community with little or no support	Can access community but require monitoring, escort or degree of personal care	Cannot access community unaided
E A	H G	H W
C T	E A	K R
A S	B W	C F
C N	C V	M W
M W	G M	F G
	A E	A E
	M H	D C
		R T
		W S
		M H
		E F
		D W

*Red = Dementia/MH/LD

Notes

- 5 service users in column 1. They have been attending Hafan Deg for several years prior to the change in criteria. Of these, 2 attend the get together club, they are all able to access the community with little or no support.
- From column 2, 7 service users could access the community & alternatives with support however further risks remain. One service user is prone to depression and had attempted suicide prior to attending Hafan Deg. Another service user attends to give himself and his wife a break, his wife has substantial needs of her own and tends to go back to bed for a rest however he has minor personal care needs that may not be appropriately assisted in low level alternatives.

- The majority of service users, 12, are in column 3 and require substantial assistance with personal care or have dementia, mental health or learning disabilities that require specialist support that would not be met in community settings without trained staff.

Conclusion

Hafan Deg is providing a much needed service but to only a minority of service users. The centre has much more potential to develop given the facilities within the building. The current model of day care is outdated however there is a foundation on which to build. There is a need for carer support however this could be better given a longer day but fewer sessions?

Activities need to be more structured and planned with information regularly given to frontline staff such as social workers, CCO's and health colleagues so they are aware of the facilities and to be able to inform service users who may benefit from the services and activities offered to increase the referral rate.

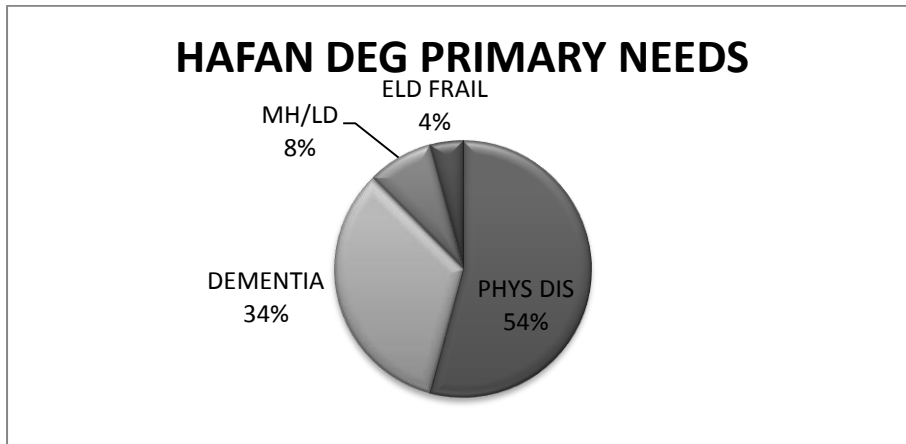
Service users need to be taking a more active role and lead in the service to discourage dependency and promote independence and value, given longer days to provide a meaningful break to carers who perhaps also work.

Considerations

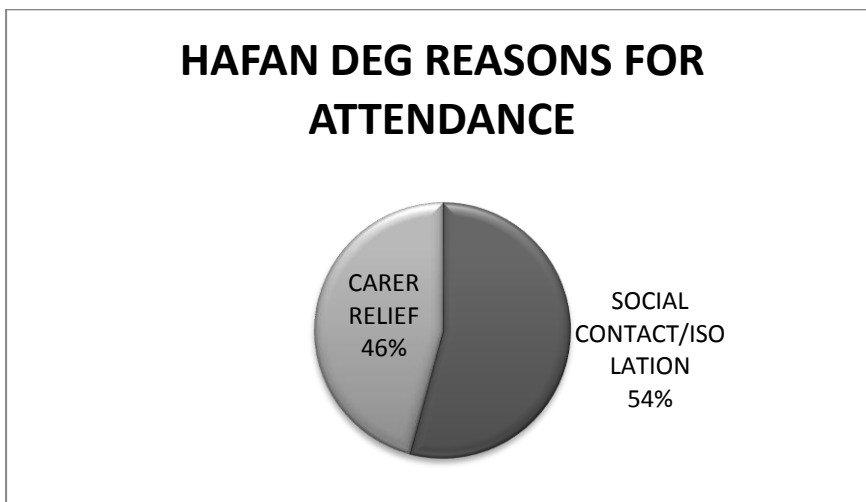
In the view of the externally engaged social workers it would be useful to consider the following proposals in order to make better use of Hafan Deg:

- Develop a robust programme of activity and events with measurable outcomes and goals to instill achievement, morale and value to service users and staff.
- Develop clear care plans which are reviewed regularly in conjunction with the service users and their families with focus on objectives and achievable goals.
- Develop key relationships with the wider community such as with local colleges or work experience, for example to teach IT skills. This could also be used to formulate "The book of Life" a project by Bangor University.
- Further develop relationships with the wider community to encourage confidence, social interaction and develop value to reduce dependency on statutory services. Encourage service users to mix on a regular basis so they develop less dependency on one small group.
- Be more focussed on aims in terms of activity such as activities that promote mobility on specific days perhaps linking in with health colleagues.
- Explore more input from Mental Health resources such as Singing for the Brain by the Alzheimers society.

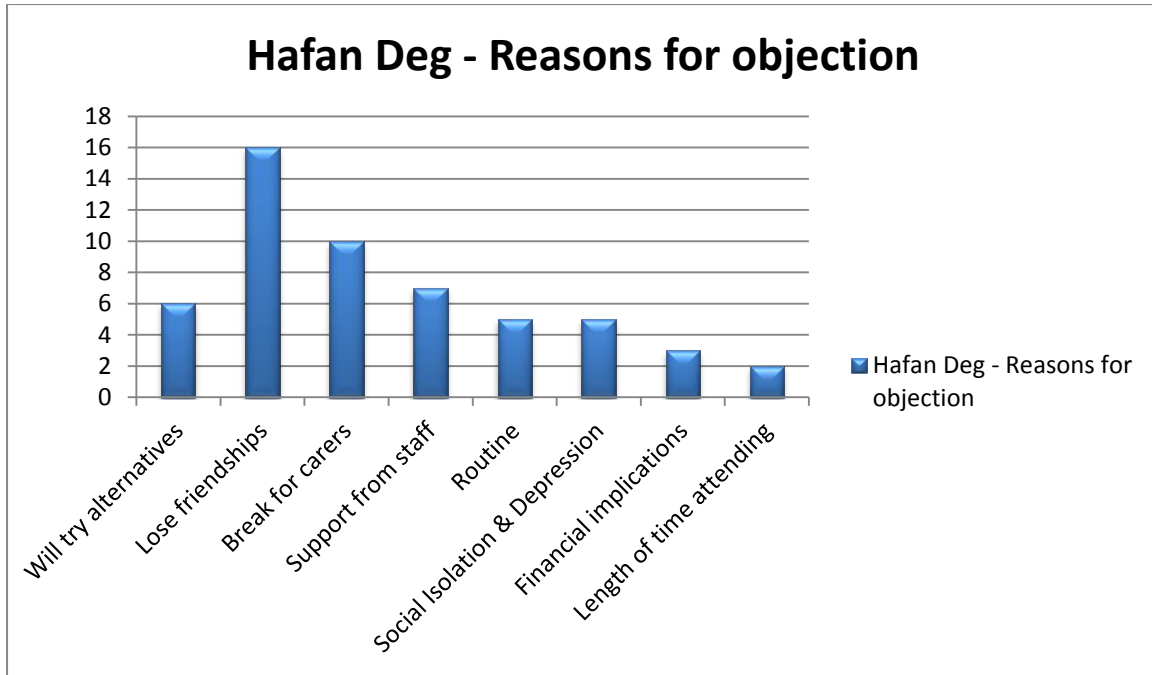
APPENDICES:



The majority of service users have a primary physical disability. This can range from restricted to very limited mobility. 34% have dementia, one service user is under 60 and has a rarer form of dementia (Picks Disease).



13 service users live alone in a variety of settings. 11 service users live with family who provide minimal to substantial support. Of these, 6 would meet the FACS criteria for 24 hour care without support from their families being available.



The main objections for Service Users at Hafan Deg to the prospect of closure was loss of established friendships within the centre, giving their carers a break and the support they received from staff.

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DOLWEN

Dolwen is a 30 bed, Local Authority residential care home for older people situated in the heart of Denbigh (See Appendix 1 for demographic statistics)

There are currently 22 permanent residents at Dolwen. Of these, 13 use Welsh as their first language (59%).

It was opened in 1966, and the manager is Nest Vaughan-Evans. Bed capacity is 29 for residential service users, and 1 bed is given to planned respite/emergency short term placements which is frequently used. A reablement service has been introduced at Dolwen. The intention was for service users to be admitted, for up to 6 weeks, to give them a period of occupational and physio therapies, as appropriate, before returning to their own homes. We are advised that there have been 16 service users going through this facility – an average of just 5 admissions in 3 years. There is a sense expressed that this service is not well promoted.

Of the respite admissions mentioned above, since April 2013, approximately 40% were emergency or urgent admissions as a result of unplanned events such as family/practical crisis, marriage breakdown, (one instance of a) bomb scare, carer breakdown, carer illness.

During the St Asaph floods of 2012, Dolwen Care Centre (both residential and day care) provided a wide range of immediate assistance during this major emergency. Vehicles and trained DCC drivers were made available and were able to transport affected local residents throughout the day. Emergency respite beds were made available for three vulnerable people living in the community at short notice. Dolwen also provided other items needed urgently including blankets, incontinence pads, kettles etc.

Additionally, Dolwen staff have previously arranged events designed to connect with the local community, such as strawberry teas and coffee mornings. Dolwen have their own League of Friends supporters.

We met with 19 service users and their families or representative at Dolwen. Of these, 15 residents/family were opposed to closure for a variety of reasons. Some gave more than one reason (See Appendix 2). 3 service users have not been assessed as they have been unwell, 1 has not met with the assessors yet although contact has been made via skype with the family and 1 was unable to give her views due to her condition.

The reasons for objecting to closure, as listed in the appendix, show that the location of Dolwen was the main reason with access for visitors and Welsh language also being a priority.

We looked at alternative venues that could meet the needs of residents within a reasonable distance (around 7 miles) and their current bed vacancies for general residential care. The data shows 13 available General Residential beds in a reasonable radius of Dolwen Care Home. Within the actual community of Denbigh there are only 3 vacancies (in Vale View). The structure of this building does not lend itself to service users who are less mobile. The Appendix shows a summary of appropriate alternative provisions around Denbigh.

We looked at the impact an enforced move would have on service users within the care of Dolwen and have summarised below. An enforced move due to closure would have a moderate impact on most of the current service users. Those for whom it would have a severe detrimental impact have physical or mental health problems that would impact greatly on them due to the way they are managed by staff who, due to familiarity and skill, have been able to manage their more extensive needs. We have included 2 case studies in relation to the impact on service users.

DOLWEN

Move with little impact		Move with moderate impact		Move with severe impact	
Name	Language	Name	Language	Name	Language
K D	English	E H	Welsh	O R	Welsh
E K	English	D B	English	G W	English
		M E	Welsh	A S	English
		J W	Welsh	D J	Welsh
		F M	English		
		D G	English		
		B R	Welsh		
		C L	Welsh		
		V W	English		
		K K	Welsh		
		M W	Welsh		
		H R	Welsh		

Discussions with staff at Dolwen have highlighted a number of service users have also previously had to move onto alternative accommodation such as EMI Residential and Nursing care. Indeed the service user whose family initially started the petition to save Dolwen Care Home has also had to move onto alternative accommodation as Dolwen is not registered for EMI care. You will note from the Appendix that at the time of the sample there were no EMI Residential beds in the vicinity.

Conclusion

There is insufficient alternative provision in the private sector within the area of Denbigh. This will impact on service user's access to their own communities and to friends and the wider community and may be open to challenge under Article 8 HRA1998.

There are no current vacancies for EMI Residential service users within the area.

"...there is evidence of a rising problem with dementia across the country. In Denbighshire the number of people, aged 65+, experiencing dementia is projected to increase by 100 between 2014 and 2017" <http://wellbeingplandenbighshire.org.uk/needs-assessment/wellbeing-and-independence/demography/>

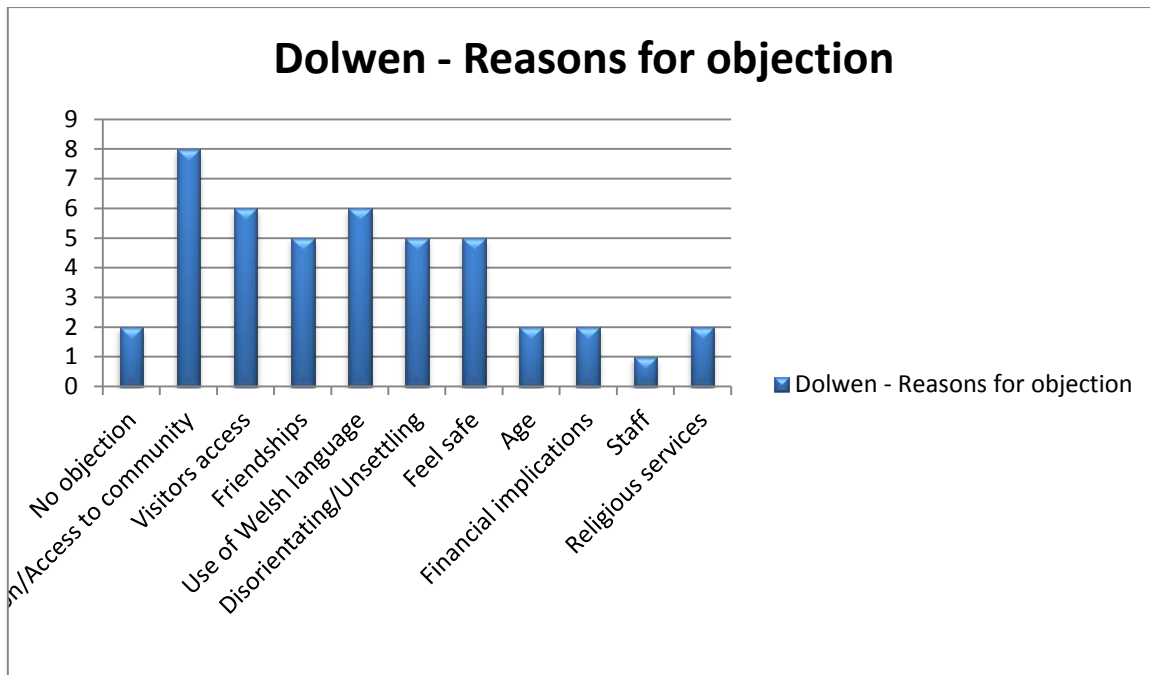
Service users of Dolwen have had to move onto private sector dementia care. Most, if not all of these homes have received non-compliance notices from CSSIW in the past 2 years.

There is no suitable extra-care facility within the area for a longer term focus on meeting the needs of a growing population of older people.

Considerations

There is a clear need for general residential and EMI residential care within the local community of Denbigh. There is not enough in the locality to provide placements for residents currently in Dolwen particularly when one factors in the use of emergency admissions, respite and other provision at Dolwen.

There is no extra care facility in Denbigh. Extra care facilities can be extensive and provide support from minimal up to nursing care depending on the facility. This may be a long term option.



For residents at Dolwen, the main objections to the idea of moving was based on location, access to the wider community, access of visitors and many did not feel the Welsh language was widely used in the private sector. Of the 2 holding no objection, 1 was not meeting the FACS criteria and wanted to return to community (Referral made) and 1 family wanted their relative moved closer to them should Dolwen close.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS IN DENBIGH AREA

VALE VIEW

A small home registered to receive up to 10 standard residential care service users. It is situated on a busy, narrow road on the way into Denbigh town. Parking is very limited. There is no lift – something which does not lend itself to service users who have limited mobility.

A recent CSSIW review (January 2015) records no non-compliance issues.

LLANRHAEDER HALL

Llanrhaeder Hall is situated off the A525 road near to the village of Llanrhaeder. The speed limit reduces from 60 to 40mph about 50 yards before the turn off. The nearest bus stop is at the garage 600 yards away however some bus drivers will stop opposite the entrance on request. Any visitor arriving on public transport would need to cross that road at least once – a potential risk especially to elderly visitors, particularly on dark winter nights which may impact on residents visits.

There is a long, uneven driveway leading to the old manor house type building with EMI residential on one wing and general residential on another. In discussion with the manager, she indicated the EMI unit rarely has vacancies and often a waiting list and just occasional vacancies for general residential. For service users whose visitors drive it is an option however they have very few Welsh speaking staff.

The last CSSIW review listed took place November 2013. Concerns were raised giving rise to 2 non-compliance orders. One related to staff training, and the other to service user plan inconsistencies.

MAES ELWY

Is a dual registered, general residential and general nursing establishment in St Asaph. They currently have 5 vacancies which are flexible (Can be residential or nursing). It is situated 4.5 miles from Dolwen however is in a different town which is a concern to service users. It would be suitable for an alternative particularly for those residents whom have a higher level of health needs and may require nursing care in the future. It is also the only nursing home in the near vicinity.

THE OLD DEANERY

The Old Deanery is situated next to a very busy and fast moving roundabout in St Asaph, however there is a crossing at the traffic lights approximately 200 yards away with access to bus stops and a large Co-op across the road. As with Maes Elwy it could be a viable alternative to service users whose family drive as it is also on one of the main routes into Denbigh from the A55. There is a direct bus link from Denbigh to outside the building for non-driving visitors.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION – DOLWEN*

HOME	DISTANCE FROM DOLWEN	RES	EMI RES	NURSING	EMI NURSING
Llys Meddyg	0.4m				18 (1)
Plas Eleri	1m				34 (1)
Llanrhaeder Hall	2.7m	23 (2)	13 (0)		
Vale View	0.5m	10 (3)			
Bryn Derwen	6.4m		20 (0)		
Maes Elwy (Dual)	4.5m	Flexi (5)		29 only take 28	
The Old Deanery	6.7m	28 (3)			
TOTAL		13			

Brackets denotes actual current vacancies

*Data compiled 30th April 2015

CASE STUDIES

MOVE WITH SEVERE IMPACT

GW is 103 years old and has been resident at Dolwen since 2009. Prior to this she lived with her daughter for 25 years. She had provided an increasing amount of support however due to her own medical emergency she was unable to continue with this support. GW had previously attended day care at Dolwen so a move to the home was the natural step. She settled well and is familiar with staff and residents alike. There is evidence on file which notes that GW became withdrawn and depressed when a resident she had developed a close friendship with had to move.

GW has a number of health issues and takes medication. Staff are aware of her needs and respond quickly to any changes. She clearly meets the FACS criteria for 24 hour care and is appropriately placed. Her daughter is in her 70's and her son in law is 80. They have their own health and mobility needs and would find visiting an alternative venue further away difficult. The only alternative within

Denbigh would not be suitable as GW has mobility problems and a history of falls (See Vale View appendix 4)

Due to GW's previous reactions to losing a friend in Dolwen a move would significantly impact her mental health state. Her family would find it difficult to travel further afield due to their own medical needs. Her advanced age may also need to be considered.

MOVE WITH MODERATE IMPACT

CL has lived in Dolwen since 2013. Previously she had a care package of support at home however was having a number of falls, UTI's which caused extreme confusion, and hospital admissions. Extra care and reablement options were explored at the time but were deemed unsuitable. Since being in Dolwen, CL has settled well and there has been a significant reduction in UTI's as staff are able to identify the symptoms and treatment is given at a much earlier stage. There has also been a significant reduction in falls and hospital admissions.

Her 1st language is Welsh which was a consideration when selecting Dolwen as well as the location as she has lived in Denbigh for over 60 years. She had also previously attended the day centre at Dolwen so it was a natural choice.

Family commented that the placement has changed their life as well as their mothers. They feel able to relax and know she is being taken care of and CL has gained weight now she is eating an appropriate diet.

In terms of impact, she does have friends locally who pop in to see her who do not drive. Family visit often and take her for trips in the local community. A viable alternative would be Vale View however if she was unable to secure a placement here and had to move to any other alternative, then the impact would be far greater.

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AWELON, RUTHIN

Awelon is a 26 capacity, Local Authority residential care home for older people, situated in the heart of Ruthin, Denbighshire. It currently has 20 residents of whom 10 use Welsh as their first language. It has been serving the people of the local community since 1972. The manager is Vivienne Barlow. Services provided at Awelon, in addition to residential placement, are planned and emergency respite care and a focused outcome reablement service. As regards the respite admissions, since January 2014, we are advised that there have been 18 planned and 10 emergency admissions for a variety of reasons.

Awelon used to have a well-attended day centre, which began a phasing out process some 2 years ago, following which an outcome focused respite programme was introduced. This allowed service users to be admitted for up to 6 weeks, on a reablement type programme. We were advised, as with Dolwen, that the take up of this service has been lower than was hoped for.

Residents are encouraged to participate in joint activities with residents of the adjoining Extra Supportive Living complex (Llys Awelon) who also attend Awelon for hot meals and socialisation. There are plenty of activities available and several residents still access the local community with support as time allows.

Awelon appears well supported by District Nursing and GP services. They have a higher number of very dependent older residents than in the other 2 local authority homes however the residents' needs are being met well. Although the needs of several of these service users are met, they receive such a high level of support that alternative comparable placements are unlikely to accept them as new residents. This was confirmed in a discussion with the manager of Llanrhaeder Hall who advised they already had several of their own and would not have the resources to accept people with high dependency residential needs.

We met with 20 service users and their families or representatives at Awelon. Of these, 20 residents/family were opposed to closure for a variety of reasons, some gave more than one reason (See Appendix 2). 1 service user did not want to move but would consider an alternative placement if they had to. The reasons for objecting to closure, as listed in appendix 2, show that the location of Awelon and their access to the wider community was the main reason with access for visitors, relationship with staff and concerns regarding age and frailty also being a priority.

We looked at alternative venues that could meet the needs of residents within a reasonable distance (around 10 miles) and their current bed vacancies for general residential care (See Appendix 3) The data shows 8 available General Residential beds in a reasonable (Around 10 mile) radius of Awelon Care Home. Within the actual community of Ruthin there are only 3 vacancies (Trosnant) who currently have only female residents but there is a strong emphasis on the use of Welsh language.

We looked at the impact an enforced move would have on service users within the care of Awelon and have summarised below. An enforced move due to closure would mostly have a moderate impact on the current service users. It should be noted there appears to be a higher proportion of residents who have high dependency needs and many are in advanced years (90+) which would also need to be considered. For some in the severe impact group it would be extremely unwise to move at this stage due to their physical frailty.

Awelon

Move with little impact		Move with moderate impact		Move with severe impact	
Name	Language	Name	Language	Name	Language
		EW	WELSH	NE	WELSH
		SD	WELSH	RC	ENGLISH
		BP	ENGLISH	SE	WELSH
		DJ	WELSH	GM	WELSH
		WN	ENGLISH	DF	ENGLISH
		CJ	WELSH	JE	ENGLISH
		GB	WELSH	SR	ENGLISH
		RR	ENGLISH	JW	ENGLISH
		AH	NK		
		EG	WELSH		
		CE	ENGLISH		
		MD	WELSH		

NB: This is merely a guide

Conclusion

There is clearly not enough alternative provision in the private sector within the area of Ruthin. Should service users have to move further afield due to the lack of local provision, this will impact on service users access to their own communities and access of friends and the wider community to them and may be open to challenge under Article 8 HRA1998.

There is a lack of suitable and quality Nursing care in the area, general residential care is also very limited and would be unlikely to accept the more dependent service users from Awelon.

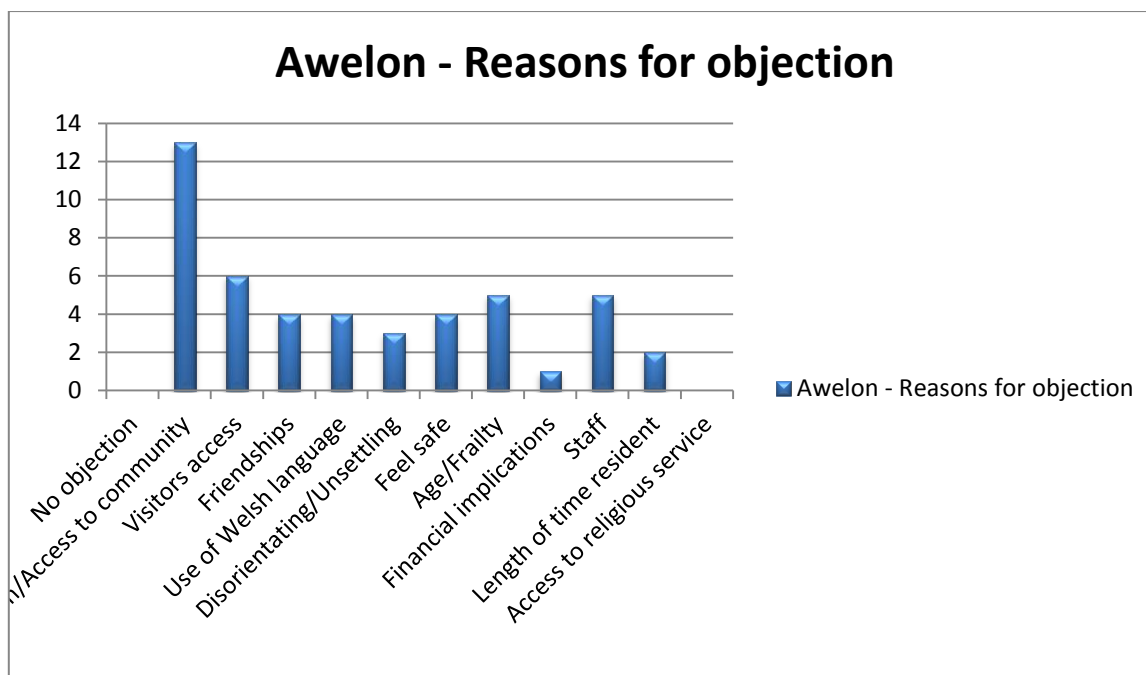
Considerations

There is a clear need for quality nursing care within the local community of Ruthin. There is not enough suitable general residential vacancies to meet the needs of the service users in Awelon should they be required to move at this stage.

In other areas we have worked, Intermediate care has been a priority and many local authority care homes became intermediate care hubs. Consideration could be given to this around this area.

There are not enough general residential placements in the locality to provide placements for residents currently in Awelon, particularly when one factors in the use of emergency admissions, respite and other such uses Awelon currently provides.

There are a number of very elderly and very frail residents in Awelon that would be unwise to consider moving until their needs could no longer be met and they required 24 hour nursing care.



The main objections for residents at Awelon was location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, relationship with staff and concerns regarding age and frailty.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS IN RUTHIN AREA

Trosnant

Trosnant is a small registered general residential home, with up to 12 residential beds and presently mostly female residents. This home is on a main road through Ruthin town. Parking space is limited. The most recent CSSIW was carried out January 2014 & there were no non-compliance orders raised, however, the report did highlight the prominence of the Welsh language, and made a recommendation for more attention to be made with regards to activity plans for individual residents. It would be a viable alternative to some residents of Awelon.

Llanrhaeder Hall

Llandhaeder Hall is a dual registered EMI & General residential home situated off the A525 road near to the village of Llanrhaeder. The road has a speed limit which reduces from 60 to 40mph about 50 yards before the turn off. The nearest bus stop is at the garage 600 yards away however some bus drivers will stop opposite the entrance on request. Any visitor arriving on public transport would need to cross that road at least once – a potential risk especially to elderly visitors, particularly on dark winter nights. This might impact on residents visits.

There is a long, uneven driveway leading to the old manor house type building with EMI residential on one wing and general residential on another. In discussion with the manager, she indicated the EMI unit rarely has vacancies, often a waiting list and just occasional vacancies for general residential needs.

For service users with visitors who drive it is an option. However they have very few Welsh speaking staff.

The last CSSIW review listed took place November 2013, where concerns were raised giving rise to 2 non-compliance orders. One related to staff training, the other inconsistencies in service user plans.

Plas Gwyn

Plas Gwyn is a 30 capacity General Nursing Home in the Northern end of Ruthin. The home is situated in a very rural location and does not own any transport so consequently access to the wider community is greatly limited for service users.

Recent CSSIW inspection highlighted ongoing non-compliance with recruitment and retention and no registered manager in post since Sept 2014. There were serious concerns around the robustness of the recruitment process which has the potential to place service users at risk, such as no DBS checks being carried out on some staff or evidence of RGN's PIN. One assessor called to arrange a visit and was informed there was no manager and the owner was away on holiday just prior to Easter. A Non Compliance order from CSSIW states they must have a registered manager in post by 28/2/15, however clearly that wasn't the case (Information passed to Alan Roberts)

Valley Lodge

Valley Lodge is a 35 capacity EMI dual registered Residential and Nursing home sited near to Mold in a rural area and is sister home to Llanrhaeder Hall. There have been issues of non-compliance over the recruitment of a suitable manager but this is in process.

Like Llanrhaeder Hall, the home has a variety of pets and a full time activities co-ordinator and does have its own transport. They also have a purpose built day care centre on site. This home would be suitable for residents who have EMI needs at Awelon however consideration would need to be given to its location and access for visitors who do not drive or have their own transport.

Appendix 4

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION - AWELON

HOME	DISTANCE FROM AWELON (Miles)	RES	EMI RES	NURSING	EMI NURSING
Plas Gwyn	2.5			30(8)	
Trosnant	0.3	12(3)			
Llanrhaeder Hall	5.1	23 (2)	13 (0)		
Valley Lodge	5.4		13(0)	21(0)	
Vale View	7.9	10 (3)			
TOTAL		8		8	

Brackets denotes actual current vacancies

*Data compiled 30th April 2015

Awelon CASE STUDIES

MOVE WITH SEVERE IMPACT

NE is 104 years old and has lived at Awelon since she was 98. Prior to this she lived alone, was very independent and outgoing, driving and going on trips but had an accident, tripped over a kerb and sustained an injury which eventually led to her admission to 24 hour care.

She is now very frail, requires 2 carers for all interventions and the use of a hoist, needs help with feeding and is totally dependent on staff for all aspects of daily living. District Nurses provide a complimentary service. They visit monthly for a wellbeing check, give advice to staff and check progress notes or do more as often required such as if she has any wounds that require dressing. Her needs are largely anticipated by staff who are familiar with her and maintain a regular regime to help prevent deterioration.

Due to her overall frailty it would be very unwise to consider moving ME unless her needs could no longer be met in Awelon.

It is also very unlikely another general residential home would accept ME due to her high levels of need.

MOVE WITH MODERATE IMPACT

BP is 98 years old and has lived at Awelon since early 2013. She has lived in the Ruthin area for 20 years. She has a number of physical health problems and a recent fractured hip which has reduced her mobility. She has bouts of depression and low mood.

In terms of alternatives, BP would potentially lose contact with her local visitors if she lived anywhere other than Awelon, with the exception of Trosnant. This would be a suitable alternative to maintain her community contact and lessen the impact. A move further afield, for instance to Llanrhader Hall, would be unacceptable to her and impractical due to its access problems.

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CYSGOD Y GAER, CORWEN

Cysgod y Gaer is a 23 bed, Local Authority residential care home for older people. This includes 6 beds given over to a reablement service for individuals requiring physio and occupational therapy input; generally such individuals come from the hospital setting, with the goal of a return home. The home was opened in 1970. The manager is Sian Owen.

Of the 3 local authority establishments, Cysgod y Gaer is the more remote in setting, and seems to offer the most services to its users and community. Standard residential placement and respite care (emergency and planned) are available. There remains an active day centre facility, which provides bathing facilities and support to those who would otherwise struggle in their own homes, whilst good nutritious meals are assured. The reablement beds appear to be well used, ensuring blocked hospital beds are avoided (from all Denbighshire hospitals).

Cysgod y Gaer has been able to assist isolated members of the community in the past, during times of severe difficulties – for example when individuals have found themselves without services or utilities due to severe winter weather. There are also occasional events which interact with the community such as raffles and concerts/choirs on site. They also provide hot meals which are collected by some local residents who are not able to manage their own.

There are currently 11 service users in permanent placement at Cysgod Y Gaer. Of these, 6 use Welsh as their 1st language. Two service users are due to be assessed when family are visiting and another 1 was not suitable for assessment at the time and have ongoing issues.

Of those currently assessed, all except 1 objected, see the appendix for breakdown of reasons. The main reasons for objecting were based on location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, friendships within the home and length of time they have been resident.

Of the 1 holding no objection, the recommendation was to refer for reassessment as they may be more suited to Extra care.

We looked at alternative venues that could meet the needs of residents within a reasonable distance (around 10 miles) and their current bed vacancies for general residential care. There are no independent sector 24 hour care options within Denbighshire, of any registration in the immediate area of Corwen. The nearest towns having such options are Llangollen and Ruthin.

The only alternative in Llangollen is dual registered and they stated they have a preference for CHC funded service users to the assessor. This is sited in a rural location which would not be easily accessible to people without transport.

We looked at the impact an enforced move would have on service users within the care of Cysgod y Gaer and have summarised below. An enforced move due to closure would have a moderate impact on most of the current service users. Most of the service users were from the immediate Corwen area or surrounding villages/hamlets. The main impact would be on the access of friends and visitors. Although service user could move to alternative sites, the longer term implications in terms of the access to their community and visitors could have a pronounced detrimental effect on many residents.

We have included 2 case studies in relation to the impact on service users in the appendix.

CYSGOD Y GAER

Move with little impact		Move with moderate impact		Move with severe impact	
Name	Language	Name	Language	Name	Language
NN	ENGLISH	MB	WELSH	DJ	WELSH
		GW	WELSH	AB	ENGLISH
		MH	WELSH		
		GJ	WELSH		
		GW	WELSH		

NB: This is merely a guide

In addition to the permanent residents, there are 5 service users that attend day care services. Of these, all were assessed and all objected to the closure. All of these were also Welsh 1st language and most attended for carer relief with carers providing a very high level of day to day support.

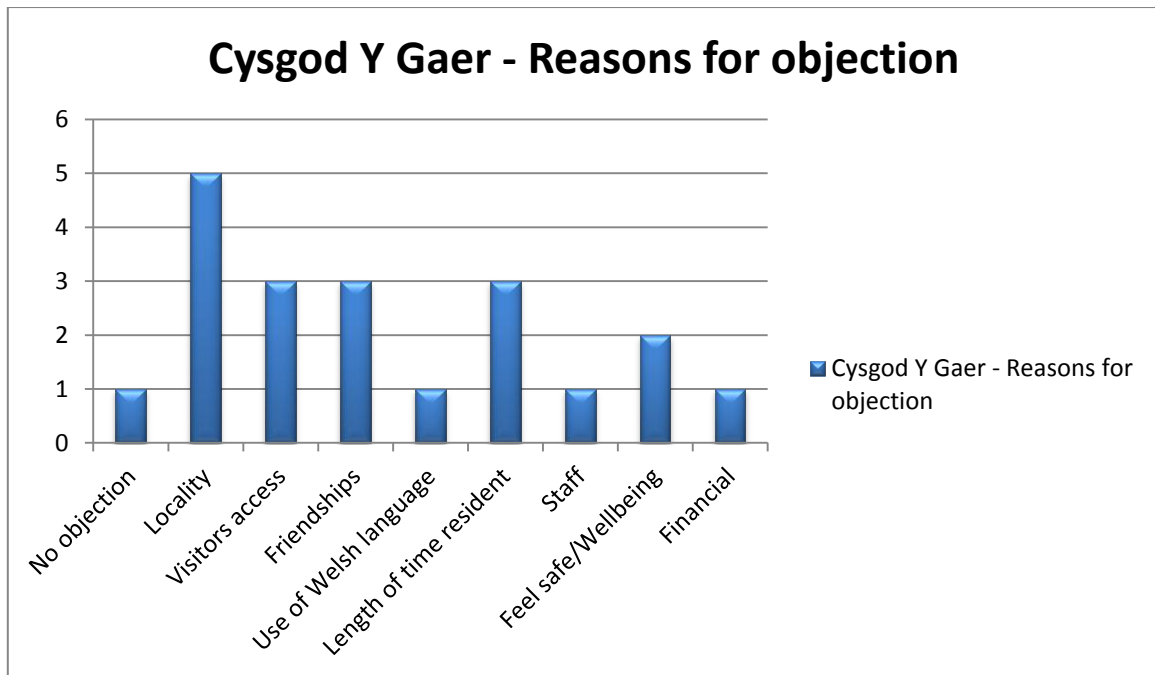
Conclusion

There is no alternative provision in the private sector within the area of Corwen or surrounding villages. Should service users have to move further afield due to the lack of local provision, this will impact on service users access to their own communities and access of friends and the wider community to them and may be open to challenge under Article 8 HRA1998.

There is a lack of suitable Nursing care in the area, the only alternative is in Llangollen. Service users in Cysgod Y Gaer are supported very well by District Nursing services and local GPs.

Considerations

There is a clear need for general residential care to service Corwen and the outlying villages. Although Cysgod y Gaer is not at maximum capacity currently there is no alternative suitable for the current or future residents from the area.



The main objections for residents at Cysgod Y Gaer was location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, friendships within the home and length of time they have been resident. Of the 1 holding no objection, the recommendation was to refer for reassessment as they may be more suited to extra care provision.

Cysgod y Gaer CASE STUDY

MOVE WITH SEVERE IMPACT

Mrs J is an 87 year old who has been resident at Cysgod y Gaer (CyG) since 6 September 2010. Mrs J was born 3 miles from Corwen and has lived all her life in that area. Prior to admission, she was living for a while with a sister in law, though now her present level of assessed needs are outside the ability of family to meet, even with a substantial care package.

Mrs J has full mental capacity to make her own decisions and plans with regards to her future. Her medical history includes angina, periodic urinary tract infections, diet controlled diabetes, thyroid issues, arthritis, bi-lateral leg oedema (indicative of heart problems), and leg ulcers. Her leg ulcers are regularly monitored (and redressed as needed) by a District Nurse, she mobilises with the use of a wheeled zimmer frame (wheelchair for anything other than short distances) and requires carer assistance with bathing/showering, dressing of lower half of her body.

Her first language is Welsh and an interpreter was needed to assist with the assessment. She is recorded as having periodic episodes of anxiety and depression. She has made friends with both staff members and other residents, and has family and (outside) friends including chapel goers visiting, all of whom would find it greatly restrictive for visiting, if Mrs J was to move out of the Corwen area. It is felt that the impact on her would be highly likely

to affect her health and wellbeing. If CyG were to close, then a move away from Corwen would be inevitable.

MOVE WITH MODERATE IMPACT

Mr H is a 75 year old gentleman who has been resident at Cysgod y Gaer (CyG) sine 27 April 2009. Prior to this, he was living on his own in Corwen, where he has resided since birth. He has 2 brothers and 2 sisters, and 4 grown up children, all of whom live in Corwen. Welsh is his first language.

Mr Hs medical history included alcoholism and depression, he also has hip and back arthritis, tablet and diet controlled diabetes and anaemia. In 2013, he had a significant heart attack. Prior to admission, he was self-neglecting particularly with regards to personal care and activities of daily living. Since admission, it is recorded that his physical and medical conditions have greatly improved, his confidence and self-esteem risen significantly, his alcohol intake no longer presents difficulties or concerns and (given prompting) he is independent with all aspects of personal care and hygiene.

Should CyG close, and Mr H be obliged to move, then he might lose something of his Welsh language communications (which mean a lot to him), his family members would not be able to continue visiting as they have, and he would find himself out of the area in which he has lived all his life.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 28 July 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Hugh Irving / Phil Gilroy

Report Author: John Sweeney / Stephen Convill

Title: Implementation of Housing Act Wales 2014

1. What is the report about?

This is a follow up report to the one submitted to Cabinet on 27th February 2015 (appendix A)

The report submitted on 27th February 2015 concerned the Welsh Government's intention to phase out the homelessness intentionality test by April 2019 and the discretion afforded to Councils, within prescribed time bound parameters, to retain until then the "test" in part or full.

The recommendation to retain the "test" in full until April 2019 was endorsed, however, soon after Welsh Government advised of a revision in the prescribed timescale but not the detail of the parameters.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To inform Members of the revised timescale and of action taken to ensure compliance with it.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that the content of the report be noted and that Members endorse their original decision to retain the "intentionality" test in full.

4. Report details.

The reason for the revision in the prescribed timescale was delay on behalf of Welsh Government in finalising and publishing the revised Homelessness Code of Guidance to accompany the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Legal advice was sought as to the validity of the Cabinet decision of 27h February 2015 to retain in full the "intentionality test"; given the change to the timescale prescribed by Welsh Government.

Legal opinion was that as there was no change made to the conditions and parameters of discretion afforded to Councils regarding retention of the intentionality test, other than the timescale, the decision remained legally valid. None the less it was recommended that a report be brought back to Cabinet recommending endorsement of the original decision.

The revised Welsh Government timetable required that Council's made their decision in respect of the intentionality test, published it and notified Welsh

Government of this, at least, fourteen days before 1st July 2015.

The Council's original decision was incorporated into a letter to Welsh Government and posted on the Council's website within the revised timescale

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities

The decision will contribute to the Big Plan; outcome 4 of which states:

“Vulnerable families in Denbighshire are supported to live a life free from poverty, where they can be independent and flourish.”

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

There will be no additional costs; but the proposed way of working with “intentionally homeless” households should take pressure off other Council services – in particular Adult and Children’s Services.

The recommended decision is about retaining the status quo regarding “intentional homelessness” and any costs involved in enabling an “intentionally homeless” household to access a private tenancy will be contained within the budget for the Housing Solutions 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.

The recommendation not to change “intentionality test” does not discriminate or negatively impact upon people who share “protected characteristics” as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

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

Advice from Democratic Services is that consultation with Scrutiny is not required.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There will be no additional costs; but the proposed way of working with “intentionally homeless” households should take pressure off other Council services – in particular Adult and Children’s Services.

The recommended decision is about retaining the status quo regarding “intentional homelessness” and any costs involved in enabling an “intentionally homeless” household to access a private tenancy will be contained within the budget for the Housing Solutions Team.

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

Accepting the recommended decision does not present any risk.

11. **Power to make the Decision**

Housing (Wales) Act 2014: Part 2 Homelessness: s 78. Deciding to have regard to Intentionality.

Local Government Act 1972: s 111

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Appendix A

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 17th February 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Hugh Irving / Phil Gilroy

Report Author: John Sweeney / Stephen Convill

Title: Implementation of Housing Act Wales 2014

1. What is the report about?

This report is about a requirement placed upon the Council by Welsh Government to determine to which groups of homeless persons it will apply the test of “intentionally homeless”, following implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 in April 2015.

The definition of intentional homelessness under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is effectively the same as that contained within current legislation (Homelessness Act 2002); which states

“a person becomes homeless intentionally or threatened with homelessness intentionally if:

- the person does or fails to do anything in consequence of which the person ceases to occupy accommodation(or the likely result of which is that the person will be forced to leave accommodation)*
- the accommodation is available for the person’s occupation; and it would have been reasonable for the person to continue to occupy the accommodation”*

However, an act or omission made in good faith made by someone who was unaware of any relevant fact must not be treated as deliberate.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To request that Cabinet makes a decision within the prescribed timeframe (Appendix 1) on whom Denbighshire County Council will apply the test of “intentionality”.

The households to whom the “intentionality test” can be applied are where the household;

- Includes dependent children or a pregnant woman
- Is vulnerable due to old age
- Is vulnerable to physical disabilities or mental illness / learning disability
- Is vulnerable due to being a care leaver / or a young person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation (18-20 year olds)
- Is vulnerable due to being a 16 or 17 year old
- Is vulnerable due to fleeing domestic violence / abuse or threatened violence
- Is vulnerable due to leaving the armed forces

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members agree that Denbighshire County Council does not exclude any of the groups named under section 2 of this report, but rather continues to apply the “intentionality test” to all of them and publishes its intent to do so in accordance with Welsh Government direction (Appendix 1).

Note: failure to make a decision and to publicise this within the prescribed time frame (Appendix 1) will mean that the Council will cease to have any discretion over the application of the “intentionality test” under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 i.e. it will not be able to apply the “test” and this could be a significant risk factor, as will be outlined in this report.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 The Welsh Government had considered excluding from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 the test of “intentionality”. The reasoning behind this thinking being that many households who are determined to be intentionally homeless often have significant unmet support needs and not providing them with settled accommodation and effectively addressing these needs can significantly impact on the household and the public purse in areas such as social services, the criminal justice system (including police and probation), health services and voluntary organisations.
- 4.2 In the longer term the Welsh Government has pledged to remove the intentionality test for all families. It is envisaged this will be happen from April 2019. As Officers of the Council with responsibility for this area of work, we are supportive of the longer term commitment to remove the “test”. However, our considered opinion is that for practical reasons it would not be timely or appropriate to remove it from any individual grouping presenting as homeless to DCC, post April 2015, at this point in time.
- 4.3 By not removing the “intentionality test” at this point in time we are not advocating taking a legalistic and punitive approach to homeless households who have been deemed to be “intentionally homeless”; turning them away with nothing more than basic advice. Rather we are advocating an interim position between now and the future removal of the “intentionality test” by Welsh Government, whereby the “intentionally test” is used in a positive way to lever, where appropriate, cooperation from “intentionally homeless” households to work in collaboration with the Council to recognise and address underpinning causal issues to their homelessness or threatened with homelessness state. By declaring a household “intentionally homeless” we are stating that we do not have any statutory duty to provide an offer of a tenancy; but this can be the start of an honest discussion about causal factors and entering into a formal Personal Housing Plan to address them in return for the Council using its powers to enable them to secure accommodation in the private rented sector.

(Note; under our proposals to replace the current Housing Options and Homelessness Service with a Housing Solutions Service, we will be working much

more closely with private landlords to help mitigate the business risk to them in accommodating homeless households).

- 4.4 The interim period between the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 being implemented in April 2015 and April 2019, the date the Welsh Government has committed to work towards to remove the “intentionality test” from the legislation, will be used by DCC to build on the positive work it will be doing with “intentionally homeless” households, as outlined above, by working with partner agencies – in particular Supporting People service commissioners, Supporting People provider services, Adult and Children’s social services including “Team Around The Family”, to develop a truly joined up multi agency framework for homeless households with unmet support needs.
- 4.5 The Housing Solutions Team will have considerable extra new responsibilities from the implementation date of the new “Act”, which will take a considerable time to bed down. Removing either in full or part the “intentionality test” before an appropriate framework is in place would leave the Council duty bound to secure accommodation for homeless households with high unmet support needs, but without any mechanism to secure commitment from the households to address causal factors to their homeless or threatened with homelessness state. This would increase business risk for landlords, increase the likelihood of tenancy breakdown and repetition of the cycle of homelessness with further cost to the public purse.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities

The decision contributes to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- Vulnerable People are protected and are able to live as independently as possible;
- Ensuring access to good quality housing.

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

There will be no additional costs; but the proposed way of working with “intentionally homeless” households should take pressure off other Council services – in particular Adult and Children’s Services.

The recommended decision is about retaining the status quo regarding “intentional homelessness” and any costs involved in enabling an “intentionally homeless” household to access a private tenancy will be contained within the budget for the Housing Solutions Team.

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

The recommendation is to make no change to the existing policy; therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

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

Advice from Democratic Services is that consultation with Scrutiny is not required.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Please include the statement of the Chief Finance Officer here, if one is required (statements are mandatory for reports to Cabinet, Council and for delegated decisions).

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

Accepting the recommended decision does not present any risk.

11. Power to make the Decision

Housing (Wales) Act 2014: Part 2 Homelessness: s 78. Deciding to have regard to Intentionality.

Local Government Act 1972: s 111

Investigating Intentionality following the Implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

1) Purpose of this Paper

The purpose of this paper to highlight the changes in legislation, relating to 'intentional homelessness', following the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act in April 2015. It also highlights to Welsh local authorities the steps they will need to take in the run up to implementation.

2) The Act

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 states;

“A person is intentionally homeless ifthe person deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which the person ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for the person’s occupation and which it would have been reasonable for the person to continue to occupy”

If an intentional homeless decision is taken the local authorities housing duties to that household are significantly reduced. It is worth noting that intentionality decisions are rare. Over 2014 they represented approximately 5% of all decisions taken.

This definition is no different to that which we work with now. However, some changes have been introduced on how it is applied. From April 2015 Councils will have to decide which households they will apply this definition to.

In the longer term the Welsh Government has pledged to remove the intentionality test for all families. It is envisaged this will be introduced from April 2019. This is for the longer term, but there are steps each authority will need to take over the next few months.

3) Applying the Test

In order to allow local authorities to make the decision on whether to apply intentionality, the Welsh Government has split households into the priority need groups. They expect Councils to notify them and the public which groups each local authority are going to apply the 'intentionality test' to.

These groups are where the household;

- Includes dependent children or a pregnant woman
- Is vulnerable due to old age
- Is vulnerable to physical disabilities or mental illness / learning disability
- Is vulnerable due to being a care leaver / or a young person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation (18-20 year olds)
- Is vulnerable due to being a 16 or 17 year old
- Is vulnerable due to fleeing domestic violence / abuse or threatened violence

Appendix 1

- Is vulnerable due to leaving the armed forces
- Is vulnerable due to other reasons

The Council therefore needs to decide which of these groups they intend to continue to apply the test to. This decision will need to involve portfolio holder / Members. Once the decision is made the authority will need to inform the Welsh Government and publicise their decision on their local website and through any other means deemed necessary.

4) Checklist on what LA's will need to do in run up to implementation

The following offers a list of tasks each local authority will need to complete in the run up to the implementation of the Act.

Task	Timescale
Inform Members / Cabinet member of changes in the way the intentionality test can be applied	Jan 15
Receive political / portfolio holder agreement on which of the priority need groups the authority will continue to apply the intentionality test	By end of February 15
Agree where this will be publicised, e.g. website, newsletters, literature, local offices, etc. and action	Through Feb & March 2015
Write to Welsh Government to inform them of your intentions	By end of March (at the latest)
Make staff and partners aware of intended policy	By end of March (at latest)

5) Reflections

In discussions with officers it appears that most would favour, (at least in the short term), retaining the 'intentionality test' for all those groups for which they currently apply it. The rationale for this being that there are a lot of changes ahead and they would prefer for these to 'bed in' and develop an understanding of their impact, before changing policy around intentionality.

Appendix 1

As the implications of the Act are better understood, it could well be that they will re-assess the necessity to apply the test for certain groups.

However, it is ultimately a political decision and officers will need to discuss the changes and possible implications with relevant politicians for them decide on the way forward.

6) Conclusions

Due to changes introduced through the Housing (Wales) Act how the intentionally homeless test is to be applied will change from April 2015. This short paper has explained the changes and discussed the steps local authorities will need to take as the implementation of the act approaches.

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Report To: Cabinet meeting

Date of Meeting: 28th July 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Julian Thompson Hill / Jackie Walley

Report Author: Jackie Walley / Head of Customer Services and Education Support

Title: Business Rates write offs

1. What is the report about?

The report is to seek approval from Cabinet to write off business rates for companies where recovery action cannot continue because they have either been wound up or dissolved. The balances outstanding have for some time had to be accounted for in the bad debt provision and on statutory returns to Welsh Government.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is sought to write off irrecoverable Business rates arrears.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To write off the irrecoverable Business Rates shown in table 1.

4. Report details.

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) is required by legislation to administer and collect Business Rates on behalf of central government. An annual bill is issued providing businesses 10 monthly instalments in which to pay. Failure to make payment will result in the issue of reminders, final notices and summonses to attend Magistrates' Court.

At the Magistrates court DCC asked for and was granted liability orders in each of the cases below. The liability order provides Denbighshire the authority to take more rigorous recovery action. The day following the granting of a liability all accounts are issued to the bailiff for collection unless the business had made a prior arrangement and is paying.

In each of these cases bailiffs were instructed to collect but were unable to as the companies have been liquidated or simply ceased trading and disappeared.

The first company ORL Ltd went into Liquidation in 2014, subsequent investigations by the Insolvency Service found there were outstanding liabilities of £938,136 and no assets to make any payments against these debts. All creditors, including DCC were notified no dividend payment would be made.

The second company 'Internacionale Ltd' ceased trading in February 2014 and was put into administration. We supplied all the relevant information to the administrators. In April 2014 the Administrators confirmed there was no prospect of a dividend, as such there is no likelihood of any payment of the Business Rates debt.

Table 1: Summary of write offs

Company name	Financial Year	Amount
ORL Limited	2013/14	£30,021.44
ORL Limited	2014/15	£26,941.58
Internacionale Ltd	2013/14	£23,268.73
Total		£80,231.75

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

This is not applicable as it is a legislative requirement to manage the income and debts as part of Business Rates administration.

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

As the Business Rates income is passed over to the National Pool any bad debts are met by the pool, as such there is no cost to DCC.

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.

This is not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Business Rates income is passed over to the National Pool and any bad debt provisions or debts written off are met by the Pool, so there is no cost to the council. It can be confirmed that proper processes have been followed and there is no prospect of the debts being repaid.

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

By prompt processing of cases for write off we minimise the cash flow impacts to DCC, in terms of payments of Business Rates to the National Pool and reduce our contribution levels, in line with the collectable debt.

11. Power to make the Decision

The power to make the decision is contained within Denbighshire's Financial Standing Orders under Section 25.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 28th July 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill /Richard Weigh

Report Author: Steve Gadd, 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 2015/16. The report also provides a summary update of the Capital Plan as well as 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 2015/16 and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4. Report details

The report provides a summary of the council's revenue budget for 2015/16 detailed in **Appendix 1**. The council's net revenue budget is £185m (£188m in 14/15). The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast underspend of £0.594m (£0.534m under last month). Further narrative around the reasons for variances and the risks and assumptions underlying them are outlined below.

Savings of £7.3m were agreed as part of the budget and a summary of the savings is shown as **Appendix 2**. 73% of the savings have already been achieved. Progress on the remaining 27% will be monitored closely over the coming months, however there is still a high degree of confidence that the majority of these savings will also be achieved.

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?

Significant service narratives are shown in the following paragraphs.

Children's Services – The service is currently expected to underspend by £88k (£80k underspend last month) due to a projected decrease in legal costs. However projections in this service can change as the year progresses due to possible in-year changes in high cost placements.

Planning and Public Protection – The service is currently projected to underspend by £52k (break even position last month) due to the early implementation of agreed budget savings.

Highways and Environmental Services – Risks around School Transport, Parking and the work carried out on behalf of the Trunk Road Agency remain in 2015/16. The following management action has been identified:

- **Parking** - Better performance management of the enforcement staff to increase PCN income and a review of operational costs had already been implemented during last year. Pricing tariffs for the car parks will be reviewed as part of the ongoing traffic and parking review.
- **School Transport** - A task and finish group was brought together to look at options to reduce the trend of overspending in this area. This has resulted in a revised School Transport policy being issued (applicable from September 2015) which it is hoped will help the service move to a break even position. Progress will be monitored closely over the coming months as pressures around demography and SEN requirements still need to be fully assessed. Details of the contracts in place for the 15/16 academic year will not be fully known until September and their impact will be reported to Cabinet in October.
- **North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency** - The service has reduced costs in order to limit the impact of the reductions in fee income that are currently known, however there remains a risk of further reductions in income and levels of work.

It is currently projected that the actions identified above alongside careful cost management within the service as a whole will allow the Highways and Environmental Service to break even overall this year.

Other Service Risks / Assumptions – Although other services are currently projected to break even there are a number of risks and assumptions that will be monitored closely over the coming months and reported to Members.

Schools - At the end of June the projection for school balances is £1.631m, which is a reduction of £1.907m on the balances brought forward from 2014/15 (£3.538m). Monitoring reports have been submitted to finance detailing the risks and assumptions that have informed the projections and summaries of plans in place for using reserves and/or dealing with projected deficits. The non-delegated budget is currently projected to break even.

Corporate – It is currently projected that there will be an underspend on Corporate budgets of £0.454m as a result of an ongoing review of contingency budgets held centrally. The current assumption is that corporate underspends will be used to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Corporate Plan cash reserves at the beginning of 2015/16 are £17.413m. Allowing for projected funding and expenditure during the year, the Corporate Plan balance at the end of the year is estimated to be £6.538m.

A summary of the council's **Capital Plan** is enclosed as **Appendix 3**. The approved general capital plan is £40.4m with expenditure to date of £6.305m. Also included within Appendix 2 is the proposed expenditure of £29.2m on the **Corporate Plan**.

Appendix 4 provides an update on the major projects included in the Capital Plan.

The **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**. The latest revenue position assumes an increase in balances at year end of £150k compared to a budgeted increase of £168k. HRA balances are forecast to be £1.923m at the end of the year. The Capital budget of £7.8m is allocated across Repairs and Maintenance planned repairs (£7.2m), Environmental Improvements (£0.5m) and an IT project (£150k).

Treasury Management – At the end of June, the council's borrowing totalled £184.813m at an average rate of 5.13%. Investment balances were £24.794m at an average rate of 0.51%.

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

A detailed impact assessment was produced as part of the budget setting process and was reported to Council in December 2014.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Corporate Governance Committee, the budget process has been considered by CET, SLT, Cabinet Briefing and Council Briefing meetings. Specific proposals were reviewed by scrutiny committees. There were ten budget workshops held with elected members to examine service budgets and consider the budget proposals.

There was a public engagement exercise to consider the impact of budget proposals and there are ongoing discussions between some of the county council's services and some Town councils. The council has consulted its partners through the joint Local Service Board and specific discussions have taken place with the Police.

All members of staff were kept informed about the budget setting process and affected staff have been or will be fully consulted, in accordance with the

council's HR policies and procedures. Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee.

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 2015/16

Jun-15	Net Budget	Budget 2015/16			Projected Outturn							Variance
	2014/15	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	5,727	10,191	-6,353	3,838	10,180	-6,342	3,838	-11	11	0	0.00%	0
Customers & Education Support	2,454	7,329	-1,967	5,362	7,513	-2,151	5,362	184	-184	0	0.00%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	4,555	15,419	-11,518	3,901	15,537	-11,636	3,901	118	-118	0	0.00%	0
Business Improvement & Modernisation	3,734	4,602	-907	3,695	4,663	-968	3,695	61	-61	0	0.00%	0
Legal, HR & Democratic Services	2,395	3,475	-1,061	2,414	3,393	-979	2,414	-82	82	0	0.00%	0
Finance & Assets	8,354	10,924	-4,339	6,585	10,720	-4,135	6,585	-204	204	0	0.00%	0
Highways & Environmental Services	18,829	34,245	-16,056	18,189	34,358	-16,169	18,189	113	-113	0	0.00%	0
Planning & Public Protection	2,480	3,801	-1,437	2,364	3,931	-1,619	2,312	130	-182	-52	-2.20%	0
Community Support Services	32,269	45,826	-13,720	32,106	46,362	-14,256	32,106	536	-536	0	0.00%	0
Economic & Business Development	1,421	877	-80	797	1,074	-277	797	197	-197	0	0.00%	0
Children's Services	8,419	10,498	-2,199	8,299	9,109	-898	8,211	-1,389	1,301	-88	-1.06%	-80
Total Services	90,637	147,187	-59,637	87,550	146,840	-59,430	87,410	-347	207	-140	-0.16%	-80
Corporate	16,142	45,599	-29,006	16,593	45,145	-29,006	16,139	-454	0	-454	-2.74%	-454
Precepts & Levies	4,342	4,361	0	4,361	4,361	0	4,361	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	13,330	12,945	0	12,945	12,945	0	12,945	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	33,814	62,905	-29,006	33,899	62,451	-29,006	33,445	-454	0	-454	-1.34%	-454
Council Services & Corporate Budget	124,451	210,092	-88,643	121,449	209,291	-88,436	120,855	-801	207	-594	-0.49%	-534
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	63,731	73,786	-10,479	63,307	75,623	-10,409	65,214	1,837	70	1,907	3.01%	0
Total Council Budget	188,182	283,878	-99,122	184,756	284,914	-98,845	186,069	1,036	277	1,313	0.71%	-534
Housing Revenue Account	-163	13,441	-13,609	-168	13,573	-13,723	-150	132	-114	18		0

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Appendix 2 Agreed Savings 2015/16

Agreed Savings by Service Area	STATUS	2015/16 £'000
Highways & Environment		
Street Cleansing - reduce activity	In Progress	100
Increase Cemetery Charges	Achieved	50
Reduce Rights of Way activity	In Progress	71
Reduce Road Safety Programme	Achieved	50
Reduce Street Lighting Inspections	Achieved	5
Introduce Charges for Green Waste	Achieved	400
Remove or reduce public transport subsidy	Achieved	166
Highways general maintenance review	In Progress	125
Reduce grounds maintenance activity	Achieved	40
Rationalisation of Countryside Services	In Progress	65
Communication, Marketing & Leisure		
Reduce spend on recruitment advertising in newspapers	Achieved	30
Stop production of paper version of County Voice	Achieved	19
Leisure Centres - further increase income and efficiency	In Progress	118
Rhyl Pavilion - restructure and introduction of transaction fees	Achieved	62
Youth Services - changes to open access programme	Achieved	28
Youth Services - staffing structure	Achieved	46
Remove subsidy from Scala Prestatyn	Achieved	40
Rationalise Tourist Information Centres - inc. changes to opening hours	Achieved	20
Introduce charges for the use of the Drift Park water play area in Rhyl and reduce the level of Lifeguard Cover on the beaches from 2015/16	In Progress	48
Increase income recharge or transfer Denbigh Town Hall	Achieved	17
Library Service - modernisation programme (Stage 1 - delete vacant posts, reduce book fund)	In Progress	130
Library Service (Ruthin Craft Centre - reduce subsidy)	Achieved	10
Education Support		
Remove historic contingency budgets	Achieved	78
Premises Budget - stop facilities management service provided to schools	Achieved	70
Clothing Grants - end council support with the option to pay passed to schools	Achieved	4
Remission claims - end council support with the option to pay passed to schools	Achieved	34
Governor Support - change the way support is provided	Achieved	31
Schools Delegated Budgets		
Demography reduction to reflect fall in pupil numbers	Achieved	242
Use of Corporate Plan additional funding to meet 1 % protection target	Achieved	581
School Inclusion		
Review Additional Learning Needs - removal of external chair moderation	Achieved	3
Behaviour Support - property savings from moving Project 11	Achieved	3
Specialist equipment - reduce budget to match expenditure	Achieved	5
Review Education Social Worker Service	Achieved	120
Review Educational Psychology Service	Achieved	30
Review of Counselling Service	Achieved	100
Reduce Recoupment Budget to match expenditure	Achieved	140
School Improvement Services		
Regional Consortium Office costs - renegotiate costs	Achieved	30
School Library Service - stop the service	Achieved	45
Music Service - end the agreement with William Mathias	Achieved	103
School improvement discretionary subsidies - remove to match demand	Achieved	141
Outdoor pursuits SLA - involves transferring the cost to schools	Achieved	23
Customer Services		
Website Advertising - scope for additional income	Achieved	10
Rhyl One Stop Shop Review	In Progress	100
Finance & Assets		
Finance - modernisation and efficiency	Achieved	60
Finance - external funding team, removal of base budget	Achieved	65
Property - Office Accommodation Rationalisation	In Progress	100
Property - management restructure	Achieved	80
Reduce the Miscellaneous Property Portfolio	In Progress	20
Property School Facilities Management Agreement	Achieved	48

Agreed Savings by Service Area	STATUS	2015/16 £'000
Revenues & Benefits Commercial Partnership	Achieved	80
Corporate		
Capital Financing & PFI	In Progress	650
Energy Efficiency - result of lower consumption and price increases	Achieved	300
Removal of contingency budgets	Achieved	50
Corporate Complaints - provision to be considered as part of the wider corporate review of support/business services	Review	40
Business Improvement & Modernisation		
Community Safety Partnership - review contribution	Achieved	5
Information Management - service redesign	Achieved	50
Corporate Improvement Team (corporate review of support/business services)	Review	180
Corporate Project Team - increase external charges	Achieved	10
Partnerships & Communities Team	Achieved	30
Internal Audit	Achieved	75
Legal & Democratic Services		
Reduce the Number of Committee Meetings - saving on travel costs	Achieved	2
Reduction of Civics budget	Achieved	5
Strategic HR		
Not replacing Head of Service	Achieved	50
Staff Training & Development - greater use of e-learning etc	Achieved	15
Adult & Business Services		
PARIS - electronic Domiciliary Care Invoices	Achieved	37
Receivership	Achieved	13
Cefndy Healthcare	Achieved	71
Workforce Development	Achieved	75
Restructure of Locality Services	Achieved	100
Benefits & Welfare Advice Service Review	In Progress	200
Children & Family Services		
Staffing Budgets - realign to current requirement	Achieved	150
ICT Desktop Budget	Achieved	10
Young Carers - revised contribution to regional service	Achieved	6
Children with Disabilities - reduction to equipment budget to match spend	Achieved	10
Adoption support costs	Achieved	20
National Youth Advocacy Contract	Achieved	10
Child Protection Training	Achieved	10
Parental contributions for services provided for Children with Disabilities	Achieved	50
Planning & Public Protection		
Development Management - increase income revenue for pre application advice	In Progress	45
Public Protection - closure of Pest Control Service	Achieved	95
Pollution Control - review to consider minimum level of provision	Achieved	20
Trading Standards - stop providing consumer advice	Achieved	45
Housing & Community Development		
HRA Recharges - increase costs funded by the Housing Revenue Account	Achieved	270
Remove Town & Area Plan Budgets	Achieved	356
Reduce Core Project/Development Budget	Achieved	159
Reduce staffing budget - deletion of a vacant post	Achieved	42
Reduce non-staffing elements throughout the Economic & Business Development Budget	Achieved	43
Total Agreed Savings 2015/16		7,285

Summary:	£'000	%
Savings Achieved/Replaced or Pressures Confirmed	5,293	73
Savings In Progress/Being Reviewed	1,992	27
Savings Not Achieved or Deferred and not replaced	0	0
Total	7,285	

General Capital Plan

Capital Expenditure

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

	2015/16 £000s	2016/17 £000s	2017/18 £000s	2018/19 £000s
Total Estimated Payments - General	18,093	100	100	0
Total Estimated Payments - Corporate Plan	21,399	2,418	394	0
Contingency	919	500	500	500
Total	40,411	3,018	994	500

Capital Financing

- 1 External Funding
- 2 Receipts and Reserves
- 3 Prudential Borrowing
- 5 Unallocated Funding

Total Capital Financing

External Funding	12,293	5,021	4,605	4,605
Receipts and Reserves	12,680	562	61	0
Prudential Borrowing	15,438	1,948	433	0
Unallocated Funding	0	(4,513)	(4,105)	(4,105)
Total Capital Financing	40,411	3,018	994	500

Corporate Plan

Approved Capital Expenditure

included in above plan

Cefndy Healthcare Investment
 Extra Care
 Highways Maintenance and bridges
 Feasibility Study - New Ruthin School
 Feasibility Study - Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn
 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	140			
Extra Care				
Highways Maintenance and bridges	1,750			
Feasibility Study - New Ruthin School				
Feasibility Study - Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn				
Rhyl High School	17,116	1,856	333	0
Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy - Dee Valley West Review	4			
Bodnant Community School	2,326	562	61	0
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	63			
Faith Based Secondary				
Estimated Capital Expenditure	7,763	31,971	25,748	13,324
Total Estimated Payments	29,162	34,389	26,142	13,324

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

External Funding	1,005	416		
Receipts and Reserves	8,123	562	61	0
Prudential Borrowing	12,271	1,440	333	0
Estimated Capital Funding	2,535	8,537	17,277	11,875
Receipts and Reserves	5,052	3,593	2,497	480
Prudential Borrowing	176	19,841	5,974	969
Total Estimated Funding	29,162	34,389	26,142	13,324

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Appendix 4 - Major Capital Projects Update June 2015

Rhyl Harbour Development

Total Budget	£10.648m
Expenditure to date	£10.456m
Estimated remaining spend in 2015/16	£ 0.192m
Future Years estimated spend	£ Nil
Funding	WG £2.613m; WEFO £6.165m; Sustrans £0.700m; RWE £155k; WREN £69k and DCC £0.946m
Comments	<p>Programme</p> <p>The WREN works to create the new boardwalks and picnic area recently commenced, and are due to be completed by the end of July. A Children's Trail associated with the boardwalk/dunes is also being provided through this grant; this is due to be completed in August.</p> <p>Work is on-going to rectify any remaining defects associated with the works undertaken at the harbour.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£0.227m

21st Century Schools Programme – Bodnant Community School Extension and Refurbishment

Total Budget	£3.441m
Expenditure to date	£0.730m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£2.157m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.554m
Funding	WG £1.687m, DCC £1.754
Comments	<p>Bodnant Community School</p> <p>This scheme is one of five projects within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme.</p> <p>The project will build 7 classrooms, a new school hall and supporting facilities on the current Juniors site. This will allow the Infants pupils to move to the Juniors site and the school to operate on a single site. The Infants site will then become surplus to requirements.</p> <p>The excavations and foundations have been completed along with the internal drainage and service ducting and the substructure walls. The current focus is on preparation for pouring the concrete floors and building the block work walls for the new extension.</p> <p>The project should be delivered in readiness for the start of the new school year in September 2016.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£2.395m

21st Century Schools Programme - Rhyl New School

Total Budget	£24.586m
Expenditure to date	£ 7.030m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£15.367m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 2.189m
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>The concrete floor slabs are now complete and the underfloor heating is installed within the ground floor slab. Works in respect of the first fix of the mechanical and electrical works and the internal partitioning are making good progress. The mechanical and electrical plant is due to be craned onto the roof shortly.</p> <p>The Youth Centre building has now been demolished and the site will be cleared in the next week. Over the summer, improvements will be made to the main entrance off Grange Road, and external landscaping works will commence in some areas.</p> <p>Preparatory work to bring gas, water, electric and provide the biomass connection to the new school are underway.</p> <p>Works to the Leisure Centre roofs and the replacement of the external cladding commenced on 20th July and are due to complete mid-September. The school drama room is providing alternative indoor provision for Leisure Services over the summer holidays.</p> <p>The new school is on programme 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 re-instated 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 15/16	£17.119m

Nova Development

Total Budget	£4.424m
Expenditure to date	£1.346m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£3.078m
Future Years estimated spend	£Nil
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 improvements 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>Works are progressing well on site and phase 1 structural steel works are complete with phase 2 works commencing on the 20th July 2015. To facilitate these works, a five week road closure is necessary with temporary diversions put in place for the duration of the closure.</p> <p>All internal block work alterations, the main entrance superstructure, internal ramps, masonry breakthroughs and drainage runs in the new wet changing areas are all now complete.</p> <p>Roofing, internal stud walls, mechanical and electrical first fixes are on-going.</p> <p>All internal finishes have now been agreed and instructed. Mood boards have been prepared along with updated visuals/images.</p> <p>The marketing team are currently working on a ‘coming soon’ campaign, press briefings and a branding exercise.</p> <p>The operational team are putting together new processes, procedures and systems for the Nova Centre and working closely with the food and beverage operator to finalise day to day management of the site.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£3.337m

West Rhyl Coastal Development Phase 3

Total Budget	£5.285m
Expenditure to date	£4.937m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£0.348m
Future Years estimated spend	£Nil
Funding	DCC £0.577m; WG/WEFO £4.346m; WG £0.222m; Town Plans/Town Council £0.140m
Comments	<p>This coastal defence scheme is the final phase of works designed to protect 2,700 properties from coastal flooding.</p> <p>The coastal defence works are now operationally complete. Remaining works will be completed by the end of the summer 2015.</p> <p>Redi-rock wall construction is complete. (With the exception of coping which is 40% complete)</p> <p>Secondary wall unit installation is 95% complete.</p> <p>Handrails are 70 % complete.</p> <p>Demolition of existing sea wall is complete (including toilet block, which contains Asbestos)</p> <p>Ducting for street lighting is 60% complete</p> <p>Erection of street lighting columns along the highway is complete.</p> <p>Repairs to existing drainage is complete.</p> <p>Base coursing of lower promenade is complete.</p> <p>Breaking out of the existing footway along West Parade is 60% complete.</p> <p>Back to back kerbs that were previously used to delineate between the old route of the cycleway along West Parade have been removed.</p> <p>Cyclists and pedestrians have now been diverted onto the new promenade via a temporary surfacing link.</p> <p>Town plan surfacing enhancement has been instructed. (Buff colouring)</p> <p>Children's Play area extension has been sketched in Draft, including positioning of equipment, to include 2 Cradle (Toddler) Swings, Velocity Swing and one Double Junior Swing Set.</p>

	<p>Audit of the scheme from a Contract Management perspective site inspection completed on 26/06/15.</p> <p>MAG have confirmed the scheme will not include car parks.</p> <p>Removal of fill remaining from phases 1 and 2 is being addressed. (Further testing is ongoing to gain a better understanding of quantity/cost)</p> <p>Surfacing along Promenade is due to start w/c 27/07/2015.</p> <p>Street Lighting along promenade was due to begin installation w/c 13/07/15.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£2.314m

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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
29 September	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Ruthin Primary Proposals – Ysgol Rhewl	To consider the objections received for the closure of Ysgol Rhewl and whether to approve implementation of the proposal	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	3	Ruthin Primary Proposals – Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn	To consider the objections received for the closure of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the opening of a new area school to serve the area of Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn, and whether to approve implementation of the proposal	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	4	Ruthin Primary Proposals – Ysgol Llanbedr	To consider the formal consultation report following the publication of proposals for the closure of Ysgol Llanbedr and to consider	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			whether to publish the relevant statutory notice		
	5	Ysgol Glan Clwyd (Part II report)	To seek authority to award the construction contract for the extension and refurbishment works at Ysgol Glan Clwyd	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	6	Corporate Plan Performance Report 2015/16 Q1	To consider progress against the Corporate Plan	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Liz Grieve
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
27 October	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
24 November	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			Cabinet's attention		
15 December	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Corporate Plan Performance Report 2015/16 Q2	To consider progress against the Corporate Plan	Tbc	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Liz Grieve
	3	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>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>14 July</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>15 September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>13 October</i>

Updated 17/07/15 - KEJ

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