

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 23 September 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, 29 SEPTEMBER 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 7 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 July 2015 (copy enclosed).

5 PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL RHEWL AS OF 31 AUGUST 2017 AND TRANSFER EXISTING PUPILS TO YSGOL PEN BARRAS, RUTHIN OR RHOS STREET SCHOOL, RUTHIN SUBJECT TO PARENTAL PREFERENCE (Pages 13 - 154)

To consider a report by Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education (copy enclosed) presenting the objection report for consideration and seeking Cabinet approval of the proposal.

6 MODIFICATION TO YSGOL LLANFAIR AND YSGOL PENTRECELYN PROPOSAL (Pages 155 - 160)

To consider a report by Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval to consult on a potential modification to the proposal regarding the closure of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the opening of a new area school.

7 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 - 2015/16 (Pages 161 - 210)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead member for Finance, Corporate Plan and Performance (copy enclosed) presenting an update on the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012 – 17 as at the end of quarter 1 of 2015/16.

8 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15 (Pages 211 - 228)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Corporate Plan and Performance (copy enclosed) updating Cabinet on the performance of the treasury management function and demonstrating compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators during 2014/15.

9 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 229 - 244)

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

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 245 - 250)

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

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

11 YSGOL GLAN CLWYD: CONTRACT AWARD (Pages 251 - 260)

To consider a confidential report by Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's approval to award a contract relating to the Ysgol Glan Clwyd project.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Hugh Evans
Julian Thompson-Hill
Eryl Williams
Bobby Feeley

Hugh Irving
Huw Jones
Barbara Smith
David Smith

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
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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, 28 July 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; Barbara Smith, Lead Member for Modernisation and Housing; 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 Ray Bartley, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bill Cowie, Martyn Holland, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Jason McLellan, Merfyn Parry, Arwel Roberts and David Simmons

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (MM); Corporate Directors: Economy and Public Realm (RM) and Communities (NS); Heads of Service: Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW), Community Support Services (PG); Customers and Education Support (JW), Revenues and Benefits (RU); and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of personal or prejudicial interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 June 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

5 THE FUTURE OF IN-HOUSE CARE SERVICES

Councillor Bobby Feeley presented the In-house Social Care Task & Finish Group's report detailing the findings of the information gathering exercise from reviews of individuals and families using the in-house care services and sought approval to

publicly consult on suggestions for Awelon, Cysgod y Gaer, Dolwen and Hafan Deg and enter into a tender for the provision of domiciliary care in extra care schemes.

Councillor Feeley provided some context to the report highlighting the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and need to modernise services in response to changing demographics and needs of the public, whilst also bearing in mind the impact of significant budget cuts and ensuring sustainable services in the future. She took the opportunity to thank the Task & Finish Group and officers for their hard work in examining options for delivering high quality social care services taking into account local needs and elaborated upon the suggestions put forward for future in-house care services. Research showed demand for residential care was declining in favour of supported independent living and there was a need for Elderly Mental Health care and nursing beds. It was believed the current proposals would serve Denbighshire residents well in the future.

Cabinet noted the difference between the original and current proposals which demonstrated that the views of service users and their families had been taken into consideration. Debate focused on the following –

- clarification on the role of the Consultation Institute as a specialist in public consultation exercises was provided and their advice had been sought in order to safeguard against challenge and ensure the final outcome was deliverable
- the nature and type of partnerships suggested would differ depending on need in particular areas and would likely include partnerships with both private and voluntary sectors – if the suggestions were subsequently agreed it would be necessary to seek expressions of interest in order to deliver required outcomes which could include others delivering services on the Council's behalf
- the importance of working collaboratively, particularly with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, in the provision of local care services for older people was highlighted and it was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on progressing this element of partnership working in future – it was agreed that reference be made within the resolution in this regard
- it was noted that it was not currently cost effective for Denbighshire to admit residents into care homes from outside the county but this could change in future as a result of partnership working with other local authorities
- whilst assurances had been provided in terms of delivering care services through the medium of Welsh this aspect had not been specifically referenced within the report – it was agreed that this requirement be reflected within the resolution if Cabinet approved the proposals, and it be made clear within the consultation process that Welsh Language was a priority for future services
- in terms of Awelon it was recognised that it would not be appropriate to move some residents, hence the longer term vision for that site – it was agreed to reword the recommendation in this regard to better reflect that fact
- some indicative timescales were provided should the suggestions be approved for public consultation and realisation of future savings.

Councillor David Simmons, Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee provided an overview of the scrutiny debate and comments which had been summarised in the report. The day care assessment process had also been raised as an issue and in terms of day care services, scrutiny had requested that provision be provided for

individuals living alone and as respite for carers. Officers confirmed the intention to commission day care services at both Hafan Deg and Dolwen which would apply to any individual, regardless of their family situation. It was agreed to amend the wording in the recommendation for Dolwen to clarify that the service included both residential and day care provision. Councillor Ray Bartley added that in terms of day care assessments, officers had agreed to consult on whether the current six week provision should be increased to ten/twelve weeks. He also reported upon a positive outcome following a meeting with staff at Dolwen to explain the proposals.

[As an aside Councillor Eryl Williams reiterated the need for a full appraisal of scrutiny committee debates on matters submitted to Cabinet for decision.]

Councillor Jason McLellan raised concerns over the lack of detail about potential service providers and how services would be provided in future. Officers explained the need for a broad consultation on preferred options at this stage and be open to other suggestions – it was important not to pre-empt the outcome of the consultation as this would result in a risk of challenge. A report back to Cabinet in January/February would include the consultation results and more detailed proposals in that regard. It was agreed that the need for a procurement process to determine specific service providers be included within the consultation document.

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts advocated a more evidence based approach to meet the care needs of the county's residents which should be clearly set out in the consultation. Officers reported upon evidence considered by the Task & Finish Group which included data and statistics of past and current usage and future projections based on Denbighshire's local population together with any additional information as requested. That analysis had identified the need for a mixed market provision which had been reflected within the proposals. Cabinet noted the work of the Task & Finish Group and Performance Scrutiny Committee within the process and was satisfied a decision could be made on the evidence provided. It was accepted there would be merit in ensuring that the evidence was sufficiently articulated within the consultation document. It was also agreed that a draft consultation document be tested on members prior to formal consultation.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *agree to publicly consult on the suggestions as detailed within the report and outlined below -*
- *Hafan Deg – to enter into a partnership with an external organisation and transfer the building to them, commission 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;*
 - *Dolwen – to enter into a partnership with an external organisation and transfer the whole service to them (residential and day care), while registering for Elderly Mental Health care*

- *Awelon – to stop new admissions and work with the individuals and their families at their own pace to explore, where appropriate, suitable alternatives and to enter into partnership with the owner of Llys Awelon to develop additional Extra Care apartments on the site*
 - *Cysgod y Gaer – 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 the Edeyrnion area;*
- (b) *agree to enter into a tender for the provision of domiciliary care in Llys Awelon, Nant y Mor and Gorwel Newydd Extra Care Schemes as set out in paragraph 4.5.5 of the report;*
- (c) *that any future provision must recognise the importance of delivering care services through the medium of Welsh, for those older people who require it, and maintain the capability to do so, and*
- (d) *the Council engages with Welsh Government Ministers, Officials and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in order to urge greater collaboration and partnership working between the Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in the provision of services relating to the care of older people.*

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

6 IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING ACT WALES 2014

Councillor Hugh Irving presented the report seeking Cabinet’s endorsement of their original decision (made on 17 February 2015) to retain the homelessness intentionality test in full following a revision of the prescribed timescale.

Following Cabinet’s decision to retain the intentionality test the Welsh Government advised of a revision in the prescribed timescale due to a delay in finalising the Homelessness Code of Guidance to accompany the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. As no change had been made to the conditions and parameters of discretion afforded to Councils regarding retention of the intentionality test (other than timescale), the decision remained legally valid. However, Welsh Government had recommended a report be brought back to Cabinet in order to reaffirm their original decision. Officers confirmed the original decision had been submitted to the Welsh Government and published within the revised timescale.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet note the content of the report and endorse their original decision to retain the “intentionality” test in full.*

7 BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to write off irrecoverable Business Rates for two companies where recovery action

could not continue because they had either been wound up or dissolved. Further detail relating to each company had been included within the report.

In response to questions officers reported upon the debt recovery process and use of the Insolvency Service in particular cases and steps taken to ensure that so called “phoenix companies” were identified and individuals held to account. Cabinet noted that the debt for one of the companies spanned two years and assurances were provided regarding the robustness of the recovery process and timescales involved to ensure the best chance of a favourable outcome. Most debt was collected during the year but due to the timescales involved the debt could span two financial years. Cabinet noted there would be no cost to the council for debts written off which were met by the National Pool.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agrees to write off the irrecoverable Business Rates as shown in Table 1 of the report.

8 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 of £0.594m was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- 73% of agreed savings had been achieved to date (target £7.3m)
- highlighted 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 raised during debate –

- the good progress being made in respect of major projects was highlighted with particular mention to Rhyl New School and Prestatyn Nova Development. The Leader also thanked officers involved in the successful delivery of West Rhyl’s Coastal Development Scheme (Phase 3) which had initially been a high risk project and reference was made to the work of Rhyl Town Council to secure further improvements to that area of the promenade including seating/shelters
- there had been a good debate at Communities Scrutiny Committee about setting the level of car parking fees – the setting of fees and charges was delegated to the Head of Highways & Environmental Services and the changes were being worked through for implementation as soon as possible
- the changes to school transport provision would be monitored closely over the coming months and sufficient time was needed to ensure an accurate assessment; the financial detail of school contracts for 2015/16 would be available in September and their impact reported to Cabinet in October as part of the regular finance report
- the impact of the known reductions in fee income from the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency was again highlighted as a serious concern compounded by the Minister’s delay in confirming future income and work levels.

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

9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Hugh Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for consideration and members noted an additional item for December seeking Cabinet approval of the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan.

RESOLVED that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 p.m.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Eryl Williams

Report Author: Head of Customers and Education Support

Title: Proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 and transfer existing pupils to Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin or Rhos Street School Ruthin subject to parental preference.

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report is to advise Cabinet of the process that is required to be followed as a consequence of the conclusion of the Statutory Notice period which would allow a determination to be made on the proposal.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 Following the completion of a period of Statutory Notice, a decision is required on whether to proceed to implement the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl on the 31st of August 2017.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The recommendations for Cabinet are:-

- (i) To consider the findings of the objections report
- (ii) Subject to consideration of the above, to approve implementation of the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl on the 31st August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin or Rhos Street School, Ruthin subject to parental preference.
- (iii) That applications for discretionary transport to the nearest category 2 school, be considered on a case by case basis, from existing pupils of Ysgol Rhewl for the remainder of their Primary education.

4. Report details.

4.1 The Council published a Statutory Notice on the 16th of June 2015 notifying stakeholders of the intention to close Ysgol Rhewl on the 31st of August 2017. The 28 day statutory notice period came to an end on the 13th of July 2015.

- 4.2 In line with the requirements of the new school organisation code (<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en0>), the proposals were published on Denbighshire County Council's website and near the main entrance to the existing schools which are subject of the proposal.
Each school subject to the proposals were provided with copies of the notice to distribute to pupils, parents carers and guardians, and staff members (the schools may distribute the notice by email);
- 4.3. On the day that the proposals were published, the consultees listed in Appendix 3 received either a hard copy of the proposals or were emailed a link to the relevant website.
- 4.4 All objections submitted during the notice period had to be made in writing or by email. At the end of the consultation period on the 13th July 2015 the Council had received 60 individual objections from members of the Community.

Process

- 4.5 In determining proposals the School Organisation Code states decision makers:
- **must** consider whether there are any other related proposals;
 - **must** ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code;
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en>
 - **must** ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and the notice contains all the required information;
 - **must** consider the consultation document and consultation report;
 - **must** consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals;
- 4.6 Under section 54 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) 2013 Act another local authority affected by the proposals may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Minister for consideration.
- 4.7 The School Organisation Code clearly states that “where a local authority’s proposals have received objections, and require determination under section 53 of the 2013 Act, the local authority **must** not approach the determination of these proposals with a closed mind. Objections **must** be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in the light of the factors set out in section 1.3 – 1.14 of this Code.”
- 4.8 In considering the proposal Cabinet should take into account the factors highlighted within the code which include quality and standards in education, need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools, resourcing of education and other financial implications as detailed in the School Organisation Code. Appendix 1, the Determination Report provides Cabinet

with a summary of the factors to be considered prior to determining any proposal.

- 4.9 In addition, in accordance with the 2013 Act Cabinet are required to give full consideration to the objections received by the Community to the proposal. The objections have been collated into an Objection Report which details the objections received and the response of the local authority to these concerns. This is attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendations of Scrutiny Committee

- 4.10 The Performance Scrutiny Committee reviewed the decision of Cabinet to publish the statutory notices at its meeting on the 9th June. The Committee determined that there was not sufficient evidence to ask Cabinet to consider its decision of 2nd June to publish a statutory notice to close Ysgol Rhewl, but to recommend to Cabinet that:-

(a) It should instruct officers 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 would not disadvantage the area's pupils in future;

(b) Further work to be 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 between Rhewl and Glasdir; and

(c) That the findings of the work outlined in (a) and (b) above is reported to Cabinet in the autumn of 2015 when presenting the objections report in response to the publication of the statutory notice.

- 4.11 Officers have met with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Local Member on a number of occasions to discuss issues. The response to these issues presented to them are detailed in Appendix D and E.

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

- 5.1 The proposal supports the priority of "Improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings" and has been highlighted as a work stream as follows: "We will continue to review school provision across the County to ensure that we provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right location.

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

- 6.1 The proposal will not have an effect on other services within the organisation.

- 6.2 Should the recommendation be approved, transport costs could increase for the specific period until existing pupils have left primary education, due to the possible use of discretionary transport.

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.

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

7.2 The proposal could impact positively on some of the protected of the protected characteristics, specifically disability. The proposal recommends that existing pupils transfer to new, purpose built educational facilities that would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. The full Equality Impact Assessment is included as Appendix 4.

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

8.1 Full consultation has been undertaken with all stakeholders and the findings from the Formal Consultation period were presented to Cabinet on the 2nd of June 2015. Objections submitted during the statutory notice period are summarised in the objections report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 “The proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl will release £150k in non-pupil led savings which will be used to help fund the corporate plan including the ambitious programme of investment in school buildings. Any additional transport costs will, however, also need to be funded from this saving. The closure also gives the potential to generate a capital receipt.”

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

There is a strong possibility that the proposal could result in adverse publicity for the Council and in adverse public comments.

To minimise this risk the Council will seek to ensure clear communication with all stakeholders.

11. Power to make the Decision

School Standards and Organisations (Wales) Act 2013
Modernising Education Policy Framework (approved by Cabinet January 2009)

Determination Report

1.0 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members about the decision required in relation to the publication of a statutory notice for:

- The closure of Ysgol Rhewl on the 31st August 2017,

1.2 It is recommended that this proposal is approved for implementation. This proposal will ensure the effective provision of primary places within the Ruthin area. By 2019 it is projected that there will be 39 pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl, resulting in 43 surplus places.

2.0 Background to the proposal

2.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.

2.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

2.3 The objectives of the review were:

- To ensure the sustainability of high quality education provision
- Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities;
- Provide the right number of places, of the right type in the right location;

3.0 Ruthin Review – Informal Consultation

3.1 In November 2012, Denbighshire's Cabinet approved the commencement of a review of primary school provision in the Ruthin area. The review encompassed eleven primary schools in the area:-

- Ysgol Borthyn
- Ysgol Bro Famau (Llanarmon yn Ial and Llanferres)
- Ysgol Clocaenog
- Ysgol Cyffylliog
- Ysgol Gellifor
- Ysgol Llanbedr
- Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd
- Ysgol Pen Barras
- Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Ysgol Rhewl

- Ysgol Bryn Clwyd was also considered at the request of the Federated Governing Body of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor.

3.2 The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:

- a. Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
- b. Surplus Places
- c. Condition and Suitability of School Buildings (incl. use of Mobile Accommodation)
- d. Recruitment of Head Teachers
- e. Demand for Welsh Medium Education

3.3 Following careful consideration of the issues raised during the Informal Consultation stage, the following six proposals were approved by the Cabinet. These were:

- Creation of new area school to serve the communities of Clocaenog and Cyffylliog.
- Closure of Ysgol Llanbedr with transfer of pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.
- Ruthin town area detailed feasibility.
- Proposed federation of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- Support for the Federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor.
- Retention of Ysgol Bro Famau.

4.0 Formal Consultation

4.1 In January 2015, Denbighshire County Councils Cabinet approved recommendations to start a formal consultation on the proposal to Ysgol Rhewl from the 31st of August 2015.

4.2 A period of formal consultation started on the 10th of February 2015 and came to an end on the 23rd of March 2015. A formal consultation document (Appendix A) was published which provided details of the proposal.

4.3 During the formal consultation, parents, staff, governors, children and young people were consulted along with other statutory consultees. The findings of the formal consultation were collated in the Formal Consultation Report (Appendix B) and presented to Cabinet on the 2nd of June 2015.

4.4 At this meeting, Denbighshire County Councils Cabinet approved a recommendation to publish a statutory notice to close Ysgol Rhewl.

5.0 Statutory Notice

5.1 A Statutory Notice was published on the 16th of June 2015. A copy is attached in Appendix C. The notice period came to an end on the 13th of July 2015.

5.2 In total 60 objections were received during the consultation period. The points raised and the responses provided are included in the Objections Report (Appendix 2).

6.0 Determining School Organisation Proposals

6.1 When approving or determining proposals, relevant bodies:

- **must** consider whether there are any other related proposals;
- **must** ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals to discontinue a school which is a small school);
- **must** ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and the notice contains all the required information; **must** consider the consultation document and consultation report;
- **must** consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals;

7.0 The School

7.1 Ysgol Rhewl

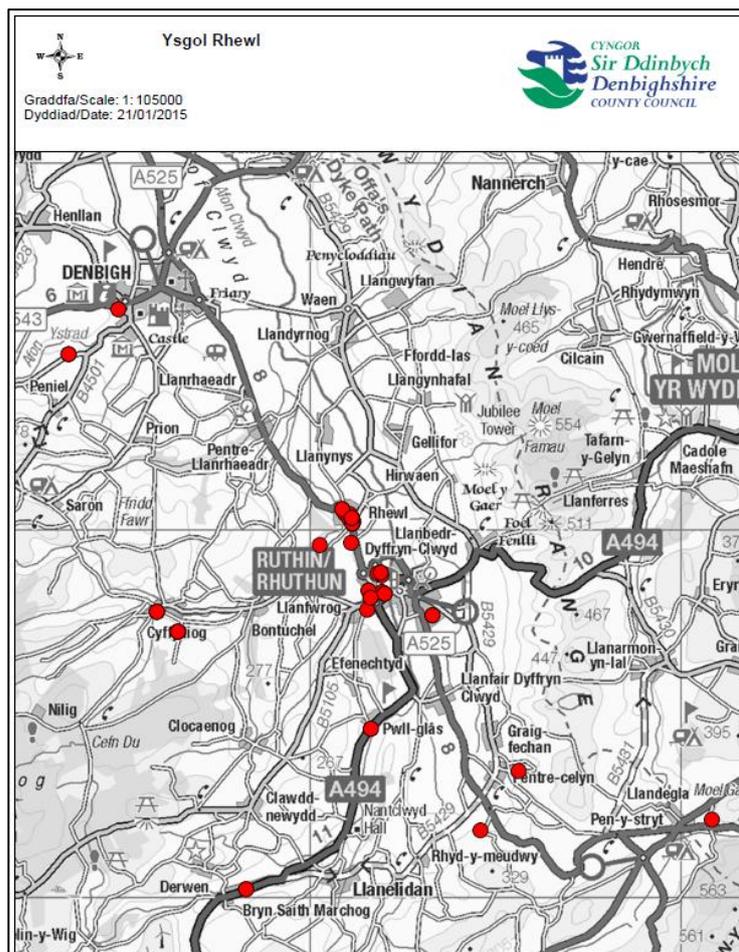
Ysgol Rhewl is located centrally within the village of Rhewl with the western boundary of the site bordering the A525. The school serves an age range of 3-11. The school is identified as a Category 2- Dual Stream primary school. This is where two types of language provision (English and Welsh) exist side by side and parents/pupils opt for either the mainly Welsh medium or mainly English medium provision.

As of the September 2014 school census (PLASC) there were 53 full time pupils and 3 part time (nursery) pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl.

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

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

The map on page 4 shows the catchment area for Ysgol Rhewl based upon pupils at the school in January 2015.



8.0 Determining Factors

Quality and standards in education

8.1 Objectors have questioned the need to close Ysgol Rhewl as it has good standards. However it is Estyn's opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Estyn agrees that the expected benefits include the following:

- reducing surplus places;
- pupils have access to 21st century buildings and facilities;
- the age range of pupils taught together will be reduced;
- a broader compliment of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of curriculum areas; and
- provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium.

8.2 In its most recent report on Ysgol Rhewl, Estyn found current delivery was 'Good' with good prospects for improvements. The current delivery was also 'Good' at Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School with the prospect for improvement at Ysgol Pen Barras judged 'Good' and Rhos Street School judged 'Excellent'.

SEN Provision

- 8.3 Of the current pupil cohort there are 16.9% of the pupils at Ysgol Rhewl registered with additional learning needs. The Denbighshire average is 20.5%. Any support that pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl with additional learning needs receive, such as 1-2-1 support, would be replicated in their new learning environment.
- 8.4 Denbighshire County Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for all pupils by working closely with the destination school of each pupil. This work will be managed by specialist ALN education officers and additional support will be provided, if required, to assist pupils with the transition.

Language of Provision

- 8.5 The decision by Cabinet on the 2nd of June 2015 to issue a Statutory Notice was called in for further scrutiny on the 11th of June 2015. It was resolved to instruct officers to undertake further work to assess and mitigate the effect of the loss of Welsh language provision on the community and to ensure that the loss of a dual stream school would not disadvantage the area's pupils in future.
- 8.6 Objectors to the proposal have questioned the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and parental choice of language medium. Objectors have stated that the current offer cannot be replicated if children moved to either of the new schools. The school organisation code 2013 states:
 "existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium".
 In their consultation response Estyn states that:
 "Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium".
- 8.7 In Estyn's opinion, the status quo provision at Ysgol Rhewl, is English medium with Welsh taught as a 2nd language. Ysgol Rhewl have responded to the challenge of the Welsh in Education Strategic Group to demonstrate that they are a dual stream school and two children will be assessed as Welsh first language in 2015. Currently, the Welsh stream at Ysgol Rhewl is very small. A copy of the response to issues raised regarding the impact on Welsh language can be found in appendix E.

Transport

- 8.8 Objectors have questioned the suitability of the road network for transporting pupils and have identified the congestion that this proposal will create in and around Glasdir. This concern was also raised in scrutiny and the committee resolved to instruct officers to undertake further work.
- 8.9 The Council have since conducted a new road safety assessment based on current traffic flows of the road between Glasdir and Rhewl and concluded that the road is a safe walking route against the nationally set criteria for such routes.

The safety of roads are periodically reviewed and should the proposal be implemented this will be reviewed to take into account the impact on the traffic flow of the new schools and any new development in the route. A copy of the response to issues relating to transport to the Glasdir site can be found in appendix D.

9.0 Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools

9.1 Within the Ruthin area there are Welsh Medium, English Medium and Dual Stream provision. The outcomes from each language category are as follows:

Category	Outcomes
Welsh Medium (1)	The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium Secondary provision and by the end of Key Stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.
English Medium (5)	The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer to English medium secondary provision and continue to learn predominantly through the medium of English, learning Welsh as a second language.
Dual Stream	For pupils in the Welsh stream, normal expectations are as for category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for category 5.

9.2 Denbighshire County Council has adopted a balanced approach to developing proposals for the future primary provision to serve the Ruthin area for the future. Proposals ensure that the area will retain English, Welsh, and Faith provision in a mix of rural and town locations. The informal consultation involved all 11 schools and the diocesan authority.

9.3 The proposal is likely to impact on both Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School and other schools in the area with surplus capacity. In Estyn's opinion the proposal has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected across the area.

9.4 Closing Ysgol Rhewl changes the location of provision but does not affect the availability of places within the area. Sufficient places remain across the area to deliver Welsh 1st language:

- Ysgol Pen Barras – 280 FT places – 1.1 Miles (Glasdir site)
- Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch – 80 FT places – 2.9 miles
- Ysgol Llanfair DC – 140 FT places – 4.3 miles (New site)
- Ysgol Carreg Emlyn – 91 FT places – 6 miles (New site)

9.5 There is expected to be limited impact on secondary provision in the area. The school currently feeds Ysgol Brynhyfryd and the alternative schools are also feeder schools to Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

9.6 It has been demonstrated that some pupils will travel further to their school as a result of this proposal. Free home (Home School) to school transport will be provided for pupils in accordance to Denbighshire County Council Transport Policy and journey times will remain below 45 minutes which is in accordance to Welsh Government expectations.

9.7 In view of the concerns expressed it has been recommended that applications for discretionary transport to the nearest category 2 school, will be considered on a case by case basis, from existing pupils of Ysgol Rhewl for the remainder of their Primary education.

10.0 Resourcing of education

10.1 Currently Ysgol Rhewl receives a budget of £5,977 per pupil. This is higher than the Denbighshire average of £3,931 per pupil.

10.2 Once implemented a non-pupil led saving of £150k would be realised and would be reinvested within the Council's corporate plan to deliver its priorities including investment in school buildings.

10.3 An estimated pupil led saving of £161k would remain in the school budget quantum to support the delivery of education for pupils from Ysgol Rhewl in their chosen school.

11.0 Other general factors

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and has identified that the proposal would not result in any significant equalities issues.

11.2 In the most recent Estyn reports, the catchment of both schools is identified as neither prosperous nor economically disadvantaged.

11.3 The school is in the freehold ownership of Denbighshire County Council.

12.0 Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

12.1 Objectors stated that this proposal will have a detrimental effect on the community. The school building in Rhewl is currently used for some community activities. Officers from Denbighshire County Council will work with the local community to help retain the community activities that previously used school facilities.

12.2 In preparing this proposal, consideration was given to other alternatives:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Option 1 | Maintain the status quo; |
| Option 2 | Undertake remedial repairs; |
| Option 3 | Do Intermediate - Undertake refurbishment and extension works at Ysgol Rhewl; |
| Option 4 | Do Maximum – Provide new build for Ysgol Rhewl; |

Option 5 Close Ysgol Rhewl;

- 12.3 The advantages and disadvantages of each option which were considered by the Council were detailed in the consultation report.
- 12.4 When the new school campus is built on the Glasdir site, Ysgol Rhewl would be nearer to both Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School than parts of Ruthin town. Clearly the re-positioning of these schools in relation to Ysgol Rhewl would impact on the viability of Ysgol Rhewl and it would be difficult to justify significant expenditure on facilities in Rhewl when these new facilities are in very close proximity to the village. This is one of the key reasons why a new build wasn't pursued for Ysgol Rhewl. The alternative of retaining the building would not address the deficit in facilities the school currently have, and the maintenance backlog would remain.
- 12.5 Additional information regarding the option to federate Ysgol Rhewl was also provided as a supplement to the formal consultation report. It was initially explored following the informal consultation stage of the Ruthin review. The option to federate would not address issues around surplus places and condition of buildings which were considered as key drivers of the review. In considering the options within the main consultation document there is a focus on the options which could deliver long term improvements to these key drivers. Therefore the option to federate Ysgol Rhewl had been discounted as a sustainable long term option for the school at that stage.



Formal Consultation Document

**Proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August
2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or
Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the
new school buildings.**

February 2015

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1. Introduction

1.1 The review of educational provision in the Ruthin area began in 2013. 11 Schools were included within the review, due to the complexities and interdependencies the review has been undertaken on a phased basis.

1.2 The Ruthin area faces a number of distinct challenges, including;

- *Surplus Places;*
- *Condition and suitability of school sites;*
- *Provision of mobile classrooms;*
- *School estate efficiency and sustainability.*

1.3 The objectives of the review are to address these challenges and ensure that the high standard of provision is maintained and strengthened for the future. The Council has been clear from the outset of the review that it is not linked to educational standards and attainment, as levels of education across the Ruthin area are good. The review and subsequent recommendations seek to maintain and strengthen this provision.

1.4 A series of recommendations have been made to Denbighshire's Cabinet since June 2013. This phase of the review has a focus on the town schools of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, inclusive of Ysgol Rhewl due to its proximity to the town.

1.5 It was agreed by Cabinet in June 2013 that no formal proposals should be made regarding Rhos Street School, Ysgol Pen Barras and Ysgol Rhewl until a further period of feasibility had been undertaken. This feasibility, to assess options for each school, has taken place during the autumn term 2014.

1.6 It has been proposed that Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras should be relocated from their current site to a new, purpose built facilities on the Glasdir site.

1.7 A detailed overview of the options explored for Ysgol Rhewl can be found in section 15 of this document.

2. Summary of the Proposal

- 2.1 It is being proposed that Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings. The new school buildings will be located on the Glasdir site to the North of Ruthin.
- 2.2 The long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl has been considered as part of the wider town area as part of the Ruthin Area Review. The main drivers for proposals for the Ruthin town area have been the suitability and condition of school sites and surplus places within the town. It is considered that these drivers impact on the long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl.
- 2.3 In considering a range of options for the Glasdir site there was a need to assess the impact of the new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl due to the proximity of the school, approximately 1.1 miles, from the Glasdir site. In view of pupil numbers and the long term need to invest in the building it is believed that closing the school and transferring pupils to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School would be the most sustainable option for the wider Ruthin town area.

3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 It was approved by Denbighshire's Cabinet on the 13th of January 2015 to formally consult on the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl. The formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have the opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 The formal consultation will take place from the **10th of February 2015 to the 23rd of March 2015.**
- 3.3 A series of formal consultation events will be taking place during this period. These will be arranged in the format of a 'parents evening' where attendees will be able to speak with officers on a one to one basis. Details of the meetings are included in the letter which is circulated.
- 3.4 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of consultees, including the following statutory consultees;
- a. *Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Rhewl;*
 - b. *The Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools;*
 - i. *Ysgol Rhewl;*
 - ii. *Ysgol Pen Barras;*

- iii. *Rhos Street School;*
 - iv. *Ysgol Borthyn;*
 - v. *Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;*
 - vi. *Ysgol Gellifor;*
 - vii. *Ysgol Llanbedr DC;*
 - viii. *Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch.*
- c. *Church in Wales Diocese of St. Asaph and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;*
 - d. *Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;*
 - e. *Flintshire County Council;*
 - f. *Conwy County Borough Council;*
 - g. *Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;*
 - h. *Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;*
 - i. *All Denbighshire County Councillors;*
 - j. *Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the areas affected by the proposal;*
 - k. *Llanynys Community Council;*
 - l. *Ruthin Town Council;*
 - m. *The Welsh Government Ministers;*
 - n. *Estyn;*
 - o. *Relevant teaching and staff trade unions;*
 - p. *Taith;*
 - q. *Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GWE);*
 - r. *North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.*

3.5 A supplementary version of this consultation document has been produced for children and young people who are likely to be affected by the proposal. This document will be made available at the schools named within this proposal. The children and young people's document has been specifically written to enable children and young people to understand and engage with the consultation process.

3.6 Consultation events will also be held with pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School.

3.7 This document, the children and young people's document and relevant supporting documentation has been published on Denbighshire County Council's website and can be viewed by following this link;

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation

4. Making Your Views Known

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

In Person

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

The parents meeting will be held in a parents evening format. This allows for attendees to speak with officers on a 1-2-1 basis. To ensure that each attendee has the opportunity to make their views known there is a requirement to book a place at the meeting.

To book a place please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk or call 01824 706127. A confirmation email will be sent to you to confirm your booking.

In Writing

You can complete the form electronically by following this link;

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YsgolRhewlEnglishVersion>

If you wish to make a further response in writing please submit your views by using the postal details below.

A response form is attached to this document; this can be completed and submitted by post to;

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

Or this can be scanned to;

modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Children and Young People

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

- 4.2 Please ensure that all views are submitted by the 23/03/2015. Any late submissions may not be included within analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.3 Additionally, any views or response submitted via any other postal or email address may not be included within analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.4 At the end of the formal consultation period all views will be collated for consideration before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage.
- 4.5 Please note that responses submitted as part of the Formal Consultation **will not** be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be made if a Statutory Notice is published. If a Statutory Notice is published objections can only then be registered.
- 4.6 A formal consultation report, and all responses, will be collated and presented to Cabinet in May 2015. The report will also contain a recommendation from officers.
- 4.7 It is Cabinet who will make a decision whether to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.

School Organisation Proposal Process

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

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

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

Statutory Notice: If the recommendation is to move to the next stage of the process Cabinet will need to agree it. If this is agreed a statutory notice will be issued. The statutory notice period must last for 28 days. It will be published on DCC website and posted at the entrance of the school.

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

5. Power to Make a Decision

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

6. Background to the Proposal

6.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Frameworkⁱⁱⁱ in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.

6.2 The Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a corporate priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st Century Wales.

6.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision throughout the County, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

6.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of primary education in the Ruthin area. The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These include;

- *Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision;*
- *Surplus Places;*
- *Condition and Suitability of school buildings (incl. use of mobile accommodation);*
- *Recruitment of Headteachers;*
- *Demand for Welsh Medium education.*

- 6.5 The informal consultation ended on the 22nd of March 2013 and Denbighshire County Council has carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 63 letters and emails were received from stakeholders together with 195 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the Council and were published on the website as part of the decision making process.
- 6.6 It was recommended to Cabinet in June 2013 that no formal proposals should be progressed for the town schools until a period of detailed feasibility had been undertaken. The feasibility works were undertaken in the autumn term 2014. The feasibility works were able to provide a more detailed analysis of 3 sites, namely the Ysgol Rhewl site, the current shared site for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras and the Glasdir site.
- 6.7 The Council's preferred option is to relocate Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to new, purpose built facilities on the Glasdir site.
- 6.8 The Council in bringing forward this proposal is of the view that the changes proposed would be of long term benefit to children and young people within the Community area of Rhewl. This consultation document within Section 7 provides information regarding current educational standards at Ysgol Rhewl. The document within Section 13 also provides commentary upon the adequacy of the existing school buildings and facilities. In considering these elements the Council believes that although the current provision at Ysgol Rhewl provides a good standard of education, predominately through the medium of English, there are in considering the schools long term viability, concerns that the size of the school may impact upon the ability of the school to respond to increased curriculum demands. The current adequacy of the accommodation is also believed to be a potential barrier to maintaining the status quo from a long term perspective.
- 6.9 In developing the proposal the local authority has carefully considered the likely impact of the proposal upon outcomes, provision and leadership and management and is of the view that the expected benefits outweigh the disadvantages when compared to the status quo. Section 12 provides a detailed commentary upon the impact of the proposals upon these key areas and overall highlights many advantages through the ability to offer more age appropriate classes, the opportunity to access a more in-depth curriculum offer through a wider specialism of staff and to provide a more developed senior leadership team structure to oversee the delivery of education. The proposed investment in new accommodation for Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School as the named alternative schools would also allow pupils who transfer from Ysgol Rhewl to be educated in modern purpose built facilities. In Section 20 the document highlights potential disadvantages to the proposal and these are developed further also within the Community Impact

Assessment. However Denbighshire in developing these proposals are of the view that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages when considering the long term needs of pupils from the Rhewl Community and also the wider educational interests of all pupils in the area.

6.10 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in the Ruthin area, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as;

- i. The proposal for a new area school to replace Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;*
- ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, which is currently operating across two sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog;*
- iii. A new purpose built educational facility that will enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School.*

7. Current Provision: Ysgol Rhewl

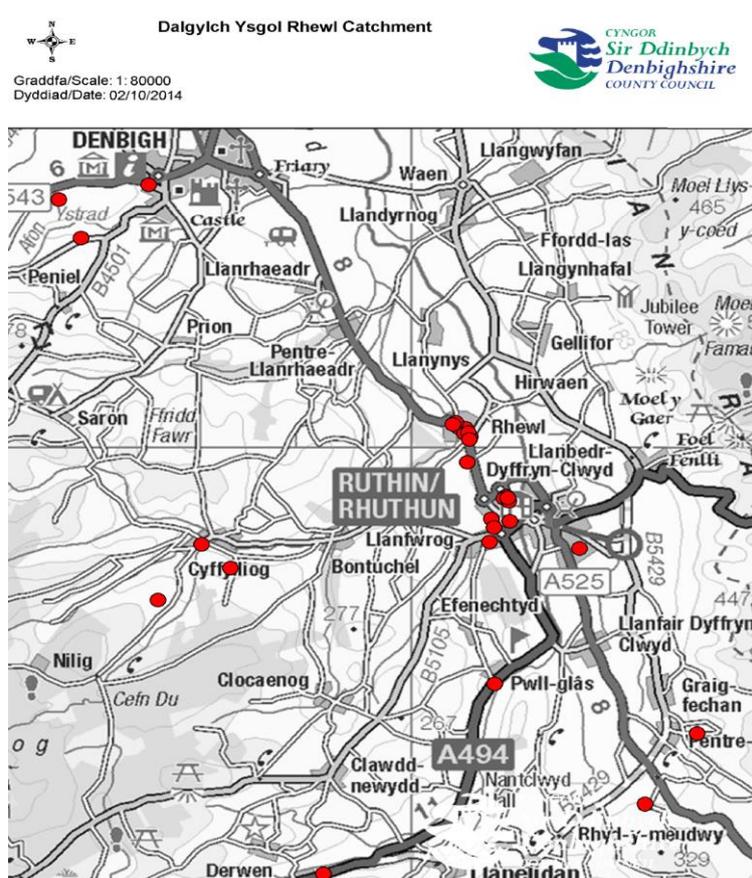
7.1 This section details the current provision at Ysgol Rhewl.

7.2 Ysgol Rhewl is located centrally within the village of Rhewl with the Western boundary of the site bordering the A525. The school serves an age range of 3-11. The school is identified as a Category 2- Dual Stream primary school. This is where two types of language provision (English and Welsh) exist side by side and parents/pupils opt for either the mainly Welsh medium or mainly English medium provision.

7.3 As of the September 2014 school census (PLASC) there were 53 full time pupils and 3 part time (nursery) pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl. The table below displays the full and part time pupil numbers over a ten year period;

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
Pupil No.	FT	P T																				
Ysgol Rhewl	28	2	33	8	41	6	38	3	34	10	41	9	34	6	34	4	37	8	55	5	50	4

7.4 38.5% of current pupils are from the village of Rhewl and the immediate area. 61.5% of pupils live outside of the village. The map below demonstrates the catchment for the academic year 2014-2015;



7.5 The overall full time capacity of the school building has been calculated at 82 pupils. As of September 2014 there were 53 full time pupils and 3 part time pupils. There is a current surplus of 29 full time pupil places, equivalent to 35.4%. The admission number for the school is 11.

7.6 The school has two large classrooms and operates mixed year groups. The nursery and Foundation Phase classes are located within Classroom 1 and the Key Stage 2 pupils are located within Classroom 2. The large classrooms can be subdivided for smaller teaching areas. The table below displays the breakdown of pupils by year group;

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

7.7 The pupil teacher ratio for the last academic year was 15.

7.8 Each Spring Denbighshire undertakes a round of pupil projections using the most current pupil data. Pupil projections are suggesting a decrease in the number of pupils on roll over the coming 5 year period. The projected full time pupil numbers are displayed below;

School	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ysgol Rhewl	50	46	42	41	39

7.9 The deadline for Reception applications for the next academic year (2015/2016) was at the end of November 2014. To date there has been 3 applications for Reception and 1 application for the nursery class as of the start of February 2015.

7.10 The table below displays the level of achievement and attainment, alongside local and national averages, at the end of the Foundation Phase for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period;

	CSI*		FPOI*		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Local Average	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%
National Average	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	85.2%

**2010-2011 achieving Core Subject Indicator- CSI. CSI at Key Stage 1 replaced by Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator- FPOI.*

7.11 The table below provides benchmarking information regarding pupils achieving the expected outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase areas of learning. Benchmarking compares the performances of a family of schools who have similar levels of Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement;

% of Pupils achieving expected outcome	2012	2013	2014
Rhewl	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Highest	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Upper Quartile	89.8%	90.0%	95.1%
Median	82.7%	83.2%	90.0%
Lower Quartile	72.7%	75.1%	83.3%
Lowest	33.3%	28.6%	0.0%

7.12 The table below displays the level of achievement and attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period;

	% achieving Level 4+ CSI at Key Stage 2*				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Local Average	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%	86.6%
National Average	78.2%	80%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%
Family Average	73.7%	74.9%	80.9%	84.1%	84.2%

*CSI- Core Subject Indicator

7.13 It is important to note that the numbers of pupils assessed in each cohort has been relatively low, therefore a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not always possible.

7.14 The SEN averages for the school for the past 5 year period are displayed in the table below alongside local and national averages;

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rhewl- School Action	N/A*	N/A	18.8%	N/A	N/A
LA School Action Av.	12.2%	12.9%	12.8%	12.5%	12.5%
Wales School Action Av.	15.5%	15.2%	15.6%	15.2%	15.1%
Rhewl- School Action Plus	N/A*	N/A	N/A	15.6%	N/A
LA School Action Plus Av.	11.5%	10.6%	11.8%	12.2%	12.8%
Wales School Action Av.	8.5%	8.7%	8.9%	9.2%	8.8%
Rhewl- Statemented	N/A*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LA Statemented Av.	1.4%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	1.1%
Wales Statemented Av.	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%

* Data is confidential due to small number of pupils within cohort. Disclosing the data may lead to identification of individual pupils.

7.15 Further information regarding Additional Learning Needs and the impact of the proposal on ALN pupils in Section 10 of this document.

7.16 The Free School Meal (FSM) averages for the school for the past 5 years are displayed in the table below alongside local and national averages;

School	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	20.5%	20.7%	21.6%	16.8%	10.7%
Local Av.	18.4%	20.0%	20.9%	21.3%	21.2%
Wales Av.	18.9%	20.0%	20.6%	20.8%	20.5%

- 7.17 Further information regarding attainment, benchmarking and contextualised information relating to the school is available to view on the MyLocalSchool website^{iv}.
- 7.18 The schools last Estyn inspection took place in May 2011, the inspection report commented as follows;

Context

Ysgol y Rhewl primary school is located in the small village of Rhewl near Ruthin in Denbighshire. It provides education for pupils between three and 11 years of age. The intake of pupils represents the full ability range. All pupils come from homes where English is the main language. There are no pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. Pupils are taught mainly through the medium of English and learn Welsh as a second language. However, the school is a designated bilingual school, which caters for both English and Welsh medium education according to demand.

There are 34 full time pupils on roll and a further four children attend the nursery part-time. Since the relocation of the village playgroup, the school also admits pre-nursery children. This provision, 'Pili Pala', is delivered in the Foundation Phase classroom and includes children from other areas locally where this provision is not available. There has been an increase in the number of pupils entitled to free school meals over the past three years. The current figure is about 26% of pupils, which is higher than the all-Wales average of just under 20% for primary schools.

The school has identified nearly a third of pupils as having additional learning needs. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs. The current headteacher has been in post since September 2007.

The 2010-2011 individual school budget per pupil for Ysgol y Rhewl primary school is £4,574, which compares with a maximum of £18,610 and a minimum of £2,626 for primary schools in Denbighshire. The school has the 14th highest budget per pupil out of the 53 primary schools in Denbighshire.

Summary

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

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

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
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<p>Current performance is good because of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's inclusive ethos and the warm and friendly school community; • Pupils' good standard of achievement and their ability to use skills in their work across the curriculum; • A good range of learning activities that captures and sustains the interest of pupils; • High level of attendance and behaviour, with pupils applying themselves well to learning; • The way the school successfully promotes pupils' wellbeing; and • Effective procedures for tracking pupils' progress and the quality of provision for pupils in need of additional support, especially in literacy. 	<p>Prospects for improvement are good because;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good track record in ensuring improved outcomes for pupils; • The clear commitment to continuous improvement in provision and outcomes; • A clear understanding of aspects of provision in need of further development and the willingness to take account of the views of Governors, parents and pupils; • A well-structured school development plan that identifies clear and appropriate proposals for school development; • The way the schools' Governing Body acts as a critical friend; and • A commitment to working in partnership with other local schools as a professional learning community. 	<p>In order to improve the school needs to;</p> <p>R1: Ensure that learning activities extend pupils of all abilities in mainstream classes, especially pupils of higher ability in key stage 2.</p> <p>R2: Improve pupil's understanding of what to do to improve the quality of their work, especially the quality of marking and pupils' involvement in self and peer assessment.</p> <p>R3: Further develop the planning and implementation of the provision of skills, to ensure continuity and progression of pupils' skill development.</p> <p>R4: Improve senior management's role in evaluating continuity and progression in provision and pupils' achievement across the school.</p>
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Estyn Judgements Definitions Key

Framework Key Questions
How good are the outcomes?
How good is the provision?
How good is the leadership and management?
Judgements
Excellent- Many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice.
Good- Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Adequate- Strengths outweigh areas for improvement.
Unsatisfactory- Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

7.19 The 'Pili Pala' playgroup is located at the school; the playgroup has two sessions per day (morning and afternoon) for children aged 2 years 6 months and over providing wrap-around-care for parents. The playgroup occupies a space within the Nursery and Foundation Phase classroom. At the last inspection of the playgroup in 2013 there were 5 children registered, 2 of whom received early years funding.

7.20 The proposed alternative provision, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, offer wrap-around-care in the form of playgroups, breakfast clubs and after school facilities. The

2014 Denbighshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Denbighshire found that there was sufficient childcare places available within the Ruthin area with a number of surplus of places. It is not likely that the proposal will have a negative impact on access to childcare as there are sufficient places available, inclusive of early years funded places.

8. Language Categorisation: Ysgol Rhewl

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

Dual Stream Primary School Definition

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

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

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

- 8.2 The language categorisation of schools within Denbighshire is currently being audited by the Welsh in Education Strategic Group. It is expected that a report on the findings with recommendations will be presented to Denbighshire County Council scrutiny committee in the Spring of 2015.
- 8.3 In the most recent Estyn inspection (May 2011) for Ysgol Rhewl the language provision of the school was described as primarily through the medium of English with Welsh learnt as a second language.
- 8.4 The table below displays information regarding the fluency of pupils in the Welsh language;

	Pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* Jan 2014 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
Ysgol Rhewl	0	49	1

*PLASC-annual school census

8.5 The table below displays the information on pupils' home language;

	Full-time pupils (taken from PLASC* Jan 2014 return)		
	Welsh speaking homes	English speaking homes	Bi-lingual
Ysgol Rhewl	13	37	0

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.9 The following table shows the outcomes at Key Stage 2 in English, Welsh First Language and Welsh Second Language for the last academic year;

	English	Welsh 1 st Language	Welsh 2 nd Language
Ysgol Rhewl*	100%	N/A	50%
Ysgol Pen Barras	93.1%	93.1%	N/A
Rhos Street School	100%	N/A	73.1%
Denbighshire	89.2%	85.1%	74%
Wales	88.4%	88.1%	73.1%

* Numbers of pupils assessed in each cohort has been relatively low, therefore a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not always possible.

9. Alternative Provision

9.1 Should the current proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council would wish to see pupils of Ysgol Rhewl transfer to either Ysgol Pen Barras (Welsh Medium Category 1) or Rhos Street School (English Medium Category 5), dependent on parental preference for language medium, to ensure that they continue to receive education to a consistently high standard. It is possible that parents may seek an alternative provision for their child/children. The possible alternative provision has been identified using current available data on language preference and home locations of existing pupils.

School	Type	FT Pupils*	PT Pupils*	FT Places	PT Places	Distance from Ysgol Rhewl
Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin LL15 1DY	Welsh medium Category 1, Community	223	36	252	36	Approx. 2.5miles**
Rhos Street School, Ruthin LL15 1DY	English medium Category 5, Community	151	14	189	23	Approx. 2.5miles**

*As of September 2014- PLASC. **To existing site, approx. 1.1miles to proposed Glasdir development.

9.2 The Council proposes to provide new facilities for Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School on the Glasdir site in Ruthin. The proposed capacity of the schools would approximately be 270 full time pupils (Ysgol Pen Barras) and 180 full time pupils (Rhos Street School). The proposed admission number based on the approximate capacities would be 35 and 25 respectively. The admission capacity for nursery provision would be expected to be 35 and 25 respectively.

9.3 Denbighshire County Council have identified other schools in the area that may be impacted should parents wish to choose an alternative provision. It is deemed reasonable to assume, based on chosen offer of language medium and the home locations and current catchment of pupils, that the following schools may be impacted should the proposal be implemented;

School	Type	FT Pupils*	PT Pupils*	FT places	PT places	Distance (From
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						Ysgol Rhewl)
Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin LL15 1NT	English medium Category 5, VC CiW	142	20	142	20	Approx 1.3 miles
Ysgol Gellifor, Gellifor LL15 1SG	English medium Category 5, Community	87	7	91	10	Approx 1.4 miles

*As of September 2014- PLASC.

9.4 Other types of provision are also available on the periphery of the catchment area for Ysgol Rhewl, and include;

School	Type	FT Pupils**	PT Pupils**	FT Places	PT Places	Distance (from Ysgol Rhewl)
Ysgol Llanbedr, Llanbedr LL15 1SU	English medium Category 5, VC CiW	22	22	54	11	Approx. 3.2 miles
Ysgol Llanfair DC*, Llanfair DC LL15 2RU	Dual Stream Category 2, VC CiW	92	14	113	14	Approx. 4.3 miles
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, Clocaenog/Cyffylliog (split site school until 2017) LL15 2AY/LL15 2DL	Welsh medium Category 1, Community	60	14	80	11	Approx. 4.3 miles (Cyffylliog) Approx. 6 miles (Clocaenog)
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, Llanrhaeadr LL16 4NL	Welsh medium Category 1, Community	69	17	80	11	Approx. 2.9 miles

*Ysgol Llanfair DC forms part of an additional school organisation proposal. Ysgol Llanfair DC is proposed to close to form a new area school in the Llanfair DC area for pupils of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.

9.5 It should be noted that some pupils are travelling to Ysgol Rhewl beyond the 'natural catchment' however the pupil numbers are small and geographically spread so any impact on schools in those areas would be negligible.

9.6 Further information is provided in Appendix 1, which compares Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras with other reasonable alternative provision. Information contained with Appendix 1 gives regard to;

- *Educational Attainment (Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2);*
- *Free School Meals;*
- *Additional Learning Needs Data;*
- *Current full time pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC);*
- *Current part time nursery pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC);*
- *Pupil numbers for the past 5 year period;*
- *Projected pupil numbers for the coming 5 year period;*

- *Estyn report summaries for each school (that are not contained within the main document);*
- *Information regarding the condition and suitability of school building and sites.*

9.7 The information contained within Appendix 1 suggests that all alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for pupils of Ysgol Rhewl. All alternative schools have surplus places and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and Key Stage 2.

9.8 This section has a focus on educational provision at the named schools within the proposal, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. Information on educational outcomes and provision is also included within Appendix 1 for comparative purposes.

9.9 The table below displays the Foundation Phase outcomes for Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, this is intended as a comparative tool for parents;

	CSI*		FPOI*		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Rhos Street School	88.9%	90%	95.2%	100%	100%
Ysgol Pen Barras	100%	97.1%	95.5%	94.7%	93.5%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire Average	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%
Wales Average	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	85.2%

*2010-2011 achieving Core Subject Indicator- CSI. CSI at Key Stage 1 replaced by Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator- FPOI.

9.10 The table below displays the Key Stage 2 outcomes for Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, this is intended as a comparative tool for parents;

	% achieving Level 4+ CSI at Key Stage 2*				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Rhos Street School	93.5%	93.3%	96.6%	92.6%	100%
Ysgol Pen Barras	97.1%	90%	96.8%	94.3%	89.7%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire Average	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%	86.6%
Wales Average	77%	80%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%

*Core Subject Indicator

9.11 The pupil teacher ratios at Rhos Street School, Ysgol Pen Barras and Ysgol Rhewl for the last academic year are displayed below;

School	Pupil/Teacher Ratio
Rhos Street School	18.5
Ysgol Pen Barras	19.2
Ysgol Rhewl	15

9.12 The 3 year average for Free School Meal entitlement (FSM) for Rhos Street School, Ysgol Pen Barras and Ysgol Rhewl is included in the table below for comparative purposes;

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rhos Street School	6.3%	8.9%	11.3%	11.1%	12%
Pen Barras	0.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%
Ysgol Rhewl	20.5%	20.7%	21.6%	16.8%	10.7%
Local Av.	18.4%	20.0%	20.9%	21.3%	21.2%
Wales Av.	18.9%	20.0%	20.6%	20.8%	20.5%

9.13 The most recent Estyn inspection for Rhos Street School took place in March 2013. The Estyn report commented as follows;

Context

Rhos Street Community Primary School is situated in Ruthin and shares a site with a Welsh medium primary school. Pupils are from a wide range of backgrounds and live in the town and the surrounding villages.

The school caters for pupils between the ages of three and 11. Currently, 169 pupils attend the school, including 13 who attend the nursery on a part-time basis. Pupil numbers have fallen since the last inspection. The school is organised into eight single-age classes. No pupils speak Welsh as a first language and a very few pupils receive support for English as an additional language. Fourteen per cent of pupils come from an ethnic-minority community.

Eight per cent of pupils are entitled to free school meals, which is lower than the local authority and all-Wales averages. The school has identified 9% of pupils as having additional learning needs and a few pupils have a statement of special educational need.

The school shares several facilities with the Welsh medium school, including a computer room, hall, canteen and field. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are taught in a building separated from the main school by the playing field.

The headteacher has been in post since April 2009 and the school was last inspected in February 2007. The individual school budget per pupil for Rhos Street Primary School in 2012-2013 means that the budget is £3,810 per pupil. The maximum per pupil in the primary schools in Denbighshire is £9,659 and the minimum is £3,064. Rhos Street Primary School is 36th out of the 52 primary schools in Denbighshire in terms of its school budget per pupil.

Summary

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

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

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
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<p>Current performance is good because of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly all pupils achieve good standards in many aspects of their work and many pupils who are more able achieve very well; Teaching effectively engages and challenge pupils; Pupils are well behaved, confident and eager to learn; and The school provides good care and support for all pupils, including those with additional needs. 	<p>Prospects for improvement are excellent because;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The senior managers and governors have a very clear vision for the school, which is underpinned by exceptionally effective planning for improvement; The headteacher provides very strong leadership and is well supported by an effective senior management team; The school continually evaluates the impact of new initiatives through rigorous monitoring; The clear focus on improvements is having a very positive impact on the standards that pupils achieve; and The school has made very good progress since the last inspection. 	<p>In order to improve the school needs to;</p> <p>R1: Improve the standard of boys' writing.</p> <p>R2: Ensure that pupils use their knowledge of the Welsh language throughout the school day.</p> <p>R3: Improve pupils' attendance.</p>
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9.14 The most recent Estyn inspection for Ysgol Pen Barras took place in May 2011 , the Estyn report commented as follows;

Context

The town of Ruthin and the local area. It is a fairly prosperous area and, on the whole, pupils come from fairly advantaged social backgrounds. Over 2% of pupils are entitled to free school meals and this is substantially lower than the average for the county and Wales as a whole.

Currently, there are 216 full time pupils aged between 4 and 11 years old on roll and there are 32 nursery age children who attend on a part time basis, either in the morning or in the afternoon. There are 18 pupils on the special educational needs register, including one pupil who has a statement of special educational need. About 84% of pupils are from homes where Welsh is spoken. Less than 1% of the pupils are from minority or mixed ethnic backgrounds.

The school runs its own nursery called "Clwb Ffrindiau Bach" on a daily basis. It also runs a breakfast club every morning and an after school club. The Foundation Phase and key stage 1 classes are located in the school's main building, with the Nursery and key stage 2 classes in demountable classrooms. The site is shared with another primary school, Ysgol Stryd y Rhos.

The school was last inspected in 2005. The acting head teacher has been in post since the autumn of 2010. A permanent head teacher has been appointed to start in September 2011. The individual school budget in 2010 – 2011 per pupil for Ysgol Pen Barras is £3323 which compares with a maximum of £18610 and the minimum of £2626 for primary schools in Denbighshire. This is the school with the 45th highest budget per pupil of the 53 primary schools in Denbighshire.

Summary

School's current performance	Good
School's prospects for improvement	Good

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

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
<p>Current performance is good because of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pupils across the school achieve good standards; • The quality of teaching is good; • The pupils benefit from the interesting and varied learning experiences; • Pupils enjoy school, behave very well and are enthusiastic when learning; • There are good relationships between the school and the parents and the local community. 	<p>Prospects for improvement are good because;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teachers and the support staff display substantial dedication to maintain and improving standards; • The self-evaluation procedures in which all the staff and the governors have participated over the past year have given rise to improvements, although there is room for further development; • The school co-operates with a good range of partners; and • The inspection team is of the view that the school will implement the recommendations of the report and ensure effective co-operation between professional staff, the Governing Body and the local authority (LA). 	<p>In order to improve the school needs to;</p> <p>R1: Aim for excellent standards.</p> <p>R2: Improve the planning for development and progression in ICT skills in key stage 2.</p> <p>R3: Improve arrangements for assessment and tracking pupils' progress and give pupils a more active role in improving their own work.</p> <p>R4: Continue to develop the school's leadership roles and further develop the role of the Governing Body.</p> <p>R5: Further improve the self evaluation systems.</p> <p>R6: Co-operate with the LA to improve the site's limitations.</p>

9.15 Both Estyn reports are available on the Estyn website^{vi}.

9.16 The Welsh Government National Categorisation of Primary Schools as of January 2015 provides a banding system for all primary schools in Wales. In addition all primary schools are placed within a support category.

9.17 There are 4 support categories that use a 'traffic light' system, the definitions are as follows;

- ⇒ **Green Support Category:** A highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement.
- ⇒ **Yellow Support Category:** An effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve.
- ⇒ **Amber Support Category:** A school in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly.
- ⇒ **Red Support Category:** A school in need of greatest improvement and will receive immediate intensive support.

9.18 The table below displays the support categories and bands of Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras (information relating to other identified provision can be found in Appendix 1);

School	Support Category	Band
Ysgol Rhewl	Amber	3 (Amber)
Rhos Street School	Green	1 (Green)
Ysgol Pen Barras	Yellow	2 (Yellow)

9.19 You can find out more information regarding the National Schools Categorisation System in the parents' guide published by the Welsh Government^{vii}.

10. Additional Learning Needs

10.1 If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for pupils with special educational needs. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.

10.2 Of the current pupil cohort 16.9% of pupils are registered ALN pupils at Ysgol Rhewl. The Denbighshire average is 20.5%. Any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending Ysgol Rhewl will continue to receive the same educational support that is required. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as dedicated 1-2-1 support, will be replicated in their new learning environment.

10.3 Denbighshire County Council will provide appropriate help and support for additional learning needs pupils. Should parents with pupils who are registered ALN have any questions regarding the support that the Council could offer they will have the opportunity to speak to the relevant ALN Education Officers.

10.4 The new facilities on the Glasdir site will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire's ALN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that with this approach it will produce improved conditions and learning environments for pupils

with ALN specifically regarding dedicated 1-2-1 areas, resources, accessibility and acoustics.

11. Secondary Provision

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

12. The Proposal in Detail: Description and Rationale

12.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with;

- A. The Council's commitment to Modernising Education;
- B. The School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential.

12.2 There are a number of issues facing Ysgol Rhewl that could impact on the ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

Educational Case for Change

12.3 In considering the proposal careful attention has been given to the likely impact of this proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management. In summary, Denbighshire County Council as the proposer, believe that the proposal would at least maintain provision for the following reasons:

- I. **Outcomes- standards and wellbeing-** the proposal is likely to at least maintain existing outcomes for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl. It is anticipated that the named alternative schools, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, would ensure that pupils would receive a full, broad and balanced curriculum delivery at both the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Pupils are taught in age appropriate classes at both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras which would contribute positively to the development of pupils.
- II. **Provision- learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, learning environment-** The existing pupils of Ysgol Rhewl would experience a change in their learning environment. Their new learning environment would be a new, purpose built school tailored to meet the requirements of the modern curriculum and offering pupils access to a range of opportunities. Any support individual pupils receive will be replicated within their new learning environment. The new school will have additional teaching capacity to allow for smaller 'break out' areas for groups of pupils who require extra support and for more able and talented pupils.

- III. **Leadership and Management- leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management-** The proposal offers alternative provision at least equivalent to the leadership and management of Ysgol Rhewl. The proposal would lead to greater stability and efficiency in terms of resource management and lead to greater economies of scale. This will also provide scope for a greater number of curriculum leads amongst the teaching staff and a stronger senior management team than would likely be the case at Ysgol Rhewl. The new development will see Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras share a site (as is the status quo) which could provide the opportunity for partnership working between both schools. Pupils will have access to a wider compliment of teaching staff with expertise in a number of curricular and extra-curricular areas.

Impact of the Proposal on Outcomes and Curriculum Delivery

- 12.4 Should the existing pupils of Ysgol Rhewl transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras the number of pupils transferring are unlikely to negatively impact on the abilities of either school to deliver the curriculum at both the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl. This is also the case for all other schools identified by the authority with all having available pupil places.
- 12.5 Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. Should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras they would be taught in age appropriate class structures. Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. The pupil teacher ratios for all 3 schools are included within section 9 of this document and suggest a marginal difference between all 3 schools.
- 12.6 Based on the most recent data regarding attainment and achievement at all 3 schools it is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the current standards of education. The most recent inspections demonstrate that all 3 schools are judged to be good in most areas and excellent in others. There are no significant shortcomings in either of the proposed alternative provisions.
- 12.7 The pupil forecasts for Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras are included below to demonstrate that going forward the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures;

School	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ysgol Rhewl	50	46	42	41	39
Rhos Street School	143	139	134	122	113
Ysgol Pen Barras	221	216	224	218	218
Totals	414	401	400	381	370

12.8 The new capacity of Rhos Street School would be 180 full time pupils and Ysgol Pen Barras will have a full time capacity of 270. Overall the site can accommodate 450 full time pupils.

12.9 All other identified alternative schools in the area are forecasts to have available surplus places. More details on pupil forecasts for other alternative provision can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Impact of the Proposal on Provision

12.10 It is the view of the authority that the current provision that pupils of Ysgol Rhewl receive would at least be maintained should the current proposal be implemented. As per the most recent Estyn inspections there are no shortcomings in the teaching, care support and guidance at either of the alternative schools.

12.11 Larger schools can offer wider provision in terms of the curriculum and extra-curricular facilities. In the 'School Size and Effectiveness- December 2013' Estyn thematic report it states;

"Curriculum provision is better in large primary schools. In small schools, there tends to be shortcomings in the provision of foundation subjects at key stage 2. These shortcomings differ from school to school, but are often linked to gaps in the expertise of staff."^{viii}

12.12 Currently the learning environments at the alternative schools allow for the delivery of the curriculum at both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 however there are fundamental issues with the site that may impact on the ability to implement a full curriculum in the future.

12.13 However the alternative schools, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, will be relocated to new school buildings and facilities by September 2017. This will provide pupils with access to 21st century, fit for purpose learning environments tailored to meet the requirements of a fluid and innovative 21st Century Welsh curriculum. Should

the current proposal be implemented the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl would also have access to these new facilities.

12.14 The proposed alternative provision, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, offer wrap-around-care in the form of playgroups, breakfast clubs and after school facilities. The 2014 Denbighshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment^{ix} for Denbighshire found that there was sufficient childcare places available within the Ruthin area with a number of surplus of places. It is not likely that the proposal will have a negative impact on access to childcare as there are sufficient places available, inclusive of early years funded places.

Impact of the Proposal on Leadership and Management

12.15 Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl were judged to be 'Good' at the last Estyn inspection. Leadership and management at Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were also judged 'Good' at their respective inspections.

12.16 Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it difficult to implement senior leadership structures that meet the requirements of teacher pay and conditions. Due to the relatively small pupil numbers at Ysgol Rhewl the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team have substantial teaching commitments. This wider issue was noted within a recent Estyn thematic report 'School Size and Effectiveness' December 2013 which states;

"Leadership and processes to improve quality are usually better developed in large primary schools. In small primary schools, many headteachers have a significant teaching responsibility that limits the time they can devote to leading and managing and they have fewer opportunities to evaluate standards and to drive improvement."^x.

12.17 It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. It would likely be a positive impact for pupils to have access to a broader compliment of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of different curriculum areas.

13. Adequacy of Existing School Buildings and Facilities

13.1 Whilst the existing facilities at Ysgol Rhewl allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver the innovative

curriculum required for 21st Century Learning. The current gross area of the building meets the current standards required in Building Bulletin 99 for a school of its size (82 FT capacity).

13.2 The condition of Ysgol Rhewl school was rated as Category B (Satisfactory) in a survey carried out in December 2009 by EC Harris. This survey was carried out to provide data for the Welsh Government for the purposes of gathering data for the 21st Century Schools Programme. Surveys of school buildings are also carried out to provide data for the Welsh Government each year by Denbighshire County Council. A survey carried out in June 2014 found that both the Condition and Suitability were B- Satisfactory. The grades and what they indicate are set out below;

Condition Category Rating	Meaning
A (Good)	Performing as intended and operating efficiently
B (Satisfactory)	Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration
C (Poor)	Exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended
D (Bad)	Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

13.3 The existing school accommodation and facilities for Ysgol Rhewl are set out in the table below;

Classrooms	Mobiles	Hall/Dining	Library	ICT Area	Outdoor Hardplay	Playing Field
2*	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X

13.4 The image below is the current floorplan of the school;

13.7 The current maintenance backlog for Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras is provided below;

School	Maintenance Backlog
Ysgol Rhewl	£127,182
Rhos Street School & Ysgol Pen Barras (Shared Site)	£567,902
Total	£695,084

13.8 As part of the initial stages of the Ruthin area review feasibility works were undertaken on each school within the Ruthin area. The feasibility work findings are summarised as follows for Ysgol Rhewl;

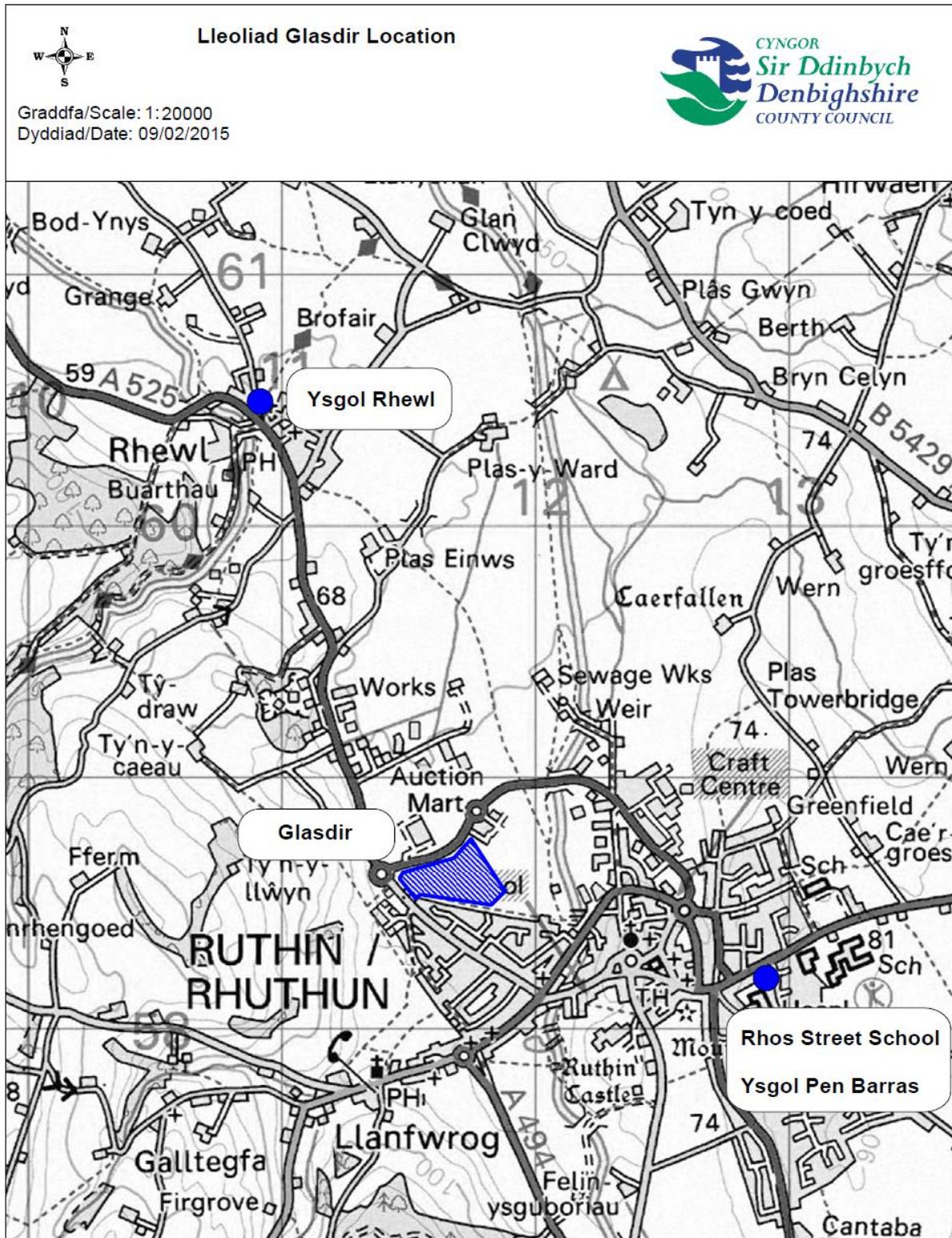
- School is insubstantial and temporary in nature but work has been undertaken internally and externally to create a stimulating environment for the pupils.
- The internal layout is reasonably laid out with adequate classroom and circulation areas, although consideration could be given to sound deadening in classroom areas to provide a better teaching environment.
- PE provision on site is limited with some use of the dining area but use is made of the pavilion on the community playing field. There is no dedicated playing field but the community field is available for use by the school.
- There is no on-site parking or dedicated drop off/pick areas however some parking provision is to be provided for the school within a nearby housing development.
- There are some issues around access with no level access to the main entrance and there is no access to a disabled WC.

13.9 During the detailed feasibility work undertaken in the Autumn of 2014, officers from the Council met with representatives of the school during a school site visit. Options for the school have assessed refurbishment work, extension to the building and a new school build to tackle some of the issues concerning the adequacy of the school building and site. However the site did not meet the required BB99 size recommendations for a standard 105 school. Further extension to the building would also impact on the available outdoor space.

13.10 Refurbishment works to bring the school site up to a 21st century schools standard has been costed at £541,696.

Impact of the Proposal on Adequacy of School Buildings and Facilities

- 13.11 £8.9million in capital funding has been allocated by Denbighshire County Council to invest in new school buildings and facilities for both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras.
- 13.12 The schools currently share a site within the town of Ruthin, it is proposed that both schools will move to the new development on Glasdir with some areas being shared (such as the grass pitch, multi-use games area, car park and dedicated pick up and drop off facilities). The brief for the school design will be based on current Building Bulletin 99 requirements which specify recommended areas for schools in terms of teaching and non-teaching areas. The new facilities would meet a 21st century schools standard. On completion of the Glasdir development both school buildings would be expected to be graded 'A' for both condition and suitability.
- 13.13 The proposed new facilities would likely include;
- ⇒ *Basic teaching- nursery/reception, foundation phase and key stage 2 areas;*
 - ⇒ *Specialist practical areas;*
 - ⇒ *Hall spaces;*
 - ⇒ *Learning resource centre;*
 - ⇒ *Small group rooms;*
 - ⇒ *Staff and administration;*
 - ⇒ *Headteachers office and meeting room;*
 - ⇒ *Staff room;*
 - ⇒ *General office;*
 - ⇒ *Sick bay;*
 - ⇒ *SENCO/Multi-agency room;*
 - ⇒ *Storage;*
 - ⇒ *Kitchen and server area;*
 - ⇒ *Toilets including accessible WC;*
 - ⇒ *Hard and soft play areas.*
- 13.14 The new facilities will be located on the Glasdir site, approximately 1.1miles from Ysgol Rhewl. A map is provided below displaying the location of Ysgol Rhewl and the Glasdir site;



14. What is the Proposed Option?

- 14.1 The proposed option is to close Ysgol Rhewl as of 31st August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of new facilities.
- 14.2 The new facilities will be ready for occupation from the 1st of September 2017, enabling the relocation of both Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the Glasdir site.
- 14.3 Denbighshire's Cabinet have recommended to Council to approve an investment of £8.9 million for new school buildings and facilities for both schools. Denbighshire's Council will consider approval of the investment in February 2014. This investment will provide both schools with buildings and facilities that meet a 21st century school standard.
- 14.4 The design process for the new school will commence during 2015. In terms of the overall design brief the Council will base plans for a new school on the current building standards for new schools.
- 14.5 The design for the new school will be progressed in partnership with both Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street and representatives of Ysgol Rhewl will be encouraged to participate in this process. The indicative time line suggests that the design process would take place until November 2015 with the construction of the new school commencing in March 2016. Completion is forecast for the summer of 2017 which would enable pupils attending currently attending Ysgol Rhewl to transfer to the new facilities in September 2017, subject to parental preference.

15. Alternative Options

- 15.1 Denbighshire County Council has given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the current proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme which are as follows;

- a. Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
- b. Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
- c. A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

- 15.2 The main options that have been considered are as follows;

Option 1: Maintain the Status Quo

Option 2: Do Minimum- Undertake Remedial Repairs

Option 3: Do Intermediate- Undertake Refurbishment and Extension

Option 4: Do Maximum- Provide New Build

Option 5: Closure

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

Option 1: Maintain the Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No capital spend required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not provide 21st Century school facilities or lead to any improvement in the learning environment ▪ Shortfalls and deficiencies would remain and likely worsen in the short to medium term, in turn impacting negatively on the ability to deliver the curriculum. ▪ It would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ It would not lead to a greater efficiency and effectiveness of the school estate.

Option 2: Undertake Remedial Repairs	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimal capital spend required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This would lead to some improvement in the learning environment but would not meet 21st century schools standards. This would be a fire-fighting exercise to repair current issues. ▪ It would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ It would not lead to a greater efficiency and effectiveness of the school estate.

Option 3: Do Intermediate- Undertake Refurbishment and Extension

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would result in some improvement in the learning environments and address the current deficiencies and issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Size of the site itself is relatively constrained, an extension would take away some external areas. ▪ Would require a significant capital investment of £1,005,996. ▪ This option would not lead to a reduction in surplus places and due to the extension works may lead to an increase in surplus places. ▪ This option would not lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness of the school estate.

Option 4: Do Maximum- Provide New Build	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would provide 21st century school facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would require significant capital investment. ▪ Issues around the size of the current site, the site could not accommodate a standard 105 model build under BB99 regulations. ▪ Alternative sites could require land purchase within the village, further increasing capital outlay. ▪ It would not reduce surplus places and would likely lead to an increase in surplus places.

Option 5: Closure	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing pupils would have access to 21st century school buildings and facilities. ▪ It would reduce surplus places. ▪ A net saving of £150k would be made which could be reinvested back into Denbighshire's Modernising Education Programme. ▪ Any future disposal of the site may result in a capital receipt which could also be reinvested back into Denbighshire's Modernising Education Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational provision within the village of Rhewl would cease. ▪ Community use of the school would also cease however alternative provision is available in the community pavilion. ▪ Staff at the school would be redeployed, or possible face redundancy however DCC HR team would work with staff on an individual basis.

15.4 The table below provides an analysis of the above options in relation to the investment objectives and critical success factors;

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

16. Admissions Arrangements

16.1 School admissions will be dealt with in line with Denbighshire County Council's School Admissions policy^{xi}. Should this proposal progress, Denbighshire's admissions team will liaise with parents during the academic year 2016-2017 to ensure a stable transition for pupils who are transferring to an alternative provision. Should the current proposal be implemented the admissions service would write to all parents to outline the options available.

17. Transport Implications

17.1 For the current academic year the transport costs for Ysgol Rhewl is £121 per day. Over a school year (191 days) this equates to £23,111.

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

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

17.3 It is expected that the proposal will have a neutral impact on current transport costs, with many existing pupils travelling to Ysgol Rhewl living closer to the Glasdir site than Ysgol Rhewl as is demonstrated in the table above.

17.4 There is an existing off-road cycle path from the village of Rhewl to the new Glasdir site, which is approximately 1.1miles. There is also a non-hazardous walking route from the village to the Glasdir site. Additional highway recommendations, such as appropriate signalling and school crossing patrols, will also be explored during the design stages of the new Glasdir development.

17.5 Transport to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy^{xii} which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school or part of the route is deemed hazardous.

18. Staffing Implications

18.1 Should the current proposal be implement the authority would work with the current member of staff at Ysgol Rhewl, including teaching and ancillary staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities.

18.2 As part of the formal consultation process there will be a full consultation with staff and the appropriate teaching unions. A staff meeting will be held during the period of consultation and a representative from Denbighshire County Council's HR service will be present to provide advice to staff.

18.3 It is not expected that there will be any significant impact on the staff at the schools named within the proposal for reasons set out in the educational case for change section of this document.

19. What are the Financial Implications?

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

19.2 The current staffing cost for Ysgol Rhewl is £267,364 (current academic year).

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

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

**based on 3 year existing plan*

19.4 For the 2014/2015 academic year Ysgol Rhewl's budget is £311k. Based on current budget position it is estimated that there would be a non-pupil led saving of £150k if the current proposal was implemented. This would be deducted from the school budget quantum. An estimated £161k is pupil led funding and therefore would remain on the schools budget quantum to follow the pupils to a school that they transfer to.

19.5 The non-pupil led saving (£150k) would be re-invested within the Councils corporate plan to deliver its priorities including investment in school buildings.

19.6 Should the school proposal be implemented the school site would be declared surplus and would be disposed of in accordance with the current policy on the disposal of school sites. The capital receipt would be reinvested within the Council's corporate plan to deliver its priorities including investment in school buildings.

19.7 The current and forecasted 3 year financial position of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras is as follows;

School	Actual Balance 2014	Predicted Balance 2015	Predicated Balance 2016	Predicted Balance 2017
Rhos Street	80,643	56,950	(7,572)	(65,873)
Pen Barras	76,810	67,613	51,251	(9,296)

19.8 The overall budget for Rhos Street School for the 2014/2015 academic year is £592,745 and for Ysgol Pen Barras £834,592. The current staffing costs for Rhos Street School is £523,810 and Ysgol Pen Barras is £737,848.

19.9 Should the proposal be implemented the capital funding (£8.9million) for the new school buildings and facilities would be funded by Denbighshire County Council. This will be made of a mixture between prudential borrowing, cash reserves and capital receipts. At this stage of the project there is no dependence on external funding.

20. What are the Disadvantages and Risks of the Proposal?

- 20.1 If the current proposal proceeds, primary educational provision will cease in the village of Rhewl.
- 20.2 Upon closure of the school it is expected that some children would be required to travel further to school, dependent on parental preference for alternative provision. Due to the close proximity (approx. 1.1m) of the new facilities on Glasdir, this would become a closer option for some of the existing pupils currently attending Ysgol Rhewl. Transport would only be provided in line with Denbighshire's transport policy and some pupils may not be eligible.
- 20.3 The implementation of the current proposal for Ysgol Rhewl will be progressed in tandem with the proposed investment of the Glasdir development for Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School. Should there be any significant delays in the progression of this Glasdir development the implementation of the current proposal for Ysgol Rhewl will be modified as appropriate. All risks associated with the proposal will be monitored within the overall programme risk register and within any individual project register.

21. Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

- 21.1 As the current proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of the school a equality, Welsh language and community impact assessment has been carried out and this is available in full on our website under current consultation section^{xiii}.

Summary of Welsh Language Impact Assessment

- 21.2 It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on the Welsh language is a difficult undertaking.
- 21.3 The main positives emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on the educational provision and access to Welsh medium education within a close proximity. The proposal represents an opportunity to improve and to strengthen education in the area.
- 21.4 Overall, the Current Proposal will be neutral in terms of its impact on the Welsh language. Even though the Current Proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. Pupils who opt for English medium, and Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl) their current offer will be maintained.

There is an expectation that schools will increase and strengthen the bilingual nature of their school over time and will work towards moving along the path of a linguistic continuum so that more pupils have the opportunity to be fully bi-lingual.

Overall the proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh Language, with a high percentage of Welsh speakers in the community and a high percentage of those having one or more skills in Welsh. This is reflected in the numbers of pupils in the natural catchment area for Ysgol Rhewl attending nearby Welsh Medium schools.

Summary of Community Impact Assessment

- 21.5 It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on families and the local community is a difficult undertaking. The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on pupils through improved education provision.
- 21.6 The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could impact negatively on local families and on the local community. Losing a school from the community is going to sever links between the school and the local community. Pupils are expected to transfer to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras in Ruthin. There are measures that could be adopted to lessen the impact through fostering close links between the community and both schools, however developing these links will take time and the initial impact will be negative.
- 21.7 The loss of the school would impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Ysgol Rhewl. There is scope for a number of activities currently taking place on the school site to relocate to the community pavilion and the Council has a policy regarding the retention of any surplus school site within the community which could reduce the negative impact and potentially result in a positive for the community.
- 21.8 The proposal would impact positively on parents and children through an improved educational provision for the children. However the proposal has the potential to impact negatively on parents from Rhewl and the wider community.
- 21.9 It should be noted that the potential negative impacts resulting from this proposal could be reduced by the local authority by the adoption of a number of possible measures to ensure that the community in Rhewl continues to thrive.
- 21.10 The existence of a separate pavilion facilities that already host a number of activities and could host activities that currently take place at the school provides a focal point for the community that would continue after the school has been closed. The potential increase in activity at the pavilion following the closure of the school could improve the long term viability of this community facility.
- 21.11 The local authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory service to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.
- 21.12 The Council are aware of plans for housing in the village it is not consider that the numbers of primary pupil generated by the development would lead to any substantial increase in the pupil roll.

- 21.13 During the Formal Consultation, discussions will be held with the headteacher of the school to ensure that a greater understanding is obtained of the community activities held at the schools.
- 21.14 During the design stages for the new facilities consultation will take place with the wider school community of Ysgol Rhewl.
- 21.15 30 dwellings have been allocated within Rhewl as part of the Local Development Plan, and an additional 4 dwellings have also been allocated for the wider Llanynys area. Based on the formula used to estimate the number of primary pupils generated by housing developments (0.24 x No. of dwellings) it would be expected that the 34 houses would generate an additional 8 pupils. Based on the current trend of pupils within the area it would be reasonable to assume not all pupils would attend Ysgol Rhewl due to parental preference for differing provisions.

22. Explanation of Statutory Process

- 22.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.
- 22.2 The requirements are as follows:
- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
 - b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
 - c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
 - i) on the council's website;
 - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
 - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
 - d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
 - e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);
 - f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).
- 22.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the

Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published (as described in **paragraph 22.2(c)** above) then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

22. Consultation Response Form

- 22.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.
- 22.2 You are welcomed to ask questions and let us have your views on the current proposal at the events outlined in the covering letter or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by email to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than 23rd of March 2015.

ⁱ School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013-

<http://wales.gov.uk/legislation/programme/assemblybills/schoolstandards/?lang=en>

ⁱⁱ The School Organisation Code (Wales)-

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en>

ⁱⁱⁱ Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website in the School Organisation & Modernising section- <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/education-and-schools/reviewing-our-schools.aspx>

^{iv} MyLocalSchool Website, <http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/>

^v Defining Schools According to Welsh Medium Provision-

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/definingschools?lang=en>

^{vi} Estyn website, www.estyn.gov.uk

^{vii} National Schools Categorisation System Parents

Guide <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/schoolbanding/?lang=en>

^{viii} School Size and Effectiveness- December 2013,

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/295686.3/school-size-and-educational-effectiveness-december-2013/?navmap=30,163>,

^{ix} Denbighshire Childcare Sufficiency 2014, <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/childcare-sufficiency-assessment.aspx>

^x School Size and Effectiveness- December 2013,

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/295686.3/school-size-and-educational-effectiveness-december-2013/?navmap=30,163>,

^{xi} Denbighshire School Admissions- <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/education/school-admissions.aspx>

^{xii} Denbighshire Free Home to School Transport Policy-

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/education/grants-and-funding/free-school-transport.aspx>

^{xiii} Current Consultations- <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/consultations/current-consultations.aspx>

Formal Consultation Response Form

Denbighshire County Council has proposed to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of September 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.

We would like to hear your views regarding the proposal. You can let your views be known in the following ways;

- If you are accessing this form online then please click **here** to complete the online survey;
- If you have received a hard copy of the response form please return your copy to **Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN**;
- Visit our website at www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation and follow the survey link;
- Alternatively you can scan the attached form and email it to us at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk
- If you do not have access to a scanner, simply send an email to the address provided above with your responses, using the same numbering as set out below;

Please let us have your responses by **Monday 23rd March 2015**. If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response please provide your names and address.

1. Are you in favour of the proposal?

(Please tick one box)

Yes	
No	

2. Please indicate whether you are responding as a:

Pupil	Parent	Staff Member	Community Member	Other

If other, please indicate;

3. With which school are you most closely linked?

(Please tick only one box)

Ysgol Rhewl	
Rhos Street School	
Ysgol Pen Barras	

4. Please indicate if any of the following have had an influence on your decision;

Impact on Education	
Impact on local community	

If other, please state:-

(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

5. If the proposal is implemented would you send your child/ children to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School or would you choose an alternative provision?

Ysgol Pen Barras	
Rhos Street School	

If other, please state:-

(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

6. Please let us have any comments or views, positive or negative, that you have regarding the proposal:

--

(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

7. Would you like us to acknowledge receipt of you response?

Yes	
No	

8. Would you like to receive an email link to the formal consultation report when it is published on the DCC website?

Yes	
No	

9. If you have answered yes to either of the two above questions please provide an email address below:

--

10. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following:

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) are seeking your views to help inform the decision on the current proposal. The information you have provided will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other internal agencies who are involved with the Consultation, however only to inform decision makers of your views and to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge receipt of your response personally.

Denbighshire County Council is the data controller for the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal information will be processed in accordance with that Act and is being collected for the purpose stated above only, and will not be shared with any other party. Should you have any queries regarding this please contact us via email at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.



Appendix 1

Additional Information: Proposal to Close Ysgol Rhewl

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This section provides information relating to the main alternative educational provision that is available within the Ruthin area and information regarding other schools in the wider area that could be impacted should the proposal be implemented.
- 1.2. Information relating to Ysgol Rhewl, although contained within the consultation document, is included within tables for comparative purposes.
- 1.3. Should the current proposal progress, Denbighshire are recommending the nearest suitable schools would be either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras. The Council recognise that parents may also choose other provision within the area.
- 1.4. The schools that may be impacted should the proposal progress are as follows;

School	Type	Language Categorisation	Admission Number*
Ysgol Rhewl	Community	Dual Stream- Category 2	11
Rhos Street School	Community	English, Category 5	27
Ysgol Pen Barras	Community	Welsh, Category 1	40
Ysgol Borthyn	Voluntary Controlled, CiW	English, Category 5	20
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	Community	Welsh, Category 1	11
Ysgol Gellifor	Community	English, Category 5	13
Ysgol Llanbedr	Voluntary Controlled, CiW	English, Category 5	11
Ysgol Llanfair DC	Voluntary Controlled, CiW	Dual Stream- Category 2	16
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	Community	Welsh, Category 5	11

*For the current academic year 2014/2015

2. Statistical Overview: Pupil Numbers

- 2.1. The table below provides information on current pupil numbers as of September 2014, the current capacity and current numbers of surplus places;

School	Current Pupil No. FT	Current Pupil No. PT	Current FT Capacity	Current PT Capacity	No. of Surplus Places	% of Surplus Places
Rhewl	53	3	82	11	29	35.4%
Rhos Street	151	14	189	23	38	20.1%
Pen Barras	223	36	252	36	29	11.5%
Borthyn	120	22	142	20	22	15.5%
Carreg Emlyn*	60	14	80	11	20	25%
Gellifor	87	7	91	10	4	4.4%
Llanbedr	22	11	54	11	32	59.2%
Llanfair DC	92	14	113	14	21	18.6%
Bro Cinmierch	69	17	80	11	11	13.7%
Totals	877	138	1083	147	206	19.1%

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

2.2. The table below provides a breakdown of pupils across all year groups (inclusive of Ysgol Rhewl), this provides an overview of class sizes at each of the alternative schools;

Full Time Pupil Numbers Sept 2014 PLASC								
School	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Rhewl	5	6	9	8	5	9	11	53
Rhos Street	12	18	29	24	27	19	22	151
Pen Barras	37	25	32	31	38	23	37	223
Borthyn	22	17	11	14	14	18	24	120
Carreg Emlyn	10	9	12	7	10	7	5	60
Gellifor	12	11	12	16	9	12	15	87
Llanbedr	7	3	6	2	3	0	1	22
Llanfair DC	15	13	11	13	12	13	15	92
Bro Cinmeirch	8	12	11	10	10	10	8	69
Total								877
Overall Capacity								1083
Total Surplus								206

2.3. That table below displays the information regarding past pupils numbers, Full Time (FT) and Part Time (PT);

Past Pupil Numbers 2010-2014- January PLASC										
School	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	FT	PT								
Rhewl	34	6	34	4	37	8	55	5	50	4
Rhos Street	177	25	179	19	167	25	163	14	161	10
Pen Barras	215	38	216	32	218	36	223	27	223	36
Borthyn	104	11	103	14	113	9	111	18	114	23
Carreg Emlyn*	47	13	53	12	59	14	55	13	58	14
Gellifor	73	5	77	10	85	12	87	11	86	11
Llanbedr	63	8	59	10	37	6	21	4	21	7
Llanfair DC	94	11	96	13	93	10	90	14	84	13
Bro Cinmeirch	51	11	56	12	57	17	62	16	60	14

*Carreg Emlyn is a new area school replacing the former Ysgol Clocaenog and former Ysgol Cyffylliog. Combined pupil numbers for these schools have been used.

2.4. The most recent pupil projections were undertaken in July 2014 and sent to all Denbighshire schools. The table below displays the pupil projections for the coming 5 year period;

Pupil Projections 2015-2019					
School	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rhewl	50	46	42	41	39
Rhos Street	143	139	134	122	113
Pen Barras	221	216	224	218	218
Borthyn	117	111	114	121	125
Carreg Emlyn	70	74	79	81	85
Gellifor	92	86	84	87	83
Llanbedr	28	30	35	36	37
Bro Cinmeirch	72	76	82	85	88
Llanfair DC	82	80	83	87	87
Totals	875	858	877	878	875

3. Educational Outcomes and Attainment

3.1. The table below displays the outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 at each of the schools;

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

3.2. The table below displays the outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase at each of the schools;

% of pupils achieving outcome 5 and above at Foundation Phase					
School	2010 CSI	2011 CSI	2012 FPOI	2013 FPOI	2014 FPOI
Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%
Rhos Street	88.9%	90%	95.2%	100%	100%
Pen Barras	100%	97.1%	95.5%	94.7%	93.5%
Borthyn	82.4%	77.3%	58.8%	53.8%	100%
Carreg Emlyn* was Clocaenog Cyffylliog	100% 100%	80% 100%	71.4% n/a	83.3% 60%	100% 100%
Gellifor	100%	94.7%	100%	100%	93.3%
Llanbedr	85.7%	87.5%	100%	83.3%	100%
Bro Cinmeirch	100%	90%	75%	90.9%	80%
Llanfair DC	94.1%	86.7%	100%	100%	92.3%
Denbighshire	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%
Wales	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	85.2%

3.3 The Free School Meals 3 year average for the schools are displayed in the table below;

School Name	FSM- 3 year average 2014
Ysgol Rhewl	10.7%
Rhos Street School	12%
Ysgol Pen Barras	1.6%
Ysgol Borthyn	23.6%
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	n/a
Ysgol Gellifor	4.1%
Ysgol Llanbedr	0%
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	4.8%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	8.6%
Local Authority- Total	21.2%
Wales- Total	20.5%

**Newly established school*

3.4 Additional Learning Needs Data (2014)

School Name	School Action	School Action Plus	Statemented
Ysgol Rhewl	*	*	*
Rhos Street School	*	6.3%	*
Ysgol Pen Barras	7.4%	3.7%	*
Ysgol Borthyn	20.6%	16.5%	6.2%
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn**	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ysgol Gellifor	*	*	*
Ysgol Llanbedr	*	*	*
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	*	10.4%	*
Ysgol Llanfair DC	16.9%	*	*
Local Authority- Total	12.5%	12.8%	1.1%
Wales- Total	15.1%	8.8%	1.7%

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

***Newly established school- no data currently available*

4. Estyn

4.1. Estyn is the inspectorate for education and training in Wales. Estyn assess the performance of schools under an inspection framework, this changed in 2009/2010 to ask 3 key questions, a reduction from 7. Some of the schools named as an alternative have been assessed under the new framework, others have been assessed under the previous framework. The key questions for the previous and current framework are as follows;

Current Framework Key Questions
How good are the outcomes?
How good is the provision?
How good is the leadership and management?
Judgements
Excellent- Many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice.
Good- Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Adequate- Strengths outweigh areas for improvement.
Unsatisfactory- Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

Previous Framework
How well do learners achieve?
How effective are teaching, training and assessment?
How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?
How effective are leadership and strategic management?
How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?
How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?
Gradings
Grade 1: Good with outstanding features
Grade 2: Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3: Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4: Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas.
Grade 5: Many important shortcomings.

4.2. An overview of the reports for schools assessed under the new framework are provided below;

School	Ysgol Rhewl	Rhos Street School	Ysgol Pen Barras	Ysgol Borthyn	Ysgol Clocaenog (Carreg Emlyn)	Ysgol Cyffylliog (Carreg Emlyn)	Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch
Date	May 2011	March 2013	May 2011	March 2014	October 2012	March 2011*	Nov' 2011
Key Question 1	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good
Key Question 2	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good
Key Question 3	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good
Current Performance	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good
Improvement Outlook	Good	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good

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

4.3. An overview of the reports for the schools assessed under the previous framework are provided below;

School	Ysgol Gellifor	Ysgol Llanbedr	Ysgol Llanfair DC
Date	February 2010	June 2009	June 2010
Key Question 1	Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2
Key Question 2	Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2
Key Question 3	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 1
Key Question 4	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 2
Key Question 5	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 2
Key Question 6	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 2
Key Question 7	Grade 2	Grade 2	Grade 2

The summary of the most recent Estyn report for each school not already summarised in the main document are below:

Ysgol Borthyn

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
<p>The current performance of the school is adequate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most pupils are making good progress; the school provides a caring environment where each child is valued and supported; pupils enjoy school, are eager to learn and are 	<p>Prospects for improvement are adequate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standards in key stage 2 have improved over time; many staff recently appointed to leadership roles have made good progress in developing their area of responsibility during their short time in post; 	<p>R1 Improve standards so that more pupils achieve the higher than expected outcome 6 in the Foundation Phase, and all pupils achieve as well as they are capable</p> <p>R2 Improve standards of writing in key stage 2</p> <p>R3 Ensure that teachers give regular feedback so that pupils know how well they</p>

<p>actively involved in the life of the school; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most lessons are interesting and engage pupils well. <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> although pupils generally make good progress, standards of writing remain low in key stage 2; pupils' use of Welsh outside of Welsh lessons is limited; teachers do not consistently give pupils feedback on how well they have done and what they need to do to improve; and leaders are not planning for pupils to develop their skills progressively enough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recent initiatives have led to improvements in the provision for pupils and the outcomes they achieve; and support for staff new to teaching and those new to leadership is of good quality. <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> targets and actions for improvement are not linked to pupil outcomes enough; middle leaders are not yet confident in the requirements of their roles and this limits their impact on pupil outcomes; and weaknesses remain in the planning and monitoring of the curriculum. 	<p>have done and what they need to do to improve</p> <p>R4 Improve the planning for skills to ensure that pupils build their skills progressively as they move through the school</p> <p>R5 Ensure that middle leaders are accountable for their roles, using detailed job descriptions that include participation in monitoring their areas of responsibility</p> <p>R6 Ensure that targets for school improvement are focused on improving outcomes for pupils</p> <p>R7 Ensure that the curriculum meets the National Curriculum requirements for Welsh second language</p> <p>R8 Amend the timetable to meet recommendations for teaching time in each key stage</p>
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Ysgol Clocaenog

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
<p>The school is good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pupils achieve good standards; the school provides a range of interesting and varied learning experiences that meet pupils' needs; teaching is of good quality; effective leadership and an inclusive ethos create the best possible conditions for every 	<p>Prospects for improvement are good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is a clear vision that is conveyed successfully to staff, pupils, governors and parents; the school knows its own performance well; the headteacher, staff and governors are committed to continuous improvement; 	<p>R1 Improve the independent learning skills of pupils in the Foundation Phase.</p> <p>R2 Improve the standards of writing in English and Welsh of a minority of pupils in key stage 2.</p> <p>R3 Develop pupils' self-evaluation strategies further in key stage 2 so that they become more aware of what they need to do to improve their work.</p>

<p>individual to develop and thrive; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnerships with parents and the local community are a strength. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning for improvement focuses on raising standards; and • there is a willingness to continue to work with other schools in the cluster as an effective learning community. 	
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Ysgol Cyffylliog

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
<p>The school's current performance is adequate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all pupils make appropriate progress during their time at the school; • attendance is very good and pupils enjoy coming to school; • pupils enjoy a good range of interesting activities; • equal opportunity is provided for all pupils in an inclusive school; • the results of end of key stage 2 assessments have been inconsistent; • reading and writing skills in Welsh at key stage 2 are adequate; • the more able pupils are not challenged sufficiently to reach their potential. • planning for teaching the skills and also the arrangements for assessment and assessment for learning are adequate, and 	<p>The school's prospects for improvement are adequate because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the commitment of the headteacher and staff to the pupils and school is sincere; • parents and governors are very supportive of the work of the school; • the school has good links with a wide range of partners; • progress in response to the recommendations of the last inspection has been inconsistent; • a number of the school's managerial procedures do not have enough impact on improving pupils' standards. 	<p>R1. improve reading and writing skills in Welsh at key stage 2;</p> <p>R2 . ensure that the more able pupils reach their potential in all aspects of their work;</p> <p>R3. improve the assessment and assessment for learning arrangements at key stage 2;</p> <p>R4. improve self-evaluation and planning for improvement arrangements, and</p> <p>R5. Comply fully with the requirements for safeguarding children by providing training for all members of staff.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the school does not conform fully with the requirements for safeguarding children. 		
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Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch

Current Performance	Prospects for improvement	Recommendations
<p>Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch's current performance is good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most pupils are making good progress during their period at the school; there is an excellent ethos that contributes very effectively to attendance and high standards of behaviour, and a feeling of staff and pupils' pride in their Welshness; planning, teaching and assessment are robust; and the whole staff work together well and effectively in a way that positively influences pupils' achievements. 	<p>The school's prospects for improvement are good because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the headteacher has a clear vision and she conveys that vision successfully to staff, pupils and governors; the school knows its own performance well; and there is excellent collaboration with partners to improve the provision. 	<p>In order to improve further, the school should:</p> <p>R1 ensure a further increase in the proportion of pupils who reach the higher levels;</p> <p>R2 provide more opportunities for pupils to develop into independent learners; and</p> <p>R3 further develop pupils' understanding of what they need to do in order to improve their own work.</p>

Ysgol Gellifor

Summary	Recommendations
<p>Ysgol Gellifor is a good school with many strengths. There are outstanding features in the high quality learning experiences provided and in the way in which learners are cared for, guided and supported. Learners benefit from the staff's dedication and commitment. Good working relationships exist</p>	<p>In order to improve the school further, the head teacher, governors and members of staff need to:</p> <p>R1 ensure consistency in the presentation of learners' work;</p> <p>R2 further develop assessment for learning so that learners clearly understand what they need to do to improve; and</p>

<p>throughout the school. This creates a positive and encouraging approach to learning that has a positive effect on learners' achievement. They make good progress and achieve well. The school has made good progress since the previous inspection.</p>	<p>R3 refine the process of self-evaluation and school improvement so that it is sharply focused on learners' achievement.</p>
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Ysgol Llanbedr

Summary	Recommendations
<p>Ysgol Llanbedr succeeds in creating a happy and supportive learning environment where pupils feel secure and respected. Relationships between members of staff and pupils are very positive. Most pupils develop as polite, friendly and confident individuals. They display good attitudes to learning. This has a positive impact on the standards they achieve.</p>	<p>In order to improve the school in the areas inspected, the staff and governing body need to:</p> <p>R1 raise standards by addressing the shortcomings in Welsh second language and art and design at Key stage 2;</p> <p>R2 improve pupils' bilingual competence;</p> <p>R3 improve curriculum planning to ensure pupils' better progress in all subjects;</p> <p>R4 improve communications with parents/carers;</p> <p>R5 develop the self-evaluation system to consistently and rigorously monitor standards of work and the quality of learning.</p>

Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd

Summary	Recommendations
<p>Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd is a good school and a very happy establishment. The school's distinct feature is the sense of a family community and closeness to learners. There is an element of excellence in the learning experiences offered to learners and this has a positive impact on their achievement. They make progress, achieve well and become confidently bilingual.</p>	<p>In order to improve, the school needs to:</p> <p>R1 maintain the good standards whilst aiming for excellence;</p> <p>R2 raise ICT standards in key stage 2;</p> <p>R3 develop learners' self-assessment strategies in order that they become more independent learners;</p> <p>R4 ensure consistency in comments on learners' work, giving them clear guidance on what they need to do to improve their work;</p> <p>R5 complete and align work plans for the new curriculum in key stage 1 and 2;</p>

	R6 strengthen the monitoring system to focus more specifically on the achievement of learners.
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5. Condition and Suitability

5.1. EC Harris were instructed in 2010 to undertake condition surveys on all schools in Wales as part of the Welsh Governments 21st Century Schools Programme. The condition categories for all the schools listed are displayed in the table below;

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

5.2. Denbighshire County Council condition and suitability ratings for 2014 are as follows;

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

Key:

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

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Consultation Report

Relating to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.

June 2015

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Foreword – Reviewing Our Schools

Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to periodically review our schools to make sure that we are providing the best education for our pupils, so that they can achieve their full potential. We need to review our school provision to ensure;

- *Make sure our education provision is of high quality, and is sustainable in the long term;*
- *Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities;*
- *Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.*

In Denbighshire we are carrying out a series of areas reviews. This means we are looking at groups of schools in areas of the County to see if we can improve the delivery of education in each area. This could include closing or merging schools, or opening new schools. We review schools on an area by area basis to make sure that when we make changes to school organisation, we take into account any potential impact on other schools nearby.

The Ruthin area review of primary educational provision began in 2013. The Ruthin area included 11 schools, challenges facing primary educational provision in the Ruthin area include;

- *Surplus places;*
- *Condition and suitability of school sites and facilities;*
- *Provision of mobile classrooms;*
- *School estate efficiency and sustainability.*

1. Introduction

1.1. Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires us to publish a consultation report. In this document we have to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by people we speak to and who write to us;
- Show our response to those issues; and
- Set out Estyn's view of the overall merits of what we are considering.

1.2. This report should be considered by decision makers prior to determining any proposal.

2. The Proposal and Consultation

2.1. The draft consultation document was presented to a meeting of DCC's Cabinet of Elected Members on 13 January. At that meeting DCC's Cabinet said that a public consultation (the **Consultation**) could be carried out on the proposal:

"To close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new schools buildings"

2.2. The Consultation took place from 10 February to 23 March 2015.

2.3. We began the Consultation by sending the final Consultation Document to 607 stakeholders. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix A**.

2.4. We published the Consultation Document on DCC's website on the 10th of February 2015. We wrote a special version of the Consultation Document, aimed at primary school children, and published it on our website. You can see both versions of the Consultation Document in the Closed Consultation section of the DCC website; just click on the Ysgol Rhewl proposal area.

2.5. Hardcopies of the consultation document were sent to the parents of pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School. Hardcopies were delivered to the 3 schools for members of staff (teaching, ancillary and any associated wrap-around-care/playgroup staff) and the Governing Body.

2.6. To help and encourage people to give us their views, we produced a response document (**Standard Response Form**). This formed part of the Consultation Document and, so, was also published on our websites. The children's version of the Consultation Document contained a more straightforward response form. The Standard Response Form was converted into an online survey; links to the survey was also published on our websites.

2.7. All other consultees received an email with the link directing them to the formal consultation document and supplementary documents on the first day of the consultation.

2.8. We published the above documents in Welsh and English.

3. Meetings

- 3.1. We held consultation meetings with the governors, teachers & support staff, parents and the School Council of Ysgol Rhewl.

Governors and teachers & support staff

- 3.2. Officers from DCC's Modernising Education and School Effectiveness Teams attended these meetings. Our team informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the Proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.
- 3.3. You can read a summary of the points raised at these meetings and the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

Parents

- 3.4. The parents' meetings took place in Ysgol Rhewl. Each parent received a letter containing the date, time, location and format of the meeting.
- 3.5. The parent's consultation meeting was held in the 'parents evening' format, parents were able to reserve a 15 minute appointment with representatives from both the Modernising Education Team and the School Improvement Team. The reason for holding the sessions in this format was to allow for parents to meet with representatives on an individual basis to raise issues pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community.

During the informal consultation process parents meetings were in the 'traditional' format of a public meeting, however many individuals approached representatives regarding views and concerns they felt they could not address in a public meeting.

- 3.6. The stakeholders asked questions and made comments on the Proposal. You can read a summary of the points raised at this meeting, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

School Council

- 3.7. Consultation events were also arranged with the school pupils of both Ysgol Rhewl and Rhos Street School. The events were facilitated by the 14-19 Network Development Officer whose role included engaging and consulting with Denbighshire's school pupils across both sectors. A member of the Modernising Education Team was also present at the School Council meetings.
- 3.8. Prior to the School Council events the Governing Body of Ysgol Pen Barras contacted the authority stating that it had refused permission for their pupils to take part in a consultation event.
- 3.9. The findings of the School Council meeting are set out in **Appendix C.**

4. Consultation Response

4.1. In total 112 written responses were received during the consultation stage which included a response from Estyn. The majority (76%) of people responding were more closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl than with any other school. Details of respondent types are in Appendix F.

4.2. The table below shows the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of contacts received
Standard Response Forms	93
Children & Young Person's Response Forms	0
Letters and Emails	19
Total number of contacts	112

4.3. The breakdown of the response types is set out below:

No	Response Type	Ysgol Rhewl (actual / %)		Other (actual / %)		Total
1.	Letters and Emails	18	95%	1	5%	19
2.	Response Form	67	74%	26	26%	93
Totals		85	76%	27	24%	112

4.4. An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1.	Glasdir Development	Concerns raised about Air Pollution, Capacity, Access, Timescale, Feasibility, Flooding, Planning Permission, Negative effect of moving Rhos Street School, Safe route to school, Traffic Congestion, Walking to school, Encouraging car use.	74 out of 112
2.	Language	Important to retain parental choice, Ysgol Rhewl is a bilingual school not dual stream, No alternative bilingual provision, Negative effect on Welsh language, Effects on progression to secondary education, Unable to choose either Welsh medium or English medium education. Ysgol Rhewl offers dual stream provision.	61 out of 112
3.	Strengths of Ysgol Rhewl	Good facilities at Ysgol Rhewl, School has access to a playing field, Strong additional learning needs support, Ethos, High Education Standards, Staff	60 out of 112
4.	Community	School is part of the community; Small school creates a sense of belonging in a community. Parents choose a small rural school because of its	37 out of 112

		benefit to their children. The village of Rhewl needs a school; Closing school will lower house prices and land values.	
5.	Consultation Process	Have correct procedures been followed? Consultation period is not long enough; Dissatisfied with consultation meetings;	21 out of 112
6.	Housing Development	Available building plots in Rhewl, Local Development Plan, Grwp Cynefin have purchased land for development in the village.	20 out of 112
7	Classroom structure	Pupil teacher ratios are better in Ysgol Rhewl. Mixed age classes offer many advantages. Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum. Proposal would at least maintain educational standards.	14 out of 112
8.	Comments agreeing with the proposal	Supportive; Proposer has provided a clear rationale, shown how surplus places will be affected, provided clear evidence	13 out of 112
9.	Consultation Document	There are inaccuracies in the consultation document. We dispute your pupil number predictions. Children's consultation document is misleading. We don't agree with the proposal.	11 out of 112
10.	Condition of the Building	The figure to maintain the building is debatable. Costs demonstrate poor spending priorities.	11 out of 112
11.	Effect on pupils	Such a big reorganisation is damaging for pupils. The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised. Children's education will suffer by moving to a larger school.	9 out of 112
12.	Alternative Proposal	Other schools should be considered. New school / refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl is a better option. Have you considered alternative use of surplus space.	9 out of 112
13.	Childcare	Ysgol Rhewl offers excellent wrap around care, it has an extensive breakfast club and various after school activities.	5 out of 112

4.5. The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in [Appendix E](#).

5. Response forms and correspondence

- 5.1. The Standard Response Form was designed to establish:
- whether or not people were in favour of the Proposal;
 - the capacity in which they were responding;
 - whether or not they were linked to the school;
 - what influenced their views on the Proposal and any negative or positive comments they had;
 - whether or not they would send their child(ren) to the proposed alternative schools if the proposal was implemented; and
 - whether they wanted to make any other comments.
- 5.2. A summary of the responses to the Standard Response Form is set out in **Appendix D**.
- 5.3. On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were linked most closely with Ysgol Rhewl or another school. We also received letters and email from people telling us their view; some of those people indicated whether or not they were linked with Rhewl. Details of the respondent are set out in **Appendix F**.
- 5.4. Examples of the types of points raised by all respondents to the Consultation, together with the Councils' response are set out in **Appendix E**.

6. Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the Proposals and the Councils' response to them are set out below. The full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G**.

Estyn Comment	Response
The proposal would at least maintain educational Standards	Agreed
The proposer has provided a clear rationale.	Agreed
The proposer has provided clear evidence to show it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reason for their preferred option.	Agreed
The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified	Agreed

alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places.	
The proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl.	Agreed
Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections. It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. This assertion is reasonable.	Agreed
Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option foroption for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl).	Agreed
Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group.	Agreed
Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the	Agreed

<p>recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.</p>	
<p>No equality impact assessment has been provided.</p>	<p>The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was sent to the Cabinet of elected members in January 2015. Cabinet considered the EIA when making the decision to consult on the Proposals. The EIA has been updated following the consultation and a revised version will be sent to the Cabinet together with this Consultation Report.</p> <p>The EIA is published on DCC's website as part of the committee papers for Cabinet.</p>
<p>The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised.</p>	<p>If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for some pupils. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption between the date of the decision to close and the actual closure date which may be 18 months apart. During this time the Council will work with the school to ensure stability and at the appropriate time plan transition arrangements. The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change.</p>

APPENDIX A

Consultation Document Recipient List

No	Stakeholder	Number of recipients
1.	Parents of pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School	337
2.	Teachers at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School	21
3.	Support staff at Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School	39
4.	Governors and the School Council of the following schools: i Ysgol Rhewl ii Ysgol Pen Barras iii Rhos Street School iv Ysgol Borthyn v Ysgol Carreg Emlyn vi Ysgol Gellifor vii Ysgol Llanbedr viii Ysgol Llanfair DC viiii Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	18
5.	The Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph	1
6.	Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham	1
7.	Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools in Denbighshire (A separate email was sent to Heads of the 9 above schools asking them to circulate children's' version to the school council)	112
8.	Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships	2
9.	All Denbighshire County Councillors*	47
10.	Local and regional Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the Proposal	8
11.	Llanynys Community Council Ruthin Town Council	2
12.	The Welsh Ministers	2
13.	Estyn	1

14.	Relevant teaching and support staff Trade Unions	8
15.	Taith	3
16.	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service – Consortium GWE	1
17.	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	1
18.	Flintshire County Council / Conwy County Council	3
19.	Ysgol Brynhyfryd	2
20.	Childcare Providers / Day Nursery	3
	Total	612

APPENDIX B

Summary of issues raised in meetings

Teachers' and support staff meeting

No	Issue Raised	Response
1.	How would pupils of Ysgol Rhewl travel to the new schools?	Transport would be given in line with DCC's transport policy which provides free home to school transport for primary pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest appropriate school or live on a hazardous route.
2.	How much information from the school will be included within the formal consultation report?	All Cabinet members receive hardcopies of every submitted response. The responses are collated and analysed within the formal consultation report alongside clarification or a response from the LA. Cabinet members have sight of all the responses not just the summarised report.
3.	Numbers (of pupils) have been growing at the school but now projected to go down- why is this? There are houses being built in the village as part of the LDP- these are family houses so it is likely they will have children that would come to the school.	It is important you include this type of information within your formal consultation response- it is also important that it is evidence based. We have included the LDP within the consultation document and the projected numbers of pupils the homes are likely to generate- this is not an exact science but is a tried and tested method. There is also parental preference for language and faith.
4.	The data used within the consultation document is not necessarily representative as we have small cohorts and one pupil can impact significantly on the outcomes. School values not just the data.	This has been acknowledged and has been clear within the document that in instances where schools have small cohorts comparisons should be treated with caution.
5.	With the pupil projections how are these worked out?	We use historical data, the current numbers of pupils within the system, live birth rates and the local development plan.
6.	Your saying that the new schools on Glasdir would impact on the sustainability of our school (Ysgol Rhewl) and that is a reason why this is being proposed but Ysgol Borthyn is even closer so won't it impact on them? Has this been looked at?	Yes we have worked with Ysgol Borthyn. Cabinet have decided to retain Ysgol Borthyn so that English medium faith based primary provision is retained within the town. Ysgol Borthyn has strong numbers. We would not build in more capacity than what is needed at the new

		site to the detriment of another school.
7.	Will the new school even be ready for September 2017? What happens if the school is not ready or delayed?	This is the planned programme. The proposal is being brought forward now so that these types of issues can be addressed. If the school is not ready we will not transfer pupils to the existing Rhos Street / Pen Barras shared site.
8.	Concerns raised by staff on the whole regarding the Welsh Government requirement to consult with the pupils regarding the school closure.	Explained it was part of the School Organisation Code.

Governors' meeting

No	Issue Raised	Response
1.	How are feasibility costs calculated?	The costs are of an estimate of work required to bring the school to a modern fit for purpose standard. We will send a breakdown of the detail to the Chair of Governors.
2.	Why haven't we had an opportunity to engage earlier than now? There are other alternatives	The consultation is the opportunity for you to engage and discuss alternatives.
3.	This proposal represents closing a rural school and moving pupils in to a town. Village of Rhewl is growing with new family homes being built and more children.	Members support sustaining a mix of town and rural schools. We need to ensure our schools are of the right size and in the right place. We have to consider where parents live when formulating proposals. We will build the capacity required in the replacement schools on Glasdir.
4.	Effect on Ysgol Borthyn due to close proximity.	There is an impact on the area of Ruthin from changes. That is why we are undertaking an area review.
5.	Bilingual Education is an important factor for parents – They want to retain their current curriculum offer.	Noted.
6.	Parents may not be able to travel to an alternative school. Who pays for this? How will they get there?	Transport is provided in line with DCC policy.
7.	How are pupil forecasts calculated?	Projections are evidence based and include LDP data.
8.	If Glasdir doesn't go ahead would Ysgol Rhewl still close?	The proposal would not be brought forward.
9.	Have you obtained land valuations?	Yes

Parents' meeting

No	Issue Raised	Response
1.	I am concerned about the bi-lingual issue. There will be an English/Welsh divide in the new schools on the Glasdir site.	We will look at the outcomes at Ysgol Rhewl and other schools to see what we expect of Category 1 and Category 2 schools – our focus will be on the outcomes rather than the category. Please put your concerns in your consultation response if you've not already – you can always submit another one saying it's further to the previous one.
2.	Is this the end of small village schools? I'm not sure that that's the way forward.	Members are saying there should be a mixture of schools. We can't, though, sustain all small schools.
3.	Have you decided the building is not fit for purpose?	It's not fit for purpose. It would need investment. We want our school buildings to be fit for purpose and capable of delivering the curriculum.
4.	If elected members decide to close the school, will it be left empty?	First we see whether DCC have a use for the building, if not then look into whether the community have a viable use for it and if not it would be sold off and the proceeds used to fund DCC's priorities. It's about making the best use of our resources.
5.	Will children who are at Ysgol Rhewl be given places at other schools?	We will discuss admission arrangements with parents at the appropriate time.
6.	Will transport be provided?	Only if it's the nearest appropriate school. If you by-pass the nearest appropriate school, then no. Transport would be in line with the DCC transport policy.
7.	You are reviewing all of Denbighshire?	We've reviewed Prestatyn, Edeyrnion, Llangollen and Ruthin. We will do Denbigh, Rhyl, north of A55 and south of A55. We are looking to build capacity to where the demand is. This is county and Wales wide.
8.	The new school does not have bi-lingual provision.	Rhos Street will be Category 5 English / Pen Barras will be Category 1 Welsh
9.	The Glasdir site is on the flood plain. Denbighshire haven't done a good job with the flood defences. More houses are being built: more houses means more water	If it goes ahead we will consult with the Natural Resources Wales, we'll have to go through planning.
10.	Why do you have to reduce surplus places?	We have more places than we have children. The Minister has directed us to reduce surplus places. We have to close some schools to do this.
11.	How can you have too many places and not	We have more schools than we need.

	enough children?	We need to move the provision to where the demand is located. The proposal is to close Ysgol Rhewl. The Officers make the proposal but it is the elected members who make the decision.
12.	I feel that if it went ahead the new school would be too big. I looked at Rhos street for my child but it was too big. Ysgol Rhewl suits him.	Put this in your consultation response. The elected members will look at this.
13.	I couldn't imagine my young child at a school with 400 children. How big would the new school be?	On current numbers it would be 200 if everyone went to it. We do have bigger schools.
14.	Where have the renovations figures come from? The costs for Ysgol Rhewl are wrong- we want an independent valuation of the costs and a breakdown of how they were reached.	Every school has a condition survey carried out by an independent surveyor. The lower figure is the general maintenance figure and the higher one required to bring the school building up to 21 st Century standards; This would result in a major refurbishment.
15.	We've already seen what's happened at Llanbedr and it's very upsetting. You were told not to close it and a week later you are doing it again.	You should read the letter from the Welsh Minister because that sets out why Ysgol Llanbedr should be closed – we fell down on a technicality. We got the consultation document wrong.
16.	Where can we find the letter?	It's on the Welsh Government website.
17.	The predicted pupil figures are wrong. The number of children in nursery is wrong.	Those figures are taken from the PLASC information – provided by the school and checked by the governing body. We'll check and if they are wrong, we'll tell cabinet the right information. We'll ask the governing body to update the PLASC details. Let your governing body know your views.
18.	What about the impact on the village – house prices?	We carry out a community and language impact assessment.
19.	Ysgol Rhewl is a bilingual school- the document terminology says 'dual stream' we have objected to the use of the terminology.	We will note this. There is a national categorisation system for schools in Wales which provides criteria based on the use of the Welsh language as a medium of teaching- Ysgol Rhewl is a Category 2 school which described as 'dual-stream'.
20.	Ysgol Rhewl was given an amber classification- this is unfair and will be challenged. There is 4 years of data missing from that.	We will be meeting with the Chair of Governors regarding the issue.
21.	The document says 61% of pupils travel to Ysgol Rhewl - people travel because it is a good school and it is bilingual.	Noted.
22.	There are new houses being built in the	Noted.

	village - family houses with children to come to this school.	
23.	There is no one size fits all education we are strongly opposed to this proposal.	Noted.
24.	If the new schools are not built by 2017 what happens if the school closes? Where do the pupils go?	We would not close the school and send current pupils to the existing Rhos street / Pen Barras site.
25.	Rhewl provides excellent facilities and support for pupils with SEN - no other school in the area could provide this type of provision. Moving children to other schools is disruptive especially for pupils with SEN. The school offers a bilingual education - the proposal does not offer a middle ground just English or Welsh.	Issues like these need to be included within your consultation response. If the proposal went ahead the right support would be given to SEN pupils to help them.
26.	The school has been invited to Downing St last week as the best performing school in Denbighshire.	We are not saying standards are a problem - we have to at least maintain the level of education. Standards and outcomes are good across the Ruthin area.
27.	Can we put forward other suggestions instead of the closure? Things we feel have not been considered?	Absolutely - it will all be fed back to the elected members and they will look at the information received.
28.	What happens with staff? Move to the new school?	We have met with staff and HR support has been made available to them. If the proposal was implemented we would speak to each member of staff individually.
29.	I would like it noted that another factor is that wrap-around-care is available which helps working parents.	We will note that.
30.	I know some parents have not attended tonight because of the format of the meeting (1-2-1). Parents would have felt better if it was a public meeting to get their points across.	We will note this feedback.
31.	Talking about sustainability - saying it is not sustainable but yet you have looked at expansion for Ysgol Rhewl and costed it then saying not sustainable and numbers are dropping.	We must assess every option.
32.	We currently walk to school so that would be an added cost for parents.	Noted.
33.	They have built super schools in Wrexham - they are in special measures now. Not best for all pupils.	We are not proposing a super school; it is a replacement of school buildings. A good standard of education is provided in the area - we must maintain it.
34.	Environmental concerns in the area: There is a wood plant nearby which deposits 'white dust' on cars. Concerns of locating a	Noted.

	school near industrial zone.	
35.	Environment of Ysgol Rhewl does not compare to larger schools. It is familiar, warm and nurturing. You only get that with these character buildings and mixed age classes.	Noted.
36.	Justification for the move based wholly on the premise that the education services will provide an on time and on budget new school - No track record of ever doing so.	The Council has delivered a number of projects in recent years on time and within the agreed budget.

APPENDIX C

School Council Findings

Ysgol Rhewl consultation – School Council Meeting 11 March 2015.

Attendees

6 School Council Representatives (Ysgol Rhewl), Learning Support Assistant (Ysgol Rhewl), Education Officer (DCC), Learner Voice Champion (DCC).

Purpose

The purpose of this consultation was for the Learner Voice Champion (LVC) to speak with the children in Ysgol Rhewl with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like DCC to hear.

Looking through the consultation document

The LVC went through the document with the school council representatives. Once the consultation document was looked through, we looked back at what it meant. This helped us to see how the children felt and if they had concerns with the decision.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the LVC went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

What pupils of Ysgol Rhewl thought of the idea:

Upset I have already moved once, don't want to move again.	Nobody agrees with this	Two schools are confusing
It's donkey years away	There are 60 pupils here	There will not be space for all of the children in the new school
Children will be sitting on floors	We can't walk to school if its in Ruthin	You don't have planning permission
Leave all children alone will be cheaper		Really don't want to move to another school

Hopes and Fears

This exercise was carried out to help the LVC receive any comments which the children may not want to say in front of their peers, teachers and official members of the LA. It had been explained that this helps them to be anonymous and they will not be shown to anyone except for the LVC when the report is typed up.

Hopes	Fears
I don't want the school to close down as we have 60 something children and if we had 20 something then yes you could shut us down but you can't when we have 63 children or more.	Don't close our school. Nobody agrees with this.
I want this school to stay open so DON'T CLOSE OUR SCHOOL!	I will be heartbroken if you close our schools because all of my friends in younger years will have to move schools.
I love Ysgol Rhewl	I won't be able to see my mates anymore because I won't know anybody there.
I hope if we have to move even though I don't want to there will be help for my brother.	I would not want this school to close down because we have the little ones that have just got to know the teachers and pupils and it would be a shame to see them have to get used to a different school.
I hope that we can stay open because it would not be the same without the teachers and my friends if I go to another school I know that there will be nice teachers in the new school.	I fear that I won't know all the teachers and I'll be a bit scared. Really don't want to move to another school.
I hope we don't have to move school.	There won't be any special help for reading so we won't be able to read or write.
I hope that the school stays open because if we had a new school we would have to choose English or Welsh and I don't want to choose.	I am scared and I might cry because this school is original and we have improved over the course of 10 years we have had over 10 new pupils over the last year so please don't close our school.
I love how it is a small school because that way I know everyone and to get to see my friends every day. I just would be heartbroken if the school closed.	I would be a bit worried because it would be different for the school. New teachers, New School and either Welsh or English and I don't want to choose. I don't want any changes because I love the school the way it is. I also don't want it to be a big school because I like how Ysgol Rhewl is a bit small because I get to always see everyone and play with my friends every day. I Love Ysgol Rhewl.
	I wouldn't like it because I or my family wouldn't know the teachers so they probably move me to a different school, not the big one.
	There will not be space for all children in the new school.

What we like about our school / what we would like in our school?

This exercise was carried out to help the pupils explain what they liked about their school and what they would like in their school. The LVC explained that they could write what they feel.

What pupils of Ysgol Rhewl like about their school:

I love Ysgol Rhewl

Teachers

We do lots of Welsh

Ysgol Rhewl makes people happy

Lots of friends



We have great lessons

Everybody knows each other

School is quite small

We have loads of clubs

It's great

Staff

This is a bilingual school

Easy to walk to school

What pupils of Ysgol Rhewl would like to change:

Nothing else

More special days like healthy food days

Free School Dinners

More drama lessons



Let infants go on a different school trip

More salad / Ketchup with chips

Nothing

Bigger room for pegs

More school trips

More music lessons

Rhos Street School – School Council Meeting 20 March 2015.

Attendees

School Council Representatives (Rhos Street School), Teacher (Rhos Street School), Education Officer (DCC), Learner Voice Champion (DCC).

Purpose

The purpose of this consultation meeting was for the Learner Voice Champion (LVC) to speak with the children in Rhos Street School with regards to the consultation to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl. This was to help them to voice any concerns that they may have or any suggestions that they would like DCC to hear.

Looking through the consultation document

The LVC went through the document with the school council representatives and explained that were meeting with Rhos Street School pupils as their school was named in the document as an alternative school for pupils in Ysgol Rhewl.

Once the consultation document had been explained thoroughly, the LVC went through the questions on the consultation document and helped the children look at the questions and think about what they thought. She emphasised that they can write what they wanted and it was all about their opinions, there was no right or wrong answer.

What pupils of Rhos Street School thought of the idea:

Classes would be bigger

Worried

More friends would
be exciting

Flooding

Don't know

Don't want our school to be
knocked down

Different

Extend Rhos street

We want to continue to walk to school

Move Pen Barras from this site / New school only for Pen Barras

What we like about our school / what we would like in our school?

This exercise was carried out to help the pupils explain what they liked about their school and what they would like in their school. The LVC explained that they could write what they feel.

What pupils of Rhos Street School like about their school:

It's a good school

Nice staff

Good friends



Loads of lessons

Its perfect the way it is

Healthy School

RSS is a great school please do not move us

What pupils of Rhos Street School would like to change:

Have more swimming lessons

More bins and recycling

Bigger yard

More Welsh Lessons

More games

More space for sports like football and netball



Stop sharing a Hall

Move Ysgol Penbarras

Year 5 and 6 can sit outside to eat

More Trees

Gymnastics Hall

Bigger car park

Longer lunch and morning break

APPENDIX D
Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

Question 1 Are you in favour of the Proposals?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	15	16%
No	78	84%
	93	

Question 2: Please tell us whether you are responding as a:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	2	2%
Parent of a pupil	40	41%
Staff Member	2	2%
Community Member	7	7%
Governor	32	33%
Skipped Question	15	15%
	98*	

* Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

Comment: The majority of respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils) were against the proposal.

Question 3: With which school are you most closely associated?

Type	Total	Percentage
Ysgol Rhewl	67	72%
Rhos Street School	8	9%
Ysgol Pen Barras	16	17%
None/skipped question	2	2%
	93	

Comment: Of the 67 respondents who identified themselves as being “most closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl”, 35 were directly associated (e.g. teacher, governor, parent, pupil) with Ysgol Rhewl and of those 35, all were against the proposal.

Question 4: Please tell us if any of the following have had an influence on your view of the Proposal:

Type	Total	Percentage
The impact on educational provision	54	53%
Impact on the community	34	33%
Other	14	14%
	102*	
Issues raised under “Other” heading (respondents could detail more than one “other”)	Total	Percentage
Other: Impact on choice of bilingual education.	6	38%
Other: Impact on children	1	6%
Other: Impact on both educational provision and community	4	25%
Other: Rhewl needs a school	1	6%
Other: Difficult to commute to Ruthin	2	13%
Other: Don’t know enough about the Glasdir development to make an informed decision.	1	6%
Other: There is no space to expand in Ruthin to accommodate pupils from Rhewl.	1	6%
	16*	

* Respondents were able to state more than one reason. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

Comment: The majority of people who responded said that the impact on educational provision was the main issue which affected their view on the Proposal.

Question 5: If the current proposal was implemented would you send your child/children to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, or would you choose an alternative provision??

Type	Total	Percentage
Rhos Street School	9	11.5%
Ysgol Pen Barras	13	16.7%
Alternative provision	48	61.5%
Skipped question, N/A or unsure	8	10.3%
	78	

Comment: Of the 48 respondents who indicated they would choose another school, 22 were a parent of a pupil at Ysgol Rhewl and all but one were most closely associated with Ysgol Rhewl.

Question 6: Please let us have any comments, positive or negative, that you would like to make about the Proposal:

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in [Appendix E](#).

APPENDIX E

Summary of Issues and Responses

Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
Closing the school would be a loss to the Community. Closing the school will damage the community lowering house prices and land value within Rhewl.	Concerns noted and the Council work with the schools and the community to mitigate this where possible.
We chose to send our children to a small village school where we live. It's important to us to attend a small village school where they could feel they belong in a small community. Being a pupil in a small school is good for children's health and wellbeing.	Elected members support retaining a mix of rural and town schools in the Ruthin area, but we cannot retain every school.

Strengths of Ysgol Rhewl

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Good facilities in the school including kitchen, new toilets, 3 yards including provision for vulnerable children, laptops, interactive whiteboards and a school garden. Curriculum can be taught.</p> <p>Parking is available for the school to use nearby. Ysgol Rhewl also currently provides 'break out' areas to allow for smaller groups of pupils who require extra support and for more able and talented.</p> <p>Little needs to be done to the school buildings.</p>	<p>The current gross area of the building meets the current standards required in Building Bulletin 99 for a school of its size (82 FT capacity). The existing facilities at Ysgol Rhewl allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement. PE provision on site is limited with some use of the dining area and no level access or access to a disabled WC. There is no on site car parking and no footway leading to the school.</p> <p>The current maintenance backlog is £129,182 and refurbishment work to bring the school site up to a 21st century schools standard has been estimated at £541,696.</p> <p>The existing site would not allow for future expansion as it does not meet the required Building Bulletin 99 size recommendation. Any extension of the existing building would impact on the available outdoor space.</p>
There is a good sized playing field used regularly by the pupils a few 100m from the school site.	Noted.
ALN - Parents have chosen to travel from further afield to come to Ysgol Rhewl because of the ALN support. The school has experience and expertise working with pupils with Additional Learning Needs.	<p>If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for pupils with special educational needs. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.</p> <p>The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change.</p>
Education Provision and Ethos - Ysgol Rhewl provides a safe, happy, caring,	Noted. Both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras also have good standards.

family, atmosphere / environment. They nurture our children to progress. Our children have had an excellent education. Best school in the area. Excellent school. Excellent Estyn reports.	
Staff - The head teacher has the vision to take Rhewl forward. Staff are trained to a high level.	Noted.
Education Standards - We challenge the Amber classification. The standards in Ysgol Rhewl are very high. Good inspection report. There are no significant shortcomings in Ysgol Rhewl, although implicitly this is implied wrongly throughout the consultation document. Proposal does not provide a strong enough educational argument to propose closure.	The Amber classification included in the document is consistent with the classification published on the Welsh Government website – my local school. Denbighshire County Council is aware that the Governors do not agree with the classification.

Language

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
Welsh language Impact assessment - Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl).	Noted.
Parental Choice / Difficult to choose a language provision / No alternative – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impossible to choose between the two schools on offer. Ysgol Pen Barras is insular in its development of the Welsh language and is not a bilingual approach therefore parents who wish their children to be taught in both Welsh and English will lose access to their desired educational provision. Given that the school is formally classified as bilingual, and also that the parents and pupils have clearly stated that this is the level and type of 	Ysgol Rhewl is currently classified as a dual stream primary school. The language categories are set by Welsh Government and there is not a primary age bilingual language category. Therefore Ysgol Rhewl is not formally classified as bilingual. In a dual stream school the expected outcomes for pupils in the Welsh stream, are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, outcomes are as for Category 5. Ysgol Pen Barras is a Category 1 school; Rhos Street school is a Category 5 school. Should the proposal be implemented, parents can express a preference for their children to attend alternative provision in the Ruthin area. Details have been included in the formal consultation document. Denbighshire County Council has committed to retain a mix of rural and town schools in Ruthin area to retain choice for

<p>educational provision that they require, it is essential that proposals for any form of change ensure that the alternatives are at least at the same level as is currently available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a choice of where to send our children. We have not been given a fair choice for our children. 	<p>parents.</p>
<p>Bilingualism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We chose to send our children to bilingual school where we believe our children are getting a very good standard of Welsh. • A bilingual education in Ysgol Rhewl provides our children with the opportunity to learn curriculum content in and through two languages (Welsh and English) in a balanced way. Proposal hasn't considered bilingual offer. • There is an extensive use of Welsh at Ysgol Rhewl. • We offer dual stream provision. • How does proposing to close Ysgol Rhewl, a bilingual school, adhere to these strategic aims? How does the proposal safeguard bilingual provision? • The figures for pupils entering a bilingual stream of education which is significant are not identified. We anticipate that in the near future more pupils will enter the Welsh medium classes in Ysgol Brynhyfryd. 	<p>In Denbighshire's schools all children have the opportunity to learn through the medium of Welsh or English. Bilingualism is introduced as early as possible. Welsh is part of the National Curriculum, and is taught both as a first and second language, depending on the school.</p> <p>Ysgol Rhewl is currently identified as Category 2 (Dual Stream School). The normal expected outcomes for pupils in the Welsh stream are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for Category 5.</p> <p>Most pupils attending Ysgol Rhewl are taught Welsh as a 2nd language (Normal expectation for a category 4 or 5 School). No pupils have been assessed as Welsh 1st language at the end of key stage 2 for the period 2010 -2014. The school has responded that it is anticipated that in 2015 two pupils will be assessed Welsh 1st Language.</p> <p>Over the past three years, 13 pupils have transferred from Ysgol Rhewl to secondary provision at Ysgol Brynhyfryd. 12 pupils have transferred to the English medium stream, and one child to the 'N' Stream. This stream is considered to be suitable for pupils who have learnt Welsh as a second language and who, by the end of key stage 2, have a good understanding of the language. These are usually pupils transferring from category 2 and category 3 primary schools.</p> <p>Pupils' competency and confidence in the Welsh language is assessed at the end of key stage 2 and advice provided on the most appropriate provision in terms of ensuring linguistic progression. The 'N' stream is for Welsh learners; it is not bilingual provision.</p> <p>From September 2015, the N Stream is stopping in its present form. Pupils already in the 'N' stream will receive additional support so that they can successfully enter the Welsh 1st Language stream and will be assessed as 1st Language at the end of key stage 3 and at GCSE. There may be a few pupils who do not make the expected progress or because of parental preference will transfer to the English stream.</p> <p>A report was presented to scrutiny in March 2015 which reported on the language categorisation of schools. Ysgol Rhewl was identified as one of four anomalies. Denbighshire County Council is of the opinion that Ysgol Rhewl's current provision is the equivalent of Category 4 – English Medium with significant use of Welsh.</p>
<p>Negative Effect on Welsh Language - Closing Ysgol Rhewl a bilingual school in</p>	<p>Objective 1.1 of Denbighshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is to increase the number of seven-</p>

<p>Ruthin would damage the provision of education specifically regarding the standards in Welsh. The statistics shown do not account for a high level of ability in speaking Welsh as a second language. A Welsh government language policy states that the use of incidental Welsh is also very important in securing the future of the Welsh language not just educational outcomes. The removal of these places together with the removal of Welsh medium places from Ysgol Pentecelyn will actually hinder the delivery of these outcomes, and the indication is that the Council is not adhering to its own policy relating to the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>	<p>year-old children taught through the medium of Welsh to 29% by 2017. It is the opinion of the Council that implementing this proposal will not have a negative effect on the objective due to the close proximity of alternative provision.</p> <p>The Council Welsh language scheme states that we provide all our services in Welsh and English. This proposal does not diminish the Councils adherence to this policy.</p>
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Effect on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Effect on pupils - Such a big reorganisation is damaging for pupils. The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised. I feel the children's education will suffer by moving to a larger school</p>	<p>If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils it may prove more challenging for some pupils. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.</p> <p>The Council would identify needs of individual pupils and provide appropriate support. Transition days / activities would be arranged to prepare pupils for the change.</p>

Condition of Building

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Condition / Cost of maintaining – The figure to maintain the building is debatable and challenge the figures. We dispute costs. An independent surveyor should come and give a realistic figure. Sum seems awfully inflated for the B (Satisfactory) grade. Demonstrates very very poor spending priorities. Who are you getting your costings from?</p>	<p>Every school has a condition survey carried out by an independent surveyor. The general maintenance figure and the higher one required bringing the school building up to 21st Century standards; major refurbishment costs are based on standard industry estimates.</p>

Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Housing Developments - There are currently two building plots available in Rhewl with planning permission to build 30 family homes. There are also 15 new homes being built in Llanrhaedr which is about 2 miles of Rhewl. Grwp Cynefin has bought the land where the old church stood for developing affordable homes.</p>	<p>The likely increase in housing was considered when the proposal was drafted. 30 dwellings have been allocated within Rhewl as part of the Local Development Plan, and an additional 4 dwellings have also been allocated for the wider Llanynys area. Based on the formula used to estimate the number of primary pupils generated by housing developments (0.24 x No. of dwellings) it would be expected that the 34 houses would generate an additional 8 pupils. Based on the current trend of</p>

	pupils within the area it would be reasonable to assume not all pupils would attend Ysgol Rhewl due to parental preference for differing provisions.
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Classroom Structure

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Class Sizes / Pupil teacher ratio - Small class sizes in Ysgol Rhewl is a positive factor for us. Large classes do not suit every child. Our pupil teacher ratios are low. Pupil teacher ratios for Ysgol Rhewl are better than the proposed alternative provision.</p>	<p>Class sizes at both alternative schools are significantly below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Class sizes will vary according to pupil numbers. The majority of funding for schools is derived according to pupil numbers. Should pupil numbers increase the pupil teacher ratio will increase up to a point when additional teaching staff can be funded. It is acknowledged in the consultation document that the current pupil teacher ratio for Ysgol Rhewl is marginally less than the proposed alternatives.</p>
<p>Mix age group / Single age classes - Working in a mixed age group and dealing with a broad range of abilities and interests is an effective way of developing these softer skills that cannot be as easily achieved in age appropriate class. Single age classes do not provide any advantages compared to mixed age classes. Mixed age classes offer many advantages compared to single age classes. The consultation document implicitly implies pupils at Ysgol Rhewl are taught in inappropriate mixed class structures.</p>	<p>The consultation document appropriately sets out the difference for pupils of Ysgol Rhewl if the proposal is implemented and they transfer to the proposed alternatives in Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School:</p> <p>‘Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. Should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras they would be taught in age appropriate class structures.</p> <p>Mixed age grouping is most commonly found in ‘small’ primary schools because there are insufficient teachers to organise the range of year groups into single-year classes. This form of classroom organisation also occurs in larger primary schools when there is fluctuating or uneven enrolment. Schools of half form entry or one and half form entry inevitably have to form mixed age classes.</p> <p>Mixed age classrooms offer opportunities but also challenges. Nationally the most common reason cited by Head teachers for not organising pupils into mixed age classes is that the school did not need to do so.</p>
<p>Potential effect on class sizes - Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Key Stage 2.	
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Alternative Proposal

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>New Building / Refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl One option should be to build a brand new school on the playingfield in Rhewl or refurbishing Ysgol Rhewl. £150k is a relatively small price to pay to keep open a high performing, bilingual school. Are you not proposing to build a new 91 pupil capacity school elsewhere? Surely this does not meet the required BB99 size recommendations for a standard 105 school. A different report states Ysgol Rhewl has adequate space to provide for extension or improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option to build a new school has been considered and an appraisal is included in the formal consultation document. The new 91 pupil capacity school proposed would meet BB99 size recommendations and will designed to be able to expand to 105 capacity school if required in the future. The current site of Ysgol Rhewl cannot be expanded to accommodate a standard 105 capacity school. A feasibility study identified that the existing school could accommodate a small extension but it was noted that this would reduce space on the schools hard standing playground.
<p>Other Schools should be considered - Borthyn school (which will be 500 meters from new schools) is unaffected. Surely logic would dictate that in order to serve the local community and reduce environmental impact, Rhos street should stay on present site and Borthyn school be moved the short distance to the new site.</p>	<p>On the 29th of July 2014 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet resolved to continue to maintain provision at Ysgol Borthyn so that English medium faith based primary provision is retained within the town. It is the Council's view that Ysgol Borthyn should remain on its current site.</p>
<p>Alternative use of surplus space - In one cabinet meeting councillors agreed to meet with schools to discuss alternative use of space to reduce surplus numbers. Has this been done for Ysgol Rhewl?</p>	<p>Alternative use of surplus space in schools is considered for all schools. The surplus space in Ysgol Rhewl cannot be freed for alternative use.</p>

Childcare

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Ysgol Rhewl offers excellent wrap around care (Pili Pala), it has an extensive breakfast club and various after school activities.</p>	<p>Noted. Both Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street school have breakfast and after school clubs.</p>

Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Have the correct procedures been followed to close a school? It seems to be very rushed with the local Government wanting the school closed by July 2017. There are flaws in the document. The document implies information. The document doesn't provide a true understanding to a reasonable person. I do not think parents or the local</p>	<p>The consultation follows the process set out in the School Organisation Code 2013. The School Organisation Code is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The code provides guidance on the contents of the formal consultation document, the length of the consultation period (42 days) and the recipients of the document.</p>

community have been consulted regarding the closure of Ysgol Rhewl. Is it ok to close a school without listening to the views of parents and community members? Sending a hard copy to every parent is inefficient.	
EQIA - No equality impact assessment has been provided.	The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was sent to the Cabinet of elected members in January 2015. Cabinet considered the EIA when making the decision to consult on the Proposals. The EIA has been updated following the consultation and a revised version will be sent to the Cabinet together with this Consultation Report. The EIA is published on DCC's website as part of the committee papers for Cabinet.
Consultation with Parents - Dissatisfaction with consultation with parents - Mass meeting would be better. Didn't have full 15mins. They weren't listening. Didn't get a straight answer. Farce.	The parent's consultation meeting was held in the 'parents evening' format. The reason for holding the sessions in this format was to allow for parents to meet with representatives on an individual basis to raise issues pertinent to them as individuals and also the wider views regarding the school and community. During the informal consultation process parents meetings were in the 'traditional' format of a public meeting, however many individuals approached representatives regarding views and concerns they felt they could not address in a public meeting.
Length of consultation period - 41 days is not a sufficient time to formally respond to the consultation document.	The consultation period started on the 10 th of February and came to an end on the 23 rd of March. The consultation period is inclusive of these dates and was 42 days. The formal consultation period is in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013.

Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
Don't agree with the rationale of the proposal.	Noted.
Projections - Your report predict that the numbers of children attending Ysgol Rhewl will fall over the next few years. We have healthy numbers in Pili Pala. There is more likelihood that numbers will go up. We dispute your predictions.	The standard projections used by Denbighshire County Council are based upon historical data from the annual pupil census – PLASC, birth rate data and the local development plan. It also takes into account the number of pupils admitted to the school. Pre-school children living within the community are unknown to the authority until an application for school place is made. No assumption can be made about future parental preference due to parents opting for different language and faith preferences.
Children's consultation document - Wording of the document is not appropriate and could be distressing and also create confusion. Document designed to manipulate, attract and persuade pupils through use of appealing language and imagery. Use of suggestive, leading words.	The Children's consultation document is written in a different format to that of the main formal consultation document to make it easier for children to read.

Consultation with staff - Consultation meeting was too close to the issue of the consultation document and did not allow staff to arrange a meeting with their unions beforehand.	The consultation document was sent to staff and trade unions. A meeting with staff is arranged early in the consultation period as the proposal affects their employment. It is made clear in consultation meetings that staff can arrange further meetings with officers.
Headteacher teaching commitment - The Headteacher does not teach this point is incorrect.	Noted.
Higher Budget share - Relates to staff members employed as 1:1 support.	Section 3.2 of the School Organisation Code requires the budget share per pupil to be published in the consultation document. An increase in pupils receiving 1:1 support will draw down additional funding for a school which will increase the budget share per pupil. Over the last 5 years the budget share per pupil of Ysgol Rhewl has fluctuated from a low of £4,574 in 2010-11 to a high of £5,977 in 2014-15.

Positive Comments

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
Rationale - The proposer has provided a clear rationale.	Agreed.
Reasons - The proposer has provided clear evidence to show it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reason for their preferred option.	Agreed.
Surplus places - The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places.	Agreed.
Maintaining Education Standards - Proposal would at least maintain educational Standards	Agreed.
Analysis of alternative provision - The proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl.	Agreed.

<p>Leadership and Management - Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections. It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. It would likely be a positive impact for pupils to have access to a broader compliment of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of different curriculum areas. This assertion is reasonable.</p> <p>The consultation appropriately raises the challenges facing small primary schools in being able to implement leadership structures effectively and quotes the Estyn thematic report 'School Size and Effectiveness' December 2013</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Good Idea - I am very supportive, It is clear the buildings in Rhewl are unsuitable.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Glasdir Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>Would not send children to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street school.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Glasdir Development</p> <p>Air Pollution - Is Glasdir appropriate even if traffic issues are addressed. Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee in December 2014 calls for a ban on building schools etc. near air pollution black spots. Public buildings should not be built within 150m of major roads.</p> <p>Capacity / Size of the new site - Will the site be big enough to accommodate a super school with over 400 pupils. Will it have sufficient capacity for all pupils? Will it be able to accommodate the Cylch Meithrin?</p> <p>Access - Access into the school could be an issue with Highways department. Will it have a safe crossing point?</p> <p>Timescale - Will the new school be built by July 2017?</p> <p>I believe there is so much money in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Glasdir Development is subject to the same planning process as all other planning applications. • The Council will respond to all legislative requirements prior to constructing the new Glasdir development. • If the proposal is implemented the two new schools would be designed to accommodate displaced pupils from Ysgol Rhewl. • The highways department will be involved from the outset in developing the new schools in Glasdir. They are also statutory consultees for planning applications. Access points to the site will be developed during the design phase. • It is planned that the new school will be built by July 2017. • The Glasdir development is funded by Denbighshire County Council and is part of the capital plan. • There are schools sharing sites already within Denbighshire, such as Ysgol Twm o'r Nant and Ysgol Frongoch in Denbigh and Ysgol Gwernant and Ysgol

<p>pot and it has to be spent by a certain time or the money will be lost. Where will the funding come from?</p> <p>Will it work? It is an experiment. Two schools on the same site that are segregated at all times sits uncomfortably with us.</p> <p>Flooding on the new site - The risk of flooding on the site. Building on a flood plain.</p> <p>Planning Permission - No planning permission has been secured for a new school development in Glasdir</p> <p>Negative effect of moving Rhos Street - The removal of Rhos Street School from its present site would leave no "local" school for the residents of the most densely populated part of town, with distance from areas like St Meugans and Wrexham Road, even greater than that from Rhewl to Glasdir.</p> <p>Safe route to school - The A525 between Rhewl and Ruthin is not a safe route. The close proximity of the cars and lorries is unpleasant. We would have to walk across entrances to an industrial park, precast concrete company and cross a busy link road. On 12.3.15 there was a very serious road accident along the route from Rhewl to Ruthin.</p> <p>Traffic congestion -The site of the new school would attract a large amount of traffic to an already busy link road at peak times daily, including teaching staff. I am sure that 300 plus vehicles would be travelling to the same place at the same time. This volume of traffic would cause congestion, pollution and cause a serious hazard.</p> <p>Walking to school - For generations children have walked to their local primary school - this will not be possible, considerably affecting their health and fitness.</p> <p>Proposal is encouraging car use which is not sensible planning policy. Will the Council consider new walking routes to new school sites?</p>	<p>Bryn Collen in Llangollen. Throughout the UK there are many schools operating on shared sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Planning application a Flood Consequence Assessment must be completed. • A planning application will be submitted when the outcome of the consultation is known. • Analysis has demonstrated that the catchment of Rhos Street School is not limited to one specific geographic area. The majority of pupils do not live in the area surrounding the current school site. • Pupils travelling along routes to schools that are deemed hazardous are provided with free home to school transport. • As part of the design process a transport management plan will be developed which will include input from Highway officers. Onsite parking provision will be included in the design of the new schools. • The change in location of both schools will mean that some parents will choose to change their method of taking children to school. It is anticipated that some parents will stop walking to school whilst others living closer to the new site will start to walk to school. • It is acknowledged that the proposed Glasdir site is closer to the village of Rhewl than parts of Wrexham road and St Meugans.
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APPENDIX F

Respondent Types

Type	Total	Percentage
Linked most closely with Ysgol Rhewl	85	76%
Linked most closely with Rhos Street School	8	7%
Linked most closely with Ysgol Pen Barras	16	14%
Neither school / did not say	3	3%
	112	

APPENDIX G

Estyn's response to the Formal Consultation Document

Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Denbighshire County Council.

It is being proposed that Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings. The new school buildings will be located on the Glasdir site to the North of Ruthin.

Summary/Conclusion

The proposer clearly states that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because of the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales. This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in the Ruthin area.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. It states that the proposal has been developed in line with the council's commitment to modernising education and the school effectiveness framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential. It further asserts reasonably that there are a number of issues facing Ysgol Rhewl that could impact on the ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future. These include surplus places and the condition and suitability of the school site.

The proposer clearly outlines the potential benefits of the proposal. These include reducing surplus places and pupils having access to 21st century school buildings and facilities. The proposer also notes the disadvantages and risks of the proposal well. These include the cessation of primary educational provision in the village of Rhewl. However, the proposer does point out that the new facilities on Glasdir would become a closer option for some of the existing pupils currently attending Ysgol Rhewl. The proposer further assures that all risks associated with the proposal will be monitored within the overall programme risk register and within any individual project register. The proposer has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These include maintaining the status quo and federation. They have demonstrated clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered transport implications including an analysis of costs and concluded that the proposal will have a neutral impact on current transport costs. Transport to either Rhos Street school or Ysgol Pen Barras would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire county council's transport policy. It has also considered a safe walking route from the village to the Glasdir site.

The proposer has effectively shown how surplus places will be affected by providing forecasted pupil numbers over the next few years. These suggest that the proposal would not negatively affect the abilities of the schools to absorb pupils from Ysgol Rhewl within their existing class structures. Also all other identified alternative schools in the area appear to have available surplus places.

The proposer has suitably undertaken a Welsh language impact assessment and presented a summary of this assessment. It summarises that overall, the proposal will be neutral in terms of its impact on the Welsh language. Even though the proposal would reduce the amount of dual stream offer it provides access and maintains parental preference for language medium. Pupils who have chosen to access Welsh medium education will be thoroughly bilingual in the use of both Welsh and English on leaving primary school and have an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales. The proposal provides parents with the option for English medium education for their children with Welsh taught as a second language (as is the current status quo for all pupils in Ysgol Rhewl).

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has considered well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management, in all three of the schools. It has additionally provided school performance data of the schools that may be impacted should the proposal progress. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports of all schools affected and has provided the support categories and bands of Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. These inspection reports show that all three schools were judged to be good in all key questions and for their overall current performance. Ysgol Rhewl and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged to have good and Rhos street school excellent prospects for improvement. The

proposer reasonably asserts that alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for the pupils of Ysgol Rhewl.

The proposer's summary of outcomes at all three schools is concise and clear. For Ysgol Rhewl, it has usefully provided a comparison of performance outcomes with local and national averages as well as with a family of schools who have similar levels of free school meal entitlement. The commentary rightly points out that the numbers of pupils assessed in each cohort has been relatively low; therefore a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not always possible. However, this same level of detail is not provided for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. In the proposal document, the educational outcomes for these two schools are included without sufficient analysis or commentary.

Currently pupils in Ysgol Rhewl are taught in mixed age year groups encompassing up to 4 year groups. The proposer suitably notes that should the current proposal be implemented and pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one year age group. Class sizes at both alternative schools are below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Both schools currently have surplus places that are capable of absorbing the pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

Leadership and management at Ysgol Rhewl, Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras were judged 'Good' at their respective inspections.

The consultation appropriately raises the challenges facing small primary schools in being able to implement leadership structures effectively and quotes the Estyn thematic report 'School Size and Effectiveness' December 2013 which states;

'Leadership and processes to improve quality are usually better developed in large primary schools. In small primary schools, many headteachers have a significant teaching responsibility that limits the time they can devote to leading and managing and they have fewer opportunities to evaluate standards and to drive improvement'.

It is the view of the authority that should pupils transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras it would not have a negative impact on the current leadership and management structures at Ysgol Rhewl. It would likely be a positive impact for pupils to have access to a broader complement of teaching staff offering expertise in a number of different curriculum areas. This assertion is reasonable.

The local authority reasonably states that any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending Ysgol Rhewl will continue to receive the same educational support that is required. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as dedicated 1-2-1 support, will be replicated in their new learning environment. No equality impact assessment has been provided.

The proposer has not identified clearly enough how any potential disruption to learners will be minimised.

Denbighshire County Council

School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Section 43

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Denbighshire County Council of County Hall, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1YN (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), having consulted such persons as required, proposes:-

- **To discontinue Ysgol Rhewl, Rhewl, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 2TU.**

Ysgol Rhewl is a community primary school maintained by Denbighshire County Council.

Denbighshire County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Denbighshire County Council website www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation/ or you may request a copy by emailing modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 31 August 2017

Denbighshire County Council proposes that existing pupils may transfer to either Ysgol Pen Barras a Welsh medium category 1 school in the town Ruthin or Rhos Street School an English medium category 5 school in the town of Ruthin on completion of new school buildings for both schools on the Glasdir site 1.3 miles from the current Ysgol Rhewl site.

This is subject to parental preference and parents may express a preference for another school and the Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Section 86 (3).

Home to school transport arrangements for pupils currently in Ysgol Rhewl will be determined in accordance with the Councils Home to School Transport Policy as of the date of implementation.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of this proposal, that is to say by **13 of July 2015** any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent in writing to Jackie Walley, Head of Customers and Education Support, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 1YN, or by email to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Jackie Walley

Head of Customers and Education Support

For Denbighshire County Council

Dated this day 16 of June 2015

Explanatory Note

(This explanatory note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of explanation)

1. The Council is proposing to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31 of August 2017. Ysgol Rhewl is a dual stream community primary school.
2. The proposal is one of six identified through the ‘Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area’ which was undertaken by the Council to address issues including Headteacher recruitment, surplus places, mobile accommodation and the sustainability of schools.
3. At the date of the last school census in January 2015, Ysgol Rhewl had 54 Full Time pupils on roll against a capacity of 82 Full Time pupils. In January 2015, there were 28 surplus places, which equates to 34% surplus places.
4. The rationale for this proposal was set out in the consultation document circulated in February 2015, further copies of which are available on request from the address set out above.
5. A copy of the Council’s School Admissions Policy is available from Modernising Education at the address in the above Notice.
6. A copy of the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy is available from Modernising Education at the address in the above Notice.
7. This Notice marks the start of a 28 days objection period from **16 of June 2015 to 13 of July 2015** and sets out the address to which objections in writing may be submitted.
8. Ysgol Pen Barras is a Welsh medium school (Category1) Rhos Street school is an English medium school (Category 5). Denbighshire’s Full Council has approved funding to build a new campus on the Glasdir site that will accommodate Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School as of September 2017.

CYNGOR SIR DDINBYCH

Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013**Adran 43**

Rhoddir rhybudd drwy hyn yn unol ag adran 41 a 43 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion bod Cyngor Sir Ddinbych Neuadd y Sir, Rhuthun, Sir Ddinbych LL15 1YN (a gyfeirir ato wedi hyn fel "y Cyngor"), ar ôl ymgynghori â'r personau hynny yn ôl yr angen, yn cynnig:-

- **Cau Ysgol Rhewl, Rhewl, Rhuthun, Sir Ddinbych LL15 2TU**

Mae Ysgol Rhewl yn ysgol gynradd gymunedol a gynhelir gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych.

Cynhaliodd y Cyngor gyfnod o ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn. Mae adroddiad ymgynghori yn cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan y rhai a ymgynghorwyd â nhw, ymatebion y cynigydd a barn Estyn ar gael ar wefan Cyngor Sir Ddinbych www.sirddinbych.gov.uk/moderneiddioaddysg neu gallwch ofyn am gopi gan anfon e-bost at moderneiddioaddysg@sirddinbych.gov.uk.

Bwriedir gweithredu'r cynnig ar y 31 Awst 2017.

Mae Cyngor Sir Ddinbych yn cynnig y gall disgyblion presennol drosglwyddo i unai Ysgol Pen Barras, ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg categori 1 yn nhref Rhuthun neu Ysgol Stryd y Rhos, ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg categori 5 yn nhref Rhuthun pan y cwblhelir adeiladu newydd ar gyfer y ddwy ysgol ar safle Glasdir 1.3 miltir oddiwrth safle presennol Ysgol Rhewl.

Gall rhieni fynegi dewis dros ysgol arall a bydd y Cyngor yn cydymffurfio ag unrhyw ddewis o'r fath a fynegwyd yn amodol ar Adran 86(3) Deddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion 1998.

Bydd y trefniadau cludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion sydd ar hyn o bryd yn Ysgol Rhewl yn aros yr un fath yn unol â Pholisi Cludiant o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol yr Awdurdod ar ddyddiad gweithredu'r cynnig.

O fewn cyfnod o 28 diwrnod wedi dyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynigion hyn, hynny yw erbyn **13 Gorffennaf 2015** gall unrhyw un wrthwynebu'r cynigion.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau ysgrifenedig at Jackie Walley, Pennaeth Cwsmeriaid a Chefnogaeth Addysg, Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, Neuadd y Sir, Rhuthun, Sir Ddinbych, LL15 1YN, neu drwy e-bost at moderneiddioaddysg@sirddinbych.gov.uk

Jackie Walley**Pennaeth Cwsmeriaid a Chefnogaeth Addysg**

Ar ran Cyngor Sir Ddinbych Dyddiedig y 16fed diwrnod hwn o Fehefin 2015

NODYN ESBONIADOL

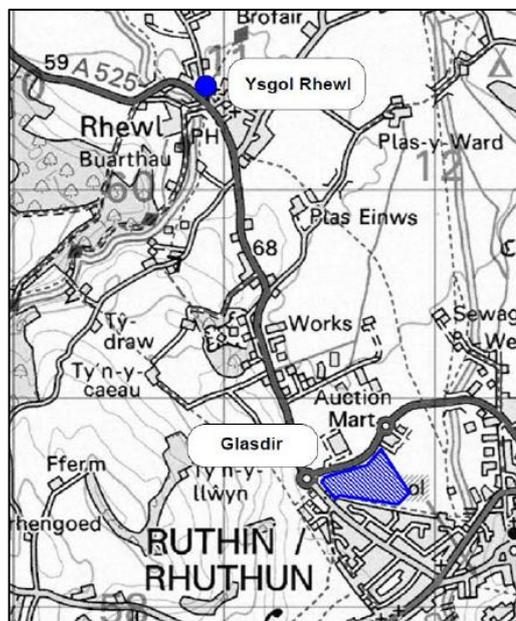
(Nid yw'r nodyn esboniadol hwn yn rhan o'r Hysbysiad ond yn cael ei gynnig fel esboniad).

1. Mae'r Cyngor yn cynnig cau Ysgol Rhewl, o 31 Awst 2017. Mae Ysgol Rhewl yn ysgol gynradd gymunedol dwy ffrwd a gynhelir gan Cyngor Sir Ddinbych.
2. Mae'r cynnig yn un o chwech a nodwyd drwy'r 'Adolygiad o ddarpariaeth ysgolion cynradd yn ardal Rhuthun' a gynhaliwyd gan y Cyngor i fynd i'r afael â materion gan gynnwys recriwtio pennaeth, lleoedd dros ben, ystafelloedd symudol a chynaliadwyedd yr ysgolion.
3. Ar ddyddiad y cyfrifiad ysgol diwethaf ym mis Ionawr 2015, roedd gan Ysgol Rhewl 54 o ddisgyblion llawn amser ar y gofrestr a chyfanswm lleoedd disgyblion llawn amser yr ysgol oedd 82. Ym mis Ionawr 2015, roedd 28 lle dros ben (gwag) yn yr ysgol; sy'n gyfwerth â 34% o gyfanswm lleoedd yr ysgol.
4. Roedd y rhesymeg dros y cynnig hwn wedi'i nodi yn y ddogfen ymgynghori a ddosbarthwyd ym mis Chwefror 2015, ac mae mwy o gopiâu ar gael ar gais o'r cyfeiriad a nodir uchod.
5. Mae copi o Bolisi Derbyn i Ysgolion y Cyngor ar gael gan Foderneiddio Addysg ar y cyfeiriad yn yr Hysbysiad uchod.
6. Mae copi o Bolisi Cludiant o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol gan y Cyngor ar gael gan Foderneiddio Addysg ar y cyfeiriad yn yr Hysbysiad uchod.
7. Mae'r Hysbysiad hwn yn nodi dechrau cyfnod gwrthwynebu o 28 diwrnod o **16 Mehefin 2015 hyd at 13 Gorffennaf 2015** ac yn nodi'r cyfeiriad y gallai gwrthwynebiadau ysgrifenedig gael eu cyflwyno.
8. Mae Ysgol Pen Barras yn ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg (Categori 1), mae Ysgol Stryd y Rhos yn ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg (Categori 5). Mae Cyngor Llawn Cyngor Sir Ddinbych wedi cymeradwyo cyllid i adeiladu campws ar safle Glasdir fydd yn gartref i Ysgol Pen Barras ac Ysgol Stryd yn Rhos o Fedi 2017.

Response to concerns relating to the new site at Glasdir

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The formal consultation document identified that the alternative provision of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School were being relocated to a new site in the Glasdir area of Ruthin. Section 13.14 illustrated the location of the site and its proximity to Ysgol Rhewl:



2.0 Comments raised

The response to the comments raised at the Performance Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of June 2015 regarding safety of the road and the feasibility of the Glasdir development follow in 2.1 and 2.2.

2.1 Parents' concerns for the children's safety had been emphasised due to pupils from Rhewl having to walk to the new schools on the Glasdir site along an extremely busy road with a number of industrial units and the livestock market along one side of it, with another site on the route already earmarked for industrial development. Despite the industrial nature of this route it was currently classed as a 'non-hazardous' route.

Response to comments

A Road Safety Assessment has been undertaken by Denbighshire County Council's Road Safety Officer on the 14/08/2015 (School Holiday) and the 15/09/2015 (School term). Both days coincided with the nearby Livestock market being open (Weekly sales are held Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). The road was assessed between 8 and 9 am and at 3.15pm.

The purpose of the surveys was to determine whether the route from Rhewl is hazardous for pupils walking to Glasdir, Ruthin.

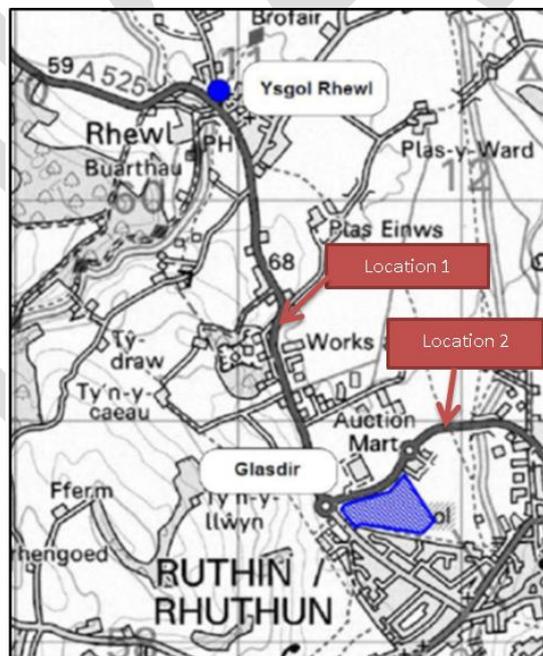
The surveys were conducted in line with Welsh Government – Learner Travel, Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance – June 2014 and Road Safety GB – Guidelines on Assessment of Walked Routes to School by Denbighshire County Council Road Safety Officer.

Outcome of the assessment

a) A525 - Vehicle Type, Speed and Flow

- The road is used by all types of vehicles including public transport, commuters, haulage and agricultural vehicles.
- The speed limit of the A525 through Rhewl is 40mph and the speed limit along much of the route is 60 mph. Traffic data obtained from the site (Labelled as Location 1 in the plan below) show a vehicle 85th Percentile of 47.15 mph.
- The speed limit is 30 mph in the immediate vicinity of the proposed school site at Glasdir. Traffic speeds are above the 30mph limit (41.2 mph) along the North Link road section of the A525 (Labelled as Location 2 in the plan below). Speeds are likely to be significantly lower at the pedestrian crossing point. A traffic survey has been commissioned to establish actual speeds at this point.
- Traffic flows:
 - A525 North Link road past Glasdir = 305 vehicles per hour (classed as low traffic volumes)
 - A525, Ruthin to Rhewl = 430 vehicle per hour (classed as medium traffic volumes)
- Approaching speeds on access roads

Vehicles approaching the junction from access roads are judged to be approaching at a low speed due to the need to stop and give way, prior to entering the A525 carriageway.



b) Footway

The road between Rhewl and Glasdir is the A525. It has a wide footway that forms part of the Vale of Clwyd active travel route. This route is designed to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles travelling between Ruthin and Rhewl. It was upgraded in 2013, as a result of Denbighshire County securing grant funding from Welsh Government.



The footway / cycle way crosses a roadway at three points between Rhewl and Ruthin:

- Unclassified road towards Plas y Ward
- Entrance to Precast Concrete Works.
- Entrance to Brickfield Lane, Ruthin

All crossing points are clearly marked indicating that the pedestrian / cyclist should give way to vehicles. Each crossing point is different in its layout therefore comments are provided for each point:

Junction with the road towards Plas y ward:

This junction is across a narrow lane which has very low level of traffic use. Vehicle approach speeds are low due to the need to give way when entering the A525. Visibility is good for both pedestrians and vehicle users with clear lines of sight for pedestrians to see approaching vehicles and drivers to see footway users.

Entrance to precast concrete works:



This crossing point is the widest along the route. Vehicle approach speeds and volumes are low due to the need to give way when entering the A525. Visibility is good for both pedestrians and vehicle users with clear lines of sight for pedestrians to see approaching vehicles and drivers to see footway users. The entrance is used throughout the day.

Entrance to Brickfield Lane, Ruthin:



This crossing point, crosses an entrance to Brickfield lane which is an entrance to an industrial zone. Visibility is good for footway users travelling towards Ruthin but is compromised when travelling towards Rhewl as an overgrown hedge limits visibility. This can be mitigated by undertaking remedial works in the form of cutting the hedge. Vehicle approach speeds are low due to the need to give way when entering the A525.

Crossing the A525 in Ruthin

Pedestrians and cyclists travelling into Ruthin have to cross the A525 near to the junction with Denbigh road. The image below shows that the crossing already has a refuge in place which means that only one lane of traffic has to be crossed at one time. This crossing is within a 30mph zone. There is good visibility at this crossing point.



During the monitoring period it was noted that there were numerous gaps in traffic flow of more than 6 seconds and therefore it was not required to formally record the number of gaps in each 5

minute period to show that pedestrians wishing to cross would need to wait for less than 1 minute.

c) Accident data

Pedestrian Accidents: There have been no pedestrian accidents on this route in the last 3 years.

Vehicle Accidents: There have been 6 slight injury accidents on this route in the past 3 years.

d) Conclusion

- It is the view of the Road Safety Engineer that this is a safe walking route. On that basis, the authority would be unable to offer free transport for pupils.
- It should be noted that the assessment comments on the suitability of the current route and does not take into account any development that may take place along the route in the future.
- If a development is planned along the route that impacts on the footway such as an additional access road, the route will be reassessed.

2.2 The feasibility of the Glasdir site to be developed to accommodate the number of pupils that were proposed. We consider that it will be difficult to develop the site to the capacity that is proposed because of the level of traffic that this would generate. The issue of the amount of traffic had been raised in the feasibility study by the county highways authority, and this may well restrict the sizes of the new schools and so we asked for confirmation that the schools would be of sufficient size to accommodate pupils from the three schools that are involved together with any others who may want to attend the schools.

Response to comments

The Glasdir site is being designed to accommodate approximate 450 full time pupils within two schools. As of January 2015 there were 422 full time pupils attending all three schools. The proposed capacity will allow both schools to have sufficient capacity for growth whilst avoiding the creation of significant surplus places.

The feasibility study commissioned by the Authority, identified the need to work with highways engineers and stakeholders to develop a suitable traffic management plan for the site to respond to their concerns. This approach has ensured that issues identified during the feasibility stage are being addressed at the design stage. It is proposed that the new site will incorporate onsite traffic management which includes parent drop off / pick up area, a staff and visitor car park and more than one pedestrian entrance.

As part of the detailed design and planning process, Denbighshire County Council will develop a travel plan, to assess the routes to school. Should proposals be implemented, pupils and parents from Ysgol Rhewl will be able to contribute towards the plan. The travel plan will consider the following:

- Use of Breakfast and After School clubs
- Staggered start / finish times for the schools
- Location of pedestrian access points
- Deployment of crossing patrols

- Travel issues identified by pupils and staff
- Link to home to school transport
- Active travel walking and cycling including the option of developing walking buses
- Bus Travel including links to public and home to school transport
- Driving on to the site including opportunities for journey sharing
- Promotion of the plan

As part of the process of developing and implementing the plan, the authority will be committed to responding to issues raised and mitigating when required. This will mean that all main routes to Glasdir, including from Rhewl to Glasdir, will be reassessed as the plan evolves.

DRAFT

Response to concerns relating to the impact on the Welsh Language offer

1.0 Introduction

1.1 From the outset of the consultation, the authority have made it clear that the proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl is due to surplus places, proximity of school to the new schools on Glasdir and condition of the current building of Ysgol Rhewl - Section 2 of the Formal Consultation Document 2015 stated:

2. Summary of the Proposal

2.1 It is being proposed that Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings. The new school buildings will be located on the Glasdir site to the North of Ruthin.

2.2 The long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl has been considered as part of the wider town area as part of the Ruthin Area Review. The main drivers for proposals for the Ruthin town area have been the suitability and condition of school sites and surplus places within the town. It is considered that these drivers impact on the long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl.

2.3 In considering a range of options for the Glasdir site there was a need to assess the impact of the new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl due to the proximity of the school, approximately 1.1 miles, from the Glasdir site. In view of pupil numbers and the long term need to invest in the building it is believed that closing the school and transferring pupils to either Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School would be the most sustainable option for the wider Ruthin town area.

2.0 Context of the Current Language offer in the area

2.1 Within the Ruthin area there is English medium, Welsh medium and dual stream provision.

- The nearest alternative Welsh medium provision is at Ysgol Pen Barras, Ysgol Carreg Emlyn and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch. The curriculum offer, language and the outcomes in these settings meet the same criteria.
- The nearest alternative English medium provision is at Rhos Street School, Ysgol Borthyn and Ysgol Gellifor. The curriculum offer, language and the outcomes in these settings meet the same criteria.
- Both Welsh and English medium provision is available in the nearest alternative dual stream setting at Ysgol Llanfair DC. It is expected that the curriculum offer in each stream meets the criteria for both Welsh medium and English medium provision.

3.0 Response to comments

The response to the comments raised at the Performance Scrutiny meeting on the 11th of June 2015 regarding the Welsh language or language of provision follow in 3.1 to 3.10.

3.1 The Current Welsh Language offer could not be replicated if children moved to either of the new schools.

Response:

Section 1.4 of the School Organisation Code 2013 states that:

“In all cases, existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium.”

The school organisation code clearly states that when proposing closure, it is the duty of the authority to ensure that the current language opportunities would be provided for pupils in alternative provision. Currently pupils receiving education at Ysgol Rhewl are identified as either Welsh medium or English medium. If the opportunities for progression are provided then the impact on the Welsh language would be neutral.

If the proposal is implemented, parents will be able to choose three types of settings that would be available within the area – English medium, Welsh medium and dual stream. Details of alternative provision was explained in section 9 of the formal consultation document. Parents will be able to choose alternative provision subject to the admission process. Pupils will be able to transfer to alternative provision and maintain their current language medium.

The authority has identified areas where tailored support will be available:

- Opportunities for pupils in the English stream of a dual stream setting to access an enhanced level of incidental Welsh will be sustained by working with each child’s destination school. Pupils who are assessed as more able and talented in Welsh will be supported in accordance to the destination school’s more able and talented policy.
- The language development provision at Ysgol Bro Elwern will be available to support any pupil currently assessed as Welsh 2nd language who wants to access Welsh medium provision (Welsh 1st language).

As a result, implementing the proposal will have a neutral effect on the language offer in the area.

3.2 The loss of bilingual provision in Rhewl was at odds with the Council’s own Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP);

Response:

This statement is incorrect. The Welsh in Education Strategic plan is focussed around the provision of school places and not school buildings. It has been demonstrated that there is sufficient places at alternative provision to support the outcomes of the plan. Closing Ysgol Rhewl changes the learning environment for pupils but does not affect the availability of provision across the area.

3.3 It had been acknowledged that in recent years, Ysgol Rhewl had not been delivering the education provision in line with its Category 2 designation. However, this had been addressed with two pupils expected to be assessed through the medium of Welsh this year.

Response:

The authority has stated consistently during the consultation process that closure is proposed as a result of surplus places, proximity of the new development at Glasdir and the condition of the building. It has not been proposed due to delivering / not delivering its Category 2 designation.

3.4 The decision to publish a statutory notice to close the school on 31 August 2017 should be put on hold to give Ysgol Rhewl sufficient time to deliver as expected against its Category 2 designation.

Response:

The authority has stated consistently during the consultation process that closure is proposed as a result of surplus places, proximity of the new development at Glasdir and the condition of the building. It has not been proposed due to delivering / not delivering its Category 2 designation.

3.5 The parents of pupils at Ysgol Rhewl felt their choice of school was being compromised. The only dual stream school available to them would be Ysgol Llanfair DC, but free transport would not be provided to this school.

Response:

The authority has proposed to retain a mix of rural and town schools, whilst acknowledging that retaining every school is not an option due to the number of surplus places within the area. This proposal will change the learning environment but sustain the curriculum offer in English, Welsh and dual stream settings. Free transport is provided to the nearest suitable school. When schools are closed, the Home to School policy permits the authority to provide discretionary transport for a specific period of time. This is used on a case by case basis.

3.6 Ysgol Rhewl had been rated as “good” by Estyn. The Welsh language provision at the school had moved forward and the plans for further development in this area were available for all to see.

Response:

The authority has stated consistently during the consultation process that closure is proposed as a result of surplus places, proximity of the new development at Glasdir and the condition of the building. Standards at Ysgol Rhewl are good and this has been consistently reported by the authority. By bringing forward this proposal, the authority is not commenting on the educational offer at Ysgol Rhewl.

3.7 The Governing Body felt that closing the school would equate to losing an opportunity to move the Welsh language forward in Denbighshire. This was particularly concerning remembering the conclusions of a recent Council commissioned study on the future of the language within the county.

Response:

The authority does not agree with this statement. The proposal changes the learning environment and retains the opportunity to access Welsh medium places within the area.

The report commissioned by the Council had several recommendations which will be considered by the Council and adopted if appropriate. The majority of the education recommendations were already incorporated within the Welsh in Education Strategic plan. The recommendations within the plan are being delivered.

3.8 Ysgol Rhewl had been working closely with Ysgol Brynhyfryd to meet their requirements for delivering bilingual education and supporting pupils to access secondary education in the language of their choice.

Response:

Pupils at all alternative schools in the Ruthin area can progress to Ysgol Brynhyfryd. The same opportunity for progression will remain.

3.9 Both the Chair of Governors and the lead signatory to the call-in request, Councillor Merfyn Parry, stated that they felt the decision to close Ysgol Rhewl was premature and the loss of a dual stream primary school would be detrimental to the local area, and to the county as a whole.

Response:

The Cabinet will consider this point alongside all objections submitted when determining the proposal. It is the view of the authority that proposal will ensure that school places will be of the right type, of the right quantity and will be in the right locations to maintain a sustainable primary provision in the Ruthin area.

3.10 There would be a need for the Council to take all necessary actions to mitigate against the risk of the loss of Welsh language skills and to ensure that pupils from Ysgol Rhewl and the area in general were not in any way disadvantaged due to the future non-availability of a Category 2 school.

Response:

The authority does not believe that this proposal will result in a loss of Welsh language skills. If this proposal is implemented, linguistic standards of pupils will be identified and appropriate support provided to minimise disruption for pupils.

All pupils who require additional support to transfer to alternative Welsh medium provision will be able to attend the language development provision based at Ysgol Bro Elwern.

Similarly, support will be provided within the destination English medium provision for pupils who wish to maintain a higher level of 2nd language Welsh provision.

Should parents opt for dual stream provision at Ysgol Llanfair DC. The pupils will be supported in the same way as above to transfer to the stream of their choice.

Objections to the Proposal to Close Ysgol Rhewl

Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objections Report")

Number of objections received: 60

	Points Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of Written Responses Raising Point	% of Responses Raising the Point
1	<p>The impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language at the school and in the County have not been appropriately addressed either in the recent cabinet report or in discussions at the consultation meetings.</p> <p>a) The current Welsh language offer could not be replicated if children moved to either of the new schools.</p>	<p>a) Section 1.4 of the School Organisation Code 2013 states that: "In all cases, existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium." The school organisation code clearly states that when proposing closure, it is the duty of the authority to ensure that the current language opportunities would be provided for pupils in alternative provision. Currently pupils receiving education at Ysgol Rhewl are identified as either Welsh medium or English medium. If the opportunities for progression are provided then the impact on the Welsh language would be neutral. If the proposal is implemented, parents will be able to choose three types of settings that would be available within the area – English medium, Welsh medium and dual stream. Details of alternative provision was explained in section 9 of the formal consultation document. Parents will be able to choose alternative provision subject to the admission process. Pupils will be able to transfer to alternative provision and maintain their current language medium. The authority has identified areas where</p>	6	10%

	<p>b) In the process of the Ruthin school review the classification of schools was not thought to be important, however since the decision to close Ysgol Rhewl went to scrutiny it came back in the report that the classification is important and should be considered. Ysgol Rhewl has responded to demonstrate that it is meeting the above requirements. We realise that there is work to do to ensure these are both fully met, and are assessed effectively, and have detailed the ways we will take these requirements forward. We have also had an assessment of our provision by GWE who have not registered any concerns.</p> <p>c) You state: “Pupils who choose the Welsh medium stream in Category 2 have the same opportunities to go onto Welsh medium secondary education as those who attend a Category 1 school.” You also state rather distastefully and without evidence, “We have to be honest and transparent; Ysgol Llanfair is delivering to the Category, but Ysgol</p>	<p>tailored support will be available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for pupils in the English stream of a dual stream setting to access an enhanced level of incidental Welsh will be sustained by working with each child’s destination school. Pupils who are assessed as more able and talented in Welsh will be supported in accordance to the destination school’s more able and talented policy. • The language development provision at Ysgol Bro Elwern will be available to support any pupil currently assessed as Welsh 2nd language who wants to access Welsh medium provision (Welsh 1st language). <p>As a result, implementing the proposal will have a neutral effect on the language offer in the area.</p> <p>b) The authority has stated consistently during the consultation process that closure is proposed as a result of surplus places, proximity of the new development at Glasdir and the condition of the building. It has not been proposed due to delivering / not delivering its Category 2 designation. Standards at Ysgol Rhewl are good and this has been consistently reported by the authority. By bringing forward this proposal, the authority is not commenting on the educational offer at Ysgol Rhewl.</p> <p>c) Based on the data used in the consultation document (2010 – 2014) 38 pupils transferred to the Welsh medium stream and 20 pupils transferred to the English medium or ‘N’ Stream (Welsh 2nd Language) from Ysgol Llanfair. This is clear factual evidence that the Ysgol Llanfair is delivering dual stream outcomes. In comparison over the same time period no pupils from Ysgol Rhewl transferred to the Welsh Stream.</p>		
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	<p>Rhewl is not.”</p> <p>d) Of the pupils who have gone through the Welsh learning stream at Ysgol Rhewl, have any of them failed to reach their expected outcome?</p> <p>e) You state: “It’s not about the number, it’s more about the offer and how it works.”</p>	<p>d) By bringing forward this proposal, the authority is not commenting on the educational offer at Ysgol Rhewl.</p> <p>e) Data shows that in 2014 –15 academic year 21 pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, resided in the village of Rhewl. 12 children also living in Rhewl attended alternative provision with 9 pupils opting for Welsh medium education in the proposed alternative provision at Ysgol Pen Barras. It is true that the offer and how it works is important, but the offer requires use to be viable and effective.</p>		
2	<p>The loss of bilingual provision at Ysgol Rhewl is at odds with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic plan 2014 -2017.</p>	<p>This statement is incorrect. The Welsh in Education Strategic plan is focussed around the provision of school places and not school buildings. It has been demonstrated that there is sufficient places at alternative provision to support the outcomes of the plan. Closing Ysgol Rhewl changes the learning environment for pupils but does not affect the availability of provision across the area.</p>	2	3%
3	<p>Concerned regarding the feasibility of the Glasdir site. The total capacity of the site is insufficient to meet demand and future growth. You have stated that the Glasdir site owned by the council does not meet the BB99 recommended area for a 420 capacity school. Yet you are proposing a 450 capacity.</p> <p>How do you propose to increase the sites area to meet BB99 recommendations for a 450 capacity given that it does not meet the size recommended for 420 capacity?</p> <p>Do you require the land swap with the Welsh Government in order to achieve the sites capacity to meet the BB99 recommendations for a 450 capacity site? The proposed site is on a flood plain and has flooded on previous occasions. What measures would be put in place to prevent this?</p>	<p>The new schools to be built on the Glasdir site would be designed to accommodate 450 full time pupils, this compares to 422 full time pupils who attend the school at present (January 2015). Excess capacity is limited to ensure that the new site does not create surplus places in other schools. The feasibility study has identified there is sufficient land available to build two schools to meet BB99 guidelines. This requires land to be transferred between Denbighshire County Council and Welsh Government. A flood consequence assessment has been undertaken. This allows the schools to be designed to mitigate against future flooding.</p>	9	15%

4	The issue of the amount of traffic that will be generated by the Glasdir site and the potential danger to children who need to walk to the new schools from Rhewl have not been addressed. The route from Rhewl to Glasdir is potentially dangerous and presents a risk to children and parents who have to walk along it to get to the new school.	At present the route from the Glasdir site to the village of Rhewl has not been deemed hazardous. Should the proposal be implemented the pupils currently attending Ysgol Rhewl, and not travelling past Glasdir already, would be included in the traffic impact assessment for the new Glasdir site. Access to the site will be designed according to the recommendations of Highway engineers and Road Safety Officers.	57	95%
5	It was reported at the Cabinet meeting that no alternative arrangements had been proposed, but this is not the case. The School Governing Body stated there was a clear need to discuss alternative to the closure proposals.	The authority considers the consultation period itself as an opportunity to discuss alternative options. During the consultation process respondents were invited to present their views on the proposal and present alternative proposals. Section 15 of the consultation document identifies all options considered by the Authority. In addition a supplement was published to explain the rationale for discounting the option of federation prior to the start of the formal consultation. No alternative proposals were presented during the consultation period.	2	3%
6	Case law has established that the consultation process should be undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage, including sufficient reasons and information for particular proposals to enable intelligent consideration and response; provide adequate time for consideration and response; and ensure that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when the ultimate decision is taken. No response to these concerns is included in the Cabinet report which makes reference to the length of consultation process only.	<p>The Formal Consultation report provides the Local Authorities response to the concerns raised regarding the consultation process.</p> <p><i>"The consultation follows the process set out in the School Organisation Code 2013. The School Organisation Code is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The code provides guidance on the contents of the formal consultation document, the length of the consultation period (42 days) and the recipients of the document."</i></p> <p>Elected members at the Cabinet meeting on the 2nd June carefully considered the responses from the formal consultation process before deciding to proceed towards publishing the statutory notice for closure.</p> <p>Elected members subsequently called in</p>	3	5%

		the Cabinet decision for scrutiny and having considered the reasons given for requesting a review of the Cabinet's decision, and the information provided at the meeting, determined that there was not sufficient evidence to ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision of 2 nd June to publish a statutory notice to close Ysgol Rhewl.		
7	In the event of delays due to planning and other objections that may slow down the planning of the new schools at Glasdir, I'm concerned regarding the pupils stability at Ysgol Rhewl with this notice to close by August 2017 when there is no guarantee that the new schools can be built by September 2017 to accommodate the new pupils.	The proposal has clearly explained that Ysgol Rhewl would remain open until the new Glasdir site has been built. Delays can take place during the lifecycle of a project and this risk has been factored into the project plan. With any construction project there is a risk of unforeseen delay but currently there is no reason to assume that the schools will not be ready on time. If the proposal is implemented the Council will work with the school and parents to maintain stability in advance of the closure of the school during 2017.	2	3%
8	We do not wish to send our children to a large 'town' school and it is very important to us that they are taught in a bi-lingual environment. We are English speakers and feel that it is extremely important for our children to learn Welsh as it will help them to integrate with the local community.	Denbighshire County Council Cabinet has approved an overarching vision for the Ruthin area which retains a mix of both rural and town schools. The Council cannot retain every school but is proposing retaining Welsh medium, English medium and Faith primary provision within the area in a mix of rural and town schools to ensure sufficient school places for the Ruthin area.	5	8%
9	That the proposals to move children to the new school at Glasdir, Ruthin do not provide a level of bilingual education that is the same or better than that which they receive at the moment and so the proposal does not meet the requirements of the Welsh Government code.	The School Organisation Code 2013 states: "In all cases, existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving an education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium. Specific transition arrangements may be necessary in order to achieve this." The proposed alternative provision at Ysgol Pen Barras (Welsh medium) and Rhos Street School (English medium) meets this requirement.	54	90%

10	<p>The Council has not proved that the proposed school at Glasdir will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the children from Ysgol Rhewl as well as the other schools involved, particularly in view of the levels of traffic that such a large school would need to generate. You state the new facilities will have a capacity of 450 pupils overall, can you confirm 450 pupils will be the overall capacity, including surplus places, of the new facilities on the Glasdir site?</p>	<p>The combined capacity of the two schools will be for approximate 450 full time pupils. The design of the schools for Rhos Street and Pen Barras will be finalised following the outcome of this statutory notice. This is to ensure that the development will not create excessive surplus places in other schools within the area.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken to identify the transport requirements of the new development and how this can be accommodated on the site. In addition safe pedestrian routes to school have also been identified and will form part of a transport plan for the site. The transport plan will be one of the documents submitted in the Planning Application.</p>	54	90%
11	<p>That the impact on the local and school communities would be excessive and has not been assessed properly.</p>	<p>The Authority acknowledges people have a strong emotional attachment to their current or former school. 'Community' is open to interpretation especially as to the geographical extent which can change according to context of discussion. Discussion of impact of school closures in smaller villages for example may refer to a 'local rural community'; people may refer to a wider geographical area as their 'community' in other contexts.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that a school's primary function is to provide pupils with the best educational experience. This is always the overriding issue to be considered in considering the viability of a school rather than the community use of the school buildings and the wider impact that the school has within its community. This is acknowledged in Denbighshire's Policy Framework for Modernising Education. . A Community Impact assessment has been undertaken which has identified activities which would be affected by the closure. Should the proposal be implemented work would be undertaken to mitigate the effect by assisting users to find alternative accommodation.</p>	52	87%

12	The information that is provided in the consultation document presents a false impression of the educational standards at the school; we challenge the amber classification.	<p>The information on educational standards in the consultation document is the current published data for the school. The data to be used is set out in the School Organisation Code 2013 and the Council is required to use the latest published data.</p> <p>The amber classification refers to the Welsh Government School Categorisation information published in the autumn of 2014. The information contained in the consultation document reflects the classification provided by the Welsh Government.</p>	2	3%
13	The information relating to the numbers of surplus places in the school does not reflect accurately the possibility of reducing this number given the additional housing development in the village.	The pupil projections in the consultation document are based on current pupil numbers and admissions to the school. The consultation document also refers to the number of houses likely to be built and based on the standard formula which is used to calculate pupil numbers from housing development to ensure a consistent approach across the council, that the number of primary age pupils would not be significant.	2	3%
14	The information relating to the costs of retaining and/or developing the Ysgol Rhewl site is not based on a factual assessment of what would be needed to satisfy the appropriate standards, and so the costs that are shown are misleading.	The information relating to the costs and / or developing the Ysgol Rhewl site is an estimate provided by qualified quantity surveyors. This approach is consistent to the approach used to determine the condition and cost of maintaining buildings across the Council's estate.	2	3%
15	The proposal to move the children to the Glasdir school does not meet the parental preference that their children be taught in a category 2 dual stream school;	<p>The School Organisation Code 2013 states: "In all cases, existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving an education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium."</p> <p>A dual stream provision should provide Welsh medium provision and English medium provision within the same school. Parents have to opt for one medium of provision for assessment at the end of each key stage.</p> <p>Parents may prefer to access a dual stream school, but the Authority is not</p>	3	5%

		required to provide dual stream schools.		
16	If parents decide to take their children to Glasdir by car it is unlikely that the site will be able to accommodate the number of vehicles safely.	During the design phase, architects are working in partnership with highways officers to develop an onsite traffic management system. Alongside this, a travel plan will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to ensure that the onsite traffic management provision meets the need of the both schools. This information will be included as part of the planning application.	1	2%
17	The decisions that you have made have not been looked into correctly you have used poor analysis and data, and do not give justification for your reasons to close Ysgol Rhewl.	The data used in the consultation document was the latest data available regarding school performance and pupil numbers and is considered to be correct. The School Organisation Code also prescribes the types of data to be used. In considering whether to proceed with proposals to close the school the Cabinet considered the issues within the consultation report and the responses received before determining whether to publish statutory notices. Elected members called in the Cabinet decision for scrutiny and having considered the reasons given for requesting a review of Cabinet's decision, and the information provided at the meeting, determined that there was not sufficient reason to ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision of 2 nd June to publish a statutory notice to close Ysgol Rhewl. In particular this review examined the quality of data used.	1	2%
18	Welsh government have said that if we are to close a primary school we should be offering equal if not better facilities.	The proposed new schools for Rhos Street and Pen Barras will be new modern purpose built schools that will meet all building requirements. Pupils will have better facilities than what currently exists at Ysgol Rhewl.	1	2%
19	Have you previously found any impact upon existing schools due to proximity of new facilities within Denbighshire County? Did you undertake an assessment which	It is very difficult to predict the decisions that parents will make in future when selecting a primary school for their children. The evidence of the impact on existing schools of new school buildings	1	2%

<p>specifically looked at the impact of the new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl due to the proximity of the school to the Glasdir site?</p> <p>What did your assessment specifically in relation to the impact of the new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl (due to proximity to the Glasdir site) find?</p> <p>Why does the consultation document contain no evidence of ‘impact of new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl’?</p> <p>If no impact was found during the assessment why has this not been clearly stated within the consultation document?</p> <p>Why, if there is an impact upon existing schools specifically in relation to proximity of new facilities do you feel Ysgol Borthyn would be and remain to be unaffected by this?</p> <p>Did the consultation document mislead or lie about an impact due to proximity?</p> <p>Did your officer lie or mislead the public and scrutiny committee in relation to there being found no previous impact upon existing schools due to proximity of new facilities?</p>	<p>in Denbighshire is limited due to the fact that most new schools have been either been built recently or have replaced a number of existing schools. Within the example of Prestatyn following the opening of a new school at Ysgol Clawdd Offa in 2008, initially parents retained links with existing schools with the school growing mainly through new admissions. However where existing schools have improved facilities there is often additional demand arising.</p> <p>The informal consultation for the Ruthin Review asked parents to comment on what impacted upon their choice of schools. Out of the 8 factors within the question the quality of school buildings was ranked 7th.</p> <p>This suggests that the quality of school buildings, whilst very important to allow a school to provide a modern curriculum, may not be the overriding impact in a parents decision regarding school admissions and would be part of a range of factors.</p> <p>It is fair to assess the impact of the proximity of a new Glasdir development on Ysgol Rhewl considering that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the village of Rhewl is nearer to Glasdir than parts of Ruthin town such as Bro Deg and Castle Park, • Over 50% of the current pupils of Ysgol Rhewl pass Glasdir on their way to school, • Schools with new facilities are attractive to some parents. <p>Ysgol Borthyn is the largest Church in Wales primary school in Denbighshire. Retaining Ysgol Borthyn supports faith education provision within the Ruthin area. The admission number for the new Rhos Street School building will be set to ensure that excessive capacity does not occur which would impact on Ysgol Borthyn.</p>		
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20	<p>Is BB99 statutory? Consultation document 13.9 states,...“did not meet the required BB99 recommendations”. Are recommendations required? You seem confused also in your use of words. Are BB99 recommendations or regulations?</p> <p>Why do you mislead by saying they are regulations (to which you must adhere) when they are only recommendations? Can you categorically confirm that you will be strictly adhering to BB99 in building the new Glasdir facilities as you have been strict in applying BB99 to existing school sites?</p>	<p>Building Bulletin 99 (BB99) sets out non-statutory guidance on planning and designing accommodation for new and existing primary schools.</p> <p>The Authority considers compliance with this guidance important to ensure that the school estate is fit for purpose. BB99 guidance was referred to in section 13.9 of the consultation document as recommendations and in section 15.3 as regulations. This is clarified in the formal consultation report (page 31) as recommendations.</p> <p>Facilities on the new Glasdir site will seek to adhere to BB99 recommendations in accordance with the priorities of the schools.</p>	1	2%
21	<p>If you need the land owned by the Welsh Government for the new school facilities site in order for it to meet BB99, then the whole proposal is deeply flawed. Do you intend to change the Local Development Plan allocation of housing on the land beyond the eastern boundary of that owned by Denbighshire County Council (as of May 2013) on the Glasdir site? Is it true that this seems to indicate a willingness to change the local plan for one proposal and being unable to change it or be unwilling to change it for another proposal.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the proposals and policies for future development and use of land in Denbighshire. Our LDP was adopted in June 2013. The LDP determines where new development will take place, taking into account amongst others, the need for employment land, housing, shops and leisure facilities. Schools form part of the infrastructure.</p> <p>The Glasdir site requires the exchange of land between Welsh Government and Denbighshire County Council. This will allow for better use of the land available. The Authority believes it is logical to use available land in the best way to ensure that essential infrastructure such as schools can work effectively.</p>	1	2%
22	<p>Ysgol Rhewl is a classic village school providing one to one pastoral care to the children. Children feel more secured and loved, provide a rounded development and instils confidence. It is always about quality and not volume. The teachers and staff are an excellent bunch. The new school will not be able to offer the same level of individual care as the smaller more intimate school environment that a village school provides.</p>	<p>The authority has recognised the contribution of the staff of Ysgol Rhewl to creating a good school. The authority has emphasised during the consultation that the proposal is about the provision of school places (proximity, condition and surplus) and not a judgement on educational outcomes.</p> <p>An “Inquiry into the re-organisation of Schools in Rural Wales (Nov 2008)” by the Rural Development Sub-Committee of the Welsh Government stated “Other than anecdotal evidence from parents who suggested that small schools were</p>	2	3%

		better and that children were happier in them, the Committee received little quantifiable evidence on the detrimental effect on pupils resulting from school reorganisation”.		
23	How many redundancies would be made due to the merger of schools involved?	No schools are being merged in this proposal as it relates to the closure of Ysgol Rhewl. Should the proposal be implemented, the staff of Ysgol Rhewl will be supported by the human resources department of Denbighshire County Council. In other school closures, some staff have been redeployed, some have taken retirement and others have been made redundant. Redundancy is possible but not a certainty.	5	8%
24	I am greatly concerned about the proposed class sizes.	Class sizes at both alternative schools are currently significantly below the recommended maximum pupil number of 30. Class sizes will vary according to pupil numbers. The majority of funding for schools is derived according to pupil numbers. Should pupil numbers increase the pupil teacher ratio will increase up to a point when additional teaching staff can be funded. It is acknowledged in the consultation document that the current pupil teacher ratio for Ysgol Rhewl is marginally less than the proposed alternatives.	2	3%

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Consultee list

The following consultees received either a hard copy of the proposals or were emailed a link to the relevant website:

- Parents and Staff of Ysgol Rhewl;
- Denbighshire County Council;
- Conwy County Borough Council;
- Flintshire County Council;
- the Church in Wales Diocese St Asaph and the Wrexham Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority;
- the Governing Body of Ysgol Rhewl, Ysgol Pen Barras, Rhos Street School, Ysgol Borthyn, Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, Ysgol Gellifor, Ysgol Llanbedr, Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch;
- the Welsh Ministers;
- the Assembly Members (AMs) representing North Wales, the Assembly Member and Member of Parliament (MP) representing the Vale of Clwyd and for information the Members of Parliament and Assembly Members representing Clwyd South and Clwyd West;
- Estyn;
- GWE - the Regional Education Consortium;
- the relevant teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;
- All Denbighshire County Councillors;
- Ysgol Brynhyfryd;
- Taith – the Regional Transport Consortium;
- the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales;
- Cyngor Cymuned Llanynys and Ruthin Town Council;
- Pili Pala group, Mill Childcare Centre, and Ruthin Day Nursery;
- Denbighshire County Council Partnership and Communities Team;

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Equality Impact Assessment

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

21 August 2015

Proposal: Closure of Ysgol Rhewl**Contact: Carwyn Edwards, Modernising Education Team****Updated: 28/08/2015****1. What type of proposal/decision is being assessed?**

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

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

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

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

Yes	The main impact of this proposal would be a change in the learning environment for existing pupils of the school at the point of closure (should this proposal be implemented).
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

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

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation document (standard and children friendly) circulated to all relevant stakeholders • Questionnaire circulated to relevant stakeholders and an online survey prepared for people to complete • Meetings held with the School Council, Staff, Governors and Parents of Ysgol Rhewl to take views and opinions |
|---|

- The outcome of the consultation was summarised into a consultation report, a draft of which was presented to DCC's Cabinet of elected members for them to consider.
- The consultation report was published on the DCC and a link to the web page will be sent to certain relevant stakeholders.
- An Objection Report detailing the objections received and the Local Authority response will be presented to DCC's Cabinet of elected members for them to consider.

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

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

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

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

No.

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

No

There is no such impact.

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

Yes

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?
Review impact with the head teacher should the Proposal be implemented.	C. Edwards	18/12/15

9. Declaration

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

Review Date:	01.10.15
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Carwyn Edwards	21.08.15

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

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	29th September 2015
Lead Member / Officer:	Councillor Eryl Williams, Lead Member for Education
Report Author:	Head of Customers and Education Support
Title:	Modification to Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn proposal

1. What is the report about?

The report is to seek approval from Cabinet Members to consult on a potential modification to the proposal regarding the closure of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the opening of a new Area school.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required by Cabinet to give approval to proceed to consult on a modification to the original timescales stated, regarding a new school to serve the existing schools of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.

At this stage consideration is to be given only to the merits of seeking the modification rather than determining the proposal. Should approval be granted Cabinet will consider the findings of this consultation, regarding the modification, at its meeting in October as part of the process of determining the proposal.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- (i) To give approval to consult with the Diocese of St.Asaph, as a joint proposer, to seek their consent to the proposed modification.
- (ii) To obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers to the proposed modification.
- (iii) To consult with the governing bodies of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the proposed modification.
- (iv) That Cabinet agrees, that the recommendations be implemented immediately in accordance with the Council's call in procedure rules contained in the constitution in light of the circumstances set out below.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 In February 2015 Denbighshire County Council in partnership with the Church in Wales, St Asaph Diocese undertook formal consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn as of 31st August 2016 and to establish a new area school based on the existing sites as of the 1st of September 2016.
- 4.2 The Statutory Notice was issued on 18th June 2015 to 15th July 2015. The objection report is now available.
- 4.3 The proposal stated that Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the 31st August 2016; and the Church in Wales will establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1st September 2016. The second phase would see this Area School consolidated onto a new site in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area.
- 4.4 The consultation document commented that in regard to the second phase that the Council proposed that the new build would be ready by September 2017, therefore ensuring the split will only be for one academic year. The latest indications following initial feasibility works is that this date may no longer be realistic.
- 4.5 The Council has considered a number of factors in relation to this. Concerns were expressed during the initial consultation over the length of time the area school would be in existence over two sites. In addition a potential delay to the timescale for implementation could arguably assist in delivering the leadership and management changes required for a new school. Whilst both of these issues can be overcome should the implementation occur as planned, on balance, it is considered that a delay in implementation of 12 months would give a greater period of consolidation of the school. This would also have the potential to bring the timescale for implementation in line with other proposals in the Ruthin area.
- 4.6 This modification will result in no change to the final outcome. However it will reduce the time that the new area school will operate over the 2 separate sites, which from an educational view can only benefit the children.
- 4.7 The modification, therefore, would be to close the 2 schools on the 31st August 2017, rather than 2016, with the Church in Wales establishing a new Area school on the existing sites on 1st September 2017, rather than 2016. This will allow further time for the 2 schools to work closely together before the amalgamation and could result in the Area school being on 2 separate sites for a shorter amount of time, i.e. should the new build be ready for January 2018 the period would only be 1 term.

Where modifications are being proposed Section 5.3 of the School Organisation Code states the following:

“Modifications can only include changes to matters related to implementation such as changes to admission numbers or to the timing of implementation. The local authority **must not** make modifications that would, in effect, substitute a new proposal for the proposal which was published. Before making any modification, the local authority **must** first consult with the proposer and obtain their consent to the modification.

They **must** also obtain the consent of the Welsh Ministers. If consent cannot be obtained, and the local authority believes that the proposals are not acceptable in their published state, they **must** reject the proposals.

The local authority **must** also consult with the governing body of any school to which the proposals relate (where the governing body is not the proposer).”

- 4.8 The modification would also provide more time for the new temporary Governing Body to establish and to develop the ethos of the new school and to develop its policies. We envisage that the temporary Governing Body will be made up of current members of both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn’s Governing Bodies and we envisage them having a major part to play in assisting with the design of the new school building.
- 4.9 In regards to recommendation (iv), this relates to the timescales regarding the determination of the proposal. It is necessary to go to Cabinet on the 27th October to determine the proposals, as the School Organisation Code states the following:

“Under section 53 of the 2013 Act, determination by the proposer **must** be made within 16 weeks (112 days) of the end of the objection period. Where the proposer fails to determine the proposal within the period of 16 weeks it is taken to have withdrawn the proposal and it is required to republish the proposals if it wishes to proceed.”

The objection period for the proposal ended on the 15th July 2015.

- 4.10 To comply with the School Organisation Code, in regards to any modifications made to a proposal, we must consult with both school’s governing bodies and get the consent of the Welsh minister, as detailed in section 4.6.
- 4.11 In recommending that this decision is implemented immediately, it will allow sufficient time to consult with the 2 governing bodies and seek to obtain the consent from the Welsh Minister. Should approval be granted Cabinet will consider the findings of this consultation, regarding the modification, at its meeting in October as part of the process of determining the proposal.

The Way Forward

- 4.12 It is recommended that the Council proceed to consult on modifying the proposal as detailed.
- 4.13 Following this the Cabinet in the meeting on the 27th October, will be asked to utilise its powers under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to consider any objections submitted to the Statutory Notice and to determine whether to implement the proposal.

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

- 5.1 The proposal supports the priority of “Improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings” and has been highlighted as a workstream as follows:
“We will continue to review school provision across the County to ensure that we provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right location.

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

- 6.1 There will be minimum costs to the Council.

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.

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be submitted to the October meeting in terms of the overall decision on the proposal.

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

- 8.1 Full consultation has been undertaken with all stakeholders and the findings from the Formal Consultation period are summarised in the Consultation Report which was published by Denbighshire County Council and the Church in Wales St.Asaph Diocese on the 11th August.

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/consultations/closed-consultations.aspx#1>

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The recommendation will not result in any significant additional direct costs. The delay in the release of savings from the amalgamation of the schools and the delay in capital costs incurred will need to be factored into the capital financing budget but will not impact adversely on the affordability of the project.

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

There is a strong possibility that the proposal could result in adverse publicity for the Council and in adverse public comments.
To minimise this risk the Council will seek to ensure clear communication with all stakeholders.

11. Power to make the Decision

School Standards and Organisations (Wales) Act 2013
Modernising Education Policy Framework (approved by Cabinet January 2009)

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Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill - Lead Member for Finance, Corporate Plan and Performance
Alan Smith - Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation
Liz Grieve – Strategic Planning Team Manager

Report Author: Heidi Gray – Strategic Planning & Performance Officer

Title: Corporate Plan Performance Report
Quarter 1 – 2015/16

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 This paper presents an update on the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2012-17 as at the end of quarter 1 of 2015/16.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 contains the full quarterly report generated from the Verto Performance Management System, focussing on the exceptions only.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To provide information regarding the council's progress as at the end of quarter 1, 2015-16 in delivering the Corporate Plan outcomes.
- 2.2 Regular reporting is an essential monitoring requirement of the Corporate Plan to ensure that the Council exercises its duty to improve.
- 2.3 We monitor our performance regularly, take quarterly reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings and produce an Annual Performance Report to evaluate progress.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee uses this report to identify specific service areas (or areas of work) that would benefit from detailed scrutiny to improve outcomes for citizens and the Council's overall performance, and facilitate delivery of the Corporate Plan.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Quarter 1, 2015-16 Performance Report (Appendix 1) looks at the Corporate Plan 2012-17 and the Corporate Project Register and provides an evidence-based assessment of the current position.

- 4.2 The Executive Summary contains an analysis of key exceptions, on which it is suggested attention is focussed.
- 4.3 These exceptions have been highlighted as follows: A number of indicators and measures are highlighted as 'Red' within the report. This means they are identified as a 'Priority for Improvement' or where there is an issue with the data that needs to be raised.
- 4.4 The National Strategic Indicators 2014-15 are summarised on pgs. 40-41. Denbighshire's performance in the statutory indicators is excellent, with 20 in the top half of Welsh authorities and 14 in the top quartile. We also have the fewest number in the bottom half. We improved or maintained our position in 22 indicators, but declined in 8.
- 4.5 National Indicators that have declined in performance 2014-15 are summarised on pgs. 42-43 and a narrative is provided to explain the decline.
- 5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**
- 5.1 This report is about our progress in delivering the Corporate Plan. Any decisions made should contribute to the successful delivery of our Corporate Priorities.
- 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**
- 6.1 The Corporate Plan 2012-17 sets out how much additional money the council aims to invest in each corporate priority during the next five years. Apart from that additional investment, it is assumed that the corporate plan can be delivered within existing budgets.
- 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**
- 7.1 An EqIA was undertaken on the Corporate Plan and presented to Council on 09 October 2012. No further assessment is required of this report because the recommendations in this report will not have a direct impact on staff or our communities.
- 8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**
- 8.1 The information necessary to produce this report comes from services, and the draft exceptions have been discussed and circulated to enable Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to take any corrective action they deemed necessary in order to produce this report for Performance Scrutiny and Cabinet.
- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**
- 9.1 A Chief Finance Officer statement is not required for this report.

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

10.1. We have a strong performance management framework, a robust Service Performance Challenge process and a strong Performance Scrutiny Committee.

10.2. There are no specific risks attached to this report. It is the role of our Corporate and Service Risk Registers to identify (and manage) the potential risk events which could lead to the council being unable to deliver its Corporate Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1. Performance management and monitoring is a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement, which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government "Wales" Measure 2009.

11.2. Articles 6.1 and 6.3.4(b) outlines scrutiny's role with respect to performance monitoring and management.

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Appendix 1 – Corporate Performance Report

Q1 2015-16

This document provides an update on performance against the council's corporate priorities and project register at the end of quarter 1, 2015-16

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KEY

Each outcome contains a number of indicators, performance measures, and improvement activities. This content is used to determine how good the current position of the council is, which is based on contextual data to enable a more robust understanding of our performance.

THE COLOURS

Colour	Action Status	Measure Status
Green	On Target	Excellent
Yellow	Experiencing Obstacles	Good
Orange	At Risk	Acceptable
Red	Compromised	Priority for Improvement
Blue	Completed	N/A
Grey	No data	No data or is a count only

THE EVALUATION

- The default methodology for performance evaluation is where the upper quartile reflects the transition to Excellent, and the Wales median reflects the transition to a Priority for Improvement.
- This is true for most except our education attainment indicators, where the 'best in Wales' reflects the transition to Excellent and the Wales median reflects the transition to a Priority for Improvement.
- The default position for project / activity reporting is documented in the project management methodology, summarised above (Action Status).

INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

This performance report looks at the Corporate Plan 2012-17 and the Corporate Project Register. It provides an evidence-based assessment of the current position on an exceptions basis i.e. those measures that are Red: Priority for Improvement, or where there is an issue with the data that needs to be raised. Those measures that are currently showing an acceptable, good or excellent status are not examined in any great detail within this report, but are available to view through the Verto Performance Management System. Below is a summary of the key issues identified.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

This is the summary position for each outcome in the Corporate Plan as at June 30, 2015. The overall evaluation for each outcome has been determined by taking account of the indicators, performance measures, and improvement activity.

DEVELOPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Outcome 1	Infrastructure for growth	ACCEPTABLE
Outcome 2	Supported and connected businesses	ACCEPTABLE
Outcome 3	Opportunities for growth	ACCEPTABLE
Outcome 4	High quality skilled workforce	GOOD
Outcome 5	Vibrant towns and communities	PRIORITY FOR IMPROVEMENT
Outcome 6	Well-promoted Denbighshire	GOOD

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN EDUCATION & THE QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Outcome 7	Students achieve their potential	ACCEPTABLE
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IMPROVING OUR ROADS

Outcome 8	Improving our roads	GOOD
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VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED & ABLE TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE

Outcome 9	Independent vulnerable people	GOOD
Outcome 10	Vulnerable people are protected	EXCELLENT

CLEAN & TIDY STREETS

Outcome 11	Clean and tidy streets	GOOD
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ENSURING ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY HOUSING

[Outcome 12](#) Access to good quality housing

GOOD

MODERNISING THE COUNCIL TO BE EFFICIENT & IMPROVE SERVICES FOR CUSTOMERS

[Outcome 13](#) Services will continue to improve

GOOD

[Outcome 14](#) Flexible and efficient workforce

ACCEPTABLE

KEY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

THE CORPORATE PLAN

1. Under the Outcome [Infrastructure for Growth](#), there are two indicators with a Red Status, Priority for Improvement, but we would expect this at this time. The indicators demonstrate progress against the second and third phases of activity that's involved with developing Strategic Employment Sites: securing planning permission, and developing the land. These phases are part of the overall, long-term Priority Strategic Employment Sites project. What is important is that the project is progressing well, and it is (ROYG status of Yellow, Good). If the project continues to progress well, we should see an improvement in the performance of these indicators.
2. Two [procurement-related projects](#) have been cancelled, and replaced by rescope projects as part of a comprehensive, integrated, and transformative approach to procurement in Denbighshire. Now under new management, a Procurement Transformation Board has been established, whose inaugural meeting will take place on 16 September. Six business cases are currently in development for a cluster of procurement-related projects, including: a new strategy and revised Contract Procedure Rules; internal development of e-Procurement; Local supplier development; Upskilling the workforce, and Organisation structure. Development of the new strategy, and Local supplier development are the two projects that will feature as part of this economy-related outcome. These new business cases may rescope the benefits, leading to a future revision of thresholds for procurement-related indicators.
3. An Economic & Business Development department was created in Q1 2015. Formerly, this team was part of the Housing & Community Development service, so the creation of a dedicated department should see improved focus on the projects that were planned as part of the programme. Already there is evidence of progress, as a business case for the [New Growth Sector](#) project is now close to completion.
4. Under [Vibrant Towns & Communities](#), an update to note is that there is work underway to create an Anti-Poverty Group in Denbighshire, which will endeavour to assess the similarities and gaps between anti-poverty programmes operating within the county, and any other issues that seem to be prevalent among those living in poverty. It is hoped this

holistic, strategic group will strengthen the approach to tackling poverty in Denbighshire, enabling the faster delivery of more effective anti-poverty measures. The group will have met before the end of Q3 2015.

Survey Results

5. RSQ Indicators - The Residents Survey is carried out every two years. Results shown throughout this report relate to the 2013 survey. The 2015 survey is currently active with a closing date for returns of 25th September 2015. The results from this survey will be available by end December 2015 and reported in Quarter 3, 2015/16.
6. Business Survey Indicators – The Business Survey is carried out on an annual basis – results from the latest survey will be available and reported in Quarter 3.
7. 2014/15 national data recently published by the Welsh Government for the Public Accountability Measures confirms that [pupil attendance in Denbighshire Secondary schools](#) continues to be a priority for improvement for a second year. Although secondary school attendance has recovered beyond last year's decline and just beyond the excellent position established in 2011/12, attendance improved more markedly in the rest of Wales, leaving us below the median for both authorised and unauthorised absence. Where our rank position in Wales for authorised absence has worsened over the last three years, it has actually improved for unauthorised absences.
8. The number of [deficit places](#) as a percentage of the total school places in primary schools has increased slightly and continues to be a priority for improvement. This is due to an increase in primary pupil numbers.
9. There continues to be an issue with data for the percentage of [damaged roads and pavements made safe within target time](#). A new Symology recording system is being implemented with percentage figures available in Quarter 2. Quarter 3 and 4 will provide more accurate data for this indicator.
10. [The Cleanliness Index](#), which formed part of the national Service Improvement Dataset, has been discontinued in 2014-15 as a result of WG cuts to the Data Unit's Budget. This has been replaced with the Keep Wales Tidy Cleanliness Indicator (which did form part of this average score indicator). 2014/15 data is awaited and will allow us to continue comparing ourselves with other authorities in Wales.
11. The [rate of fly-tipping](#) in Denbighshire per 1000 fell slightly in 2014/15, but remains high in the context of Wales, with 2024 incidents being recorded. We believe we are reporting this indicator differently from other councils because we include incidents that we identify ourselves through our street cleaning activities, in addition to incidents reported by the public.
12. We are continuing to better exploit technology to improve efficiency and reduce costs. There has been investment in hardware and software that is enabling staff to work in new ways to better enhance the customer experience. There are some challenging projects

underway that will continue to support this in the future e.g. Digital Choice and Centralised Mailroom. It will take time before the benefits can be fully realised.

13. [The percentage of the population who cannot live independently](#) (aged 18 or over) remains a priority for improvement. We are working to reduce the number of new admissions through the use of both modern and traditional care packages in the home and working with people to maximise their independence. Overall, this means the number of people we support in residential care is diminishing, but will take a number of years to bring the total to an acceptable level due to the long term nature of the services already being provided.
14. [QLI-PLA006 is a quarterly local indicator](#). This indicator shows how many dwellings have been granted planning permission and out of those how many are 'affordable'. In the first quarter, planning permission has been granted for 9 dwellings, none of which meet the policy criteria to provide an affordable dwelling. Even though this indicator is showing as 'red' it would be inappropriate to identify this as a 'Priority for Improvement' because the Council Policy does not require an affordable dwelling to be provide in the cases granted planning permission in this quarter.
15. Housing managers within the council's tenanted housing services (now within the Finance & Assets Service) have met to review their Service Plan, supported by the Strategic Planning & Performance Team. From this a number of key activities that would support Corporate Plan's [Housing Outcome](#) were identified, to be taken forward during the next 18 months or so. Once confirmed these will be included in the quarter 2 report. It is also possible that some indicators / performance measures will also be reviewed as part of this work.
16. A new activity has been added to Outcome 13 - '[Consider our position in relation to the Welsh Language Standards set by the Welsh Language Commissioner and develop an action plan to deliver them](#)'. The final standards are anticipated to be received in September 2015.
17. The proportion of [complaints that were replied to within timescale](#). The number of complaints received increased very slightly this quarter. The percentage of external stage 1 complaints that were responded to within corporate timescales remains Red: Priority for Improvement. 87% were responded to on time (85 out of 106). An item regarding the response rate was due at June's Performance Scrutiny, but was moved to the July meeting. An update will be provided once minutes are available.
18. Corporate [sickness absence](#) levels continue to be a priority for improvement with performance at a lower level compared to the same period last year.
19. We are unable to provide information for [carbon emissions](#) at present due to a major issue with the new British Gas billing system. This issue is affecting the majority of Welsh authorities. British Gas are working on fixing the errors but it is taking quite some time.

20. The [percentage of staff receiving a performance appraisal](#) when one is due has decreased to 67% in quarter 1. This equates to 17% lower when compared to the same period in the previous year. HR Business Partners are now receiving monthly reports to enable them to monitor more effectively completion percentages and are keeping their services informed of the figures.

PROJECT REGISTER

As at July 2015 there are no projects with a `Red' Priority for Improvement status. Two projects are at an `Orange' Acceptable level, which are:

Rhyl Harbour: Pedestrian and cycle bridge, public square, quayside building and extended quay wall	ORANGE
Excellent Housing	ORANGE

CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

Please Note: This report has been generated from the Verto Performance Management System

PRIORITY - DEVELOPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

ECONOMY HEADLINE INDICATORS

Description	This cluster of indicators are economy-based aspects of the external environment in which we'd expect to see an improvement if our Outcomes were progressing well. The six Outcomes within the Economic & Community Ambition priority will have a discrete set of indicators according to their theme (e.g. infrastructure), but collectively should enable progress against this cluster of indicators by laying the foundations for economic growth.
Outcome Summary	The overall status for these indicators is Orange: Acceptable.

Indicators

ECAHeadline1	% Job Seekers Allowance claimant count
ECAheadline3	The count of births of new enterprises
ECAHeadline2	Median Household Income
ECAheadline5	3 year survival rate of new enterprises (%)
ECAheadline4	1 year survival rate of new enterprises (%)
ECAheadline6	Turnover of Denbighshire based businesses (£m)

OUTCOME 1 - INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH

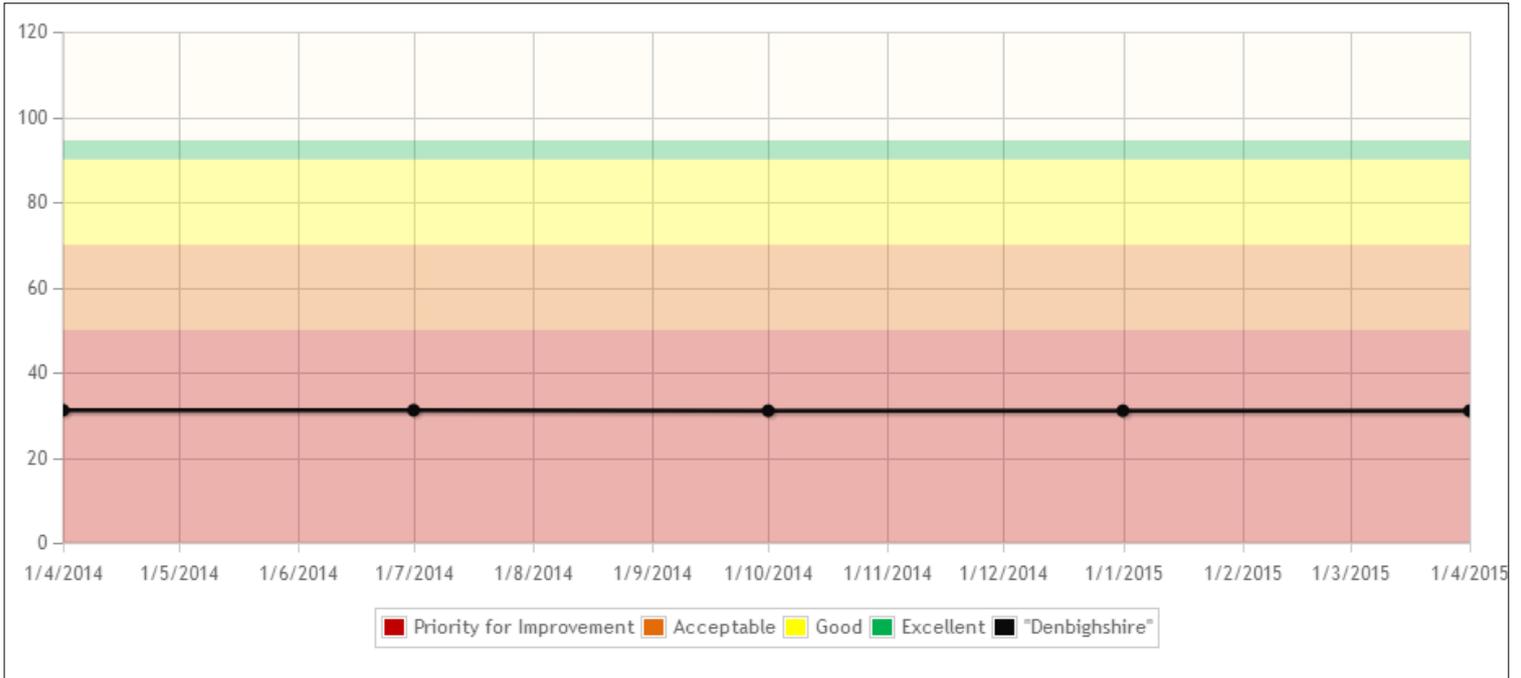
Status	Acceptable
Outcome Summary	The overall status for these indicators is Orange: Acceptable. Two indicators have a Red, Priority for Improvement Status. Please see below for details.

Indicators

OFCOMsuperfast	Denbighshire's OFCOM five-point ranking for superfast broadband availability
OFCOMtakeup	Denbighshire's OFCOM five-point ranking for broadband take-up
ECA1.1i	The percentage of available land on Priority Strategic Employment Sites where restrictions/hindrances to development are removed from the legal title (as a % of all available land)
BusSurv1.9	The percentage of businesses selling or sourcing goods or services online

ECA1.2i	The percentage of available land on Priority Strategic Employment Sites ready to
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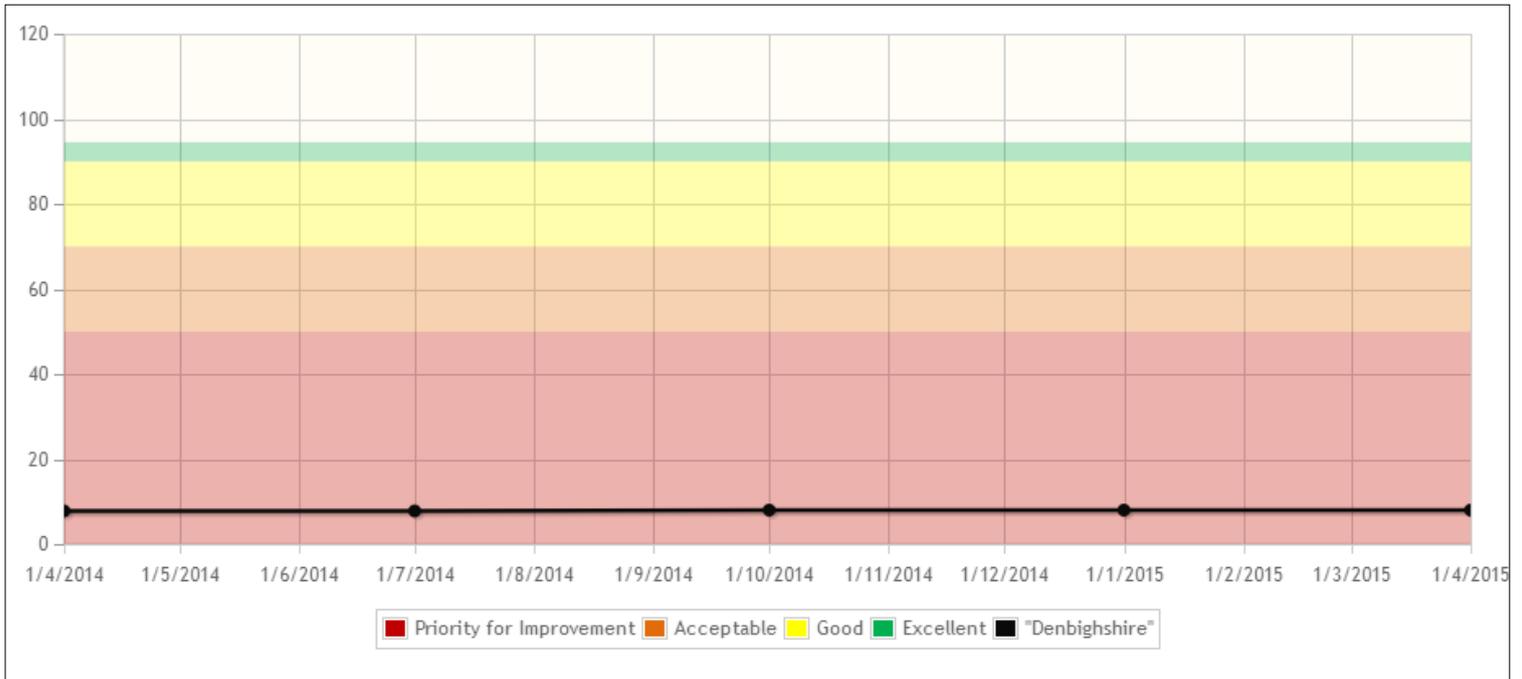
be developed (i.e. with planning permission), as a % of all available land on PSES



Latest Data Comment

Q1 Planning applications submitted on Station Yard, Denbigh, (Home Bargains) Liberty to submit application on balance of the site and Property alliance working up retail element on Rhuddlan Triangle. This indicator's status is Red, Priority For Improvement, but we would expect this at this time. This indicator demonstrates progress against the second phase of activity that's involved with developing land: securing planning permission. These phases are part of the overall, long-term Priority Strategic Employment Sites project. What is important is that the project is progressing well, and it is. If the project continues to progress well, we should see an improvement in the performance of these indicators.

ECA1.3i The percentage of available land on Priority Strategic Employment Sites developed, as a percentage of all available land on PSES's



Latest Data Comment

Q1 No change in developed status since Q1 2014. This indicator’s status is Red, Priority For Improvement, but we would expect this at this time. This indicator demonstrates progress against the third phase of activity that’s involved with developing land: actual development of land. These phases are part of the overall, long-term Priority Strategic Employment Sites project. What is important is that the project is progressing well, and it is. If the project continues to progress well, we should see an improvement in the performance of these indicators.

Activities

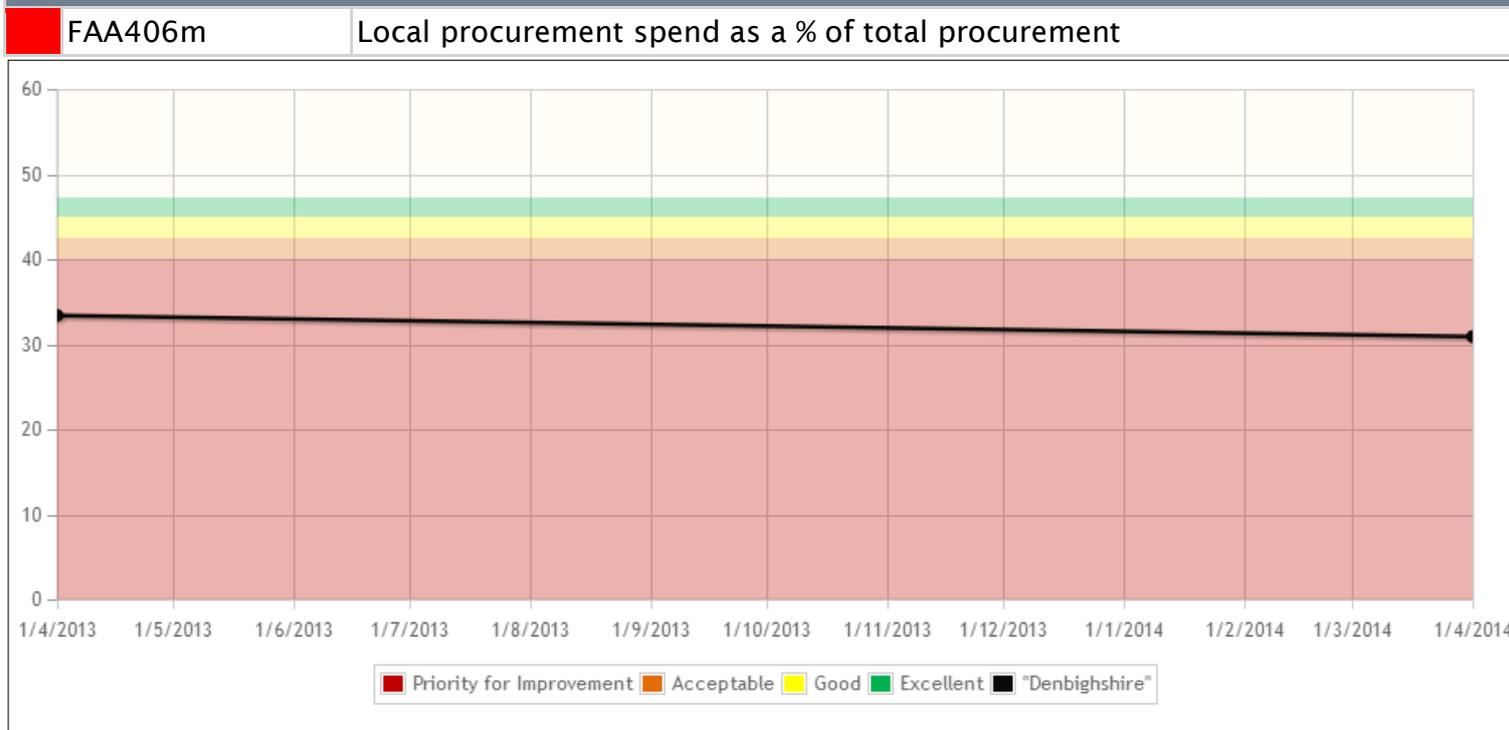
ECA 1.3b	Priority Strategic Employment Sites	06/05/14	31/03/23
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OUTCOME 2 - SUPPORTED AND CONNECTED BUSINESSES

Status	Acceptable
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Orange: Acceptable.</p> <p>We still want to increase the proportion of our procurement spend that is spent locally, and the department is now under new management. The original Procurement projects have been rescoped as part of a comprehensive, integrated, and transformative approach to procurement in Denbighshire. A proposal to establish a Procurement Transformation Board was taken to Corporate Governance, and the Board has been established. Their inaugural meeting will take place on 16 September, and six business cases are currently in development for a cluster of procurement-related projects, including: a new strategy and revised Contract Procedure Rules; internal development of e-Procurement; Local supplier development; Upskilling the workforce, and Organisation</p>

structure. Development of the new strategy, and Local supplier development are the two projects that will feature as part of this economy-related outcome. These new business cases may rescope the benefits, leading to a future revision of thresholds for procurement-related indicators.

Indicators



Latest Data Comment

2014/15 Annual	A minimum of £32,084,222 was spent with suppliers within the county of Denbighshire during 2014/15 financial year. This equates to 30.9% of the total procurement spend of £103,728,992.
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ECA2.2i	The percentage of contracts worth over £2 million with community benefit clauses
BusSurv4.2	% of businesses satisfied with quality of advice/support
BusSurv4.1	% of businesses satisfied with access to advice/support

Activities

BIM314a	Conduct, collate, analyse and publish results from the Business Survey	01/04/14	31/10/15
ECA 2.1a/2.2a/2.2c	Business Advice & Support	12/09/13	31/03/16
ECA 2.1b	Better Business for All (BFC Phase 1 - Planning & Public Protection)	06/05/14	31/12/15
ECA 2.1 bus case	Develop business case for Better Business For All project	01/04/15	30/09/15
ECA 2.3a	Supportive Procurement (Phase 1 - Procurement Strategy)	02/12/13	28/11/14
ECA 2.3b	Supportive Procurement (Phase 2 - DCC Supply Chain Development)	01/05/14	31/10/14

Latest Data Comment

Q1	Now under new management, the original Procurement projects have been rescoped as part of a comprehensive, integrated, and transformative approach to procurement in Denbighshire. A proposal to establish a Procurement Transformation Board was taken to Corporate Governance, and the Board has been established. Their inaugural meeting will take place on 16 September, and six business cases are currently in development for a cluster of procurement-related projects, including: a new strategy and revised Contract Procedure Rules; internal development of e-Procurement; Local supplier development; Upskilling the workforce, and Organisation structure. Development of the new strategy, and Local supplier development are the two projects that will feature as part of this economy-related outcome. These new business cases may rescope the benefits, leading to a future revision of thresholds for procurement-related indicators.
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PR003264	Create a business case for Procurement: Strategy & revised CPRs	01/04/2015	30/09/2015
PR003266	Create a business case for Procurement: Local Supplier Development	01/04/2015	30/09/2015

OUTCOME 3 – OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Status	Acceptable
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Orange: Acceptable.</p> <p>There are two indicators for which we still don't have data, but they are dependent on the completion of growth-related projects. These projects should contribute significantly to the success of this Outcome, and the Economy programme overall.</p> <p>An Economic & Business Development department was created in Q1 2015. Formerly, this team was part of the Housing & Community Development service, so the creation of a dedicated department should see improved focus on the projects that were planned as part of the programme. Already there is evidence of progress, as a business case for the New Growth Sector project is now close to completion.</p>

Indicators	
CMLi10	STEAM - Total revenue derived from Tourism
CMLi11	STEAM - Total number employed in the tourism sector
ECA3.1i	No. of businesses in the tourism sector
ECA3.2i	No. of new business in Growth Sectors
ECA3.3i	No. of Denbighshire residents employed in Growth Sectors

Activities			
ECA 3.1Aa-c	Tourism Growth Plan	05/06/14	31/07/15
ECA 3.2a	New Growth Sectors	01/01/15	01/03/17
EBD1.1a	Develop a business case for the New Growth Sectors project	01/04/2015	30/09/2015
ECA 3.2b/d	Regional Growth Opportunities	11/06/14	30/04/18

PPP311a	Take a pro-active approach to encourage the private sector to develop economic development, by producing master plans, planning briefs and SPGs	01/04/15	31/03/16
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OUTCOME 4 - HIGH QUALITY SKILLED WORKFORCE

Status	Good
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Yellow: Good.</p> <p>Much of this data is annual, and will be updated once academic results are published in December.</p>

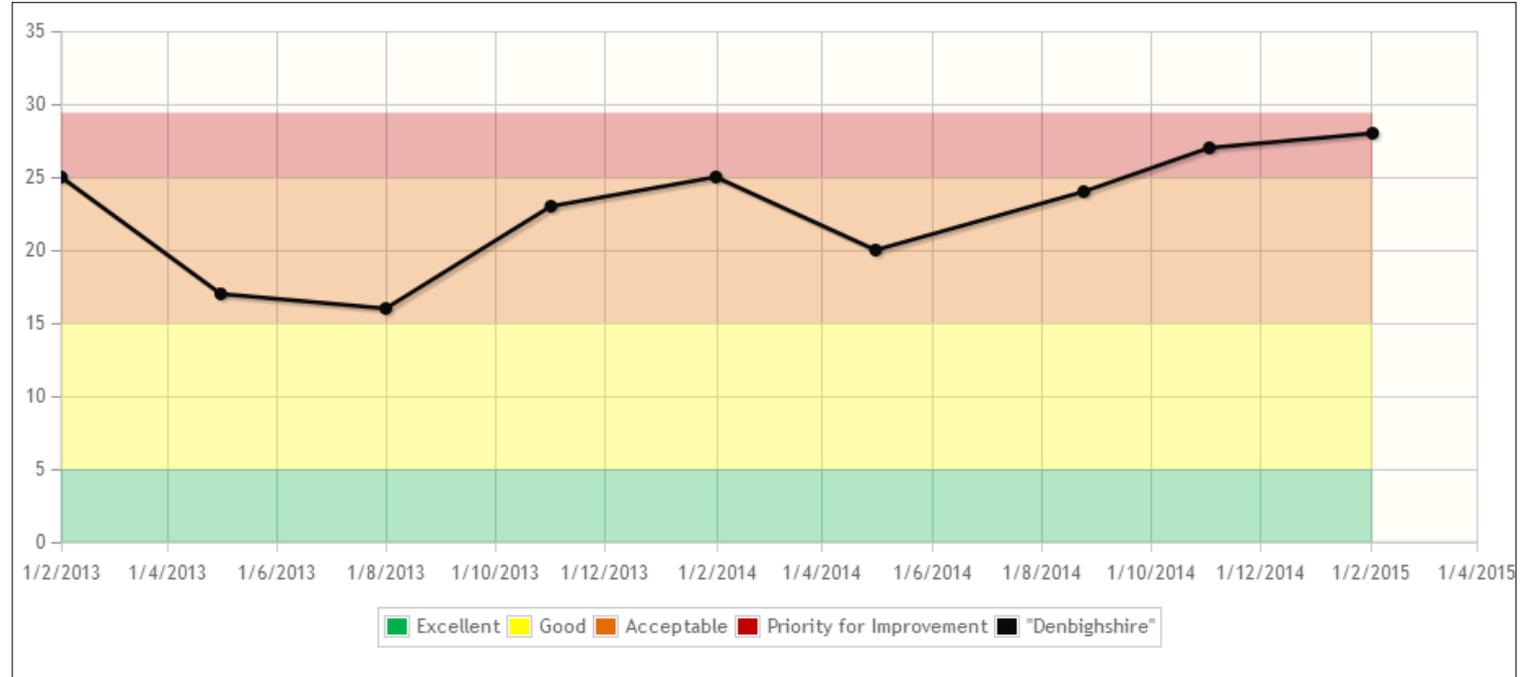
Indicators	
Ed004i	The percentage of children aged 16 - 18 Not in Education, Employment or Training, at the preceding 31 August in Denbighshire
BusSurv3.3a	% of businesses reporting unfilled vacancies due to unsuitable applicants
BusSurv3.3b	% of businesses reporting difficulty recruiting staff with the right skills
ECA4.6i	% of the population aged 18 to 24 claiming JSA
ECA4.7i	% of pupils leaving school at 16 attaining Level 2 in at least 1 STEM subject
ECA4.8i	% of pupils leaving school at 18 attaining Level 3 in at least 1 STEM subject
eca4.10i	% of people of working age in Denbighshire who are self employed

Activities			
ECA 4.1b,4.2a-c,4.3a	Pathways +	01/04/15	31/07/16

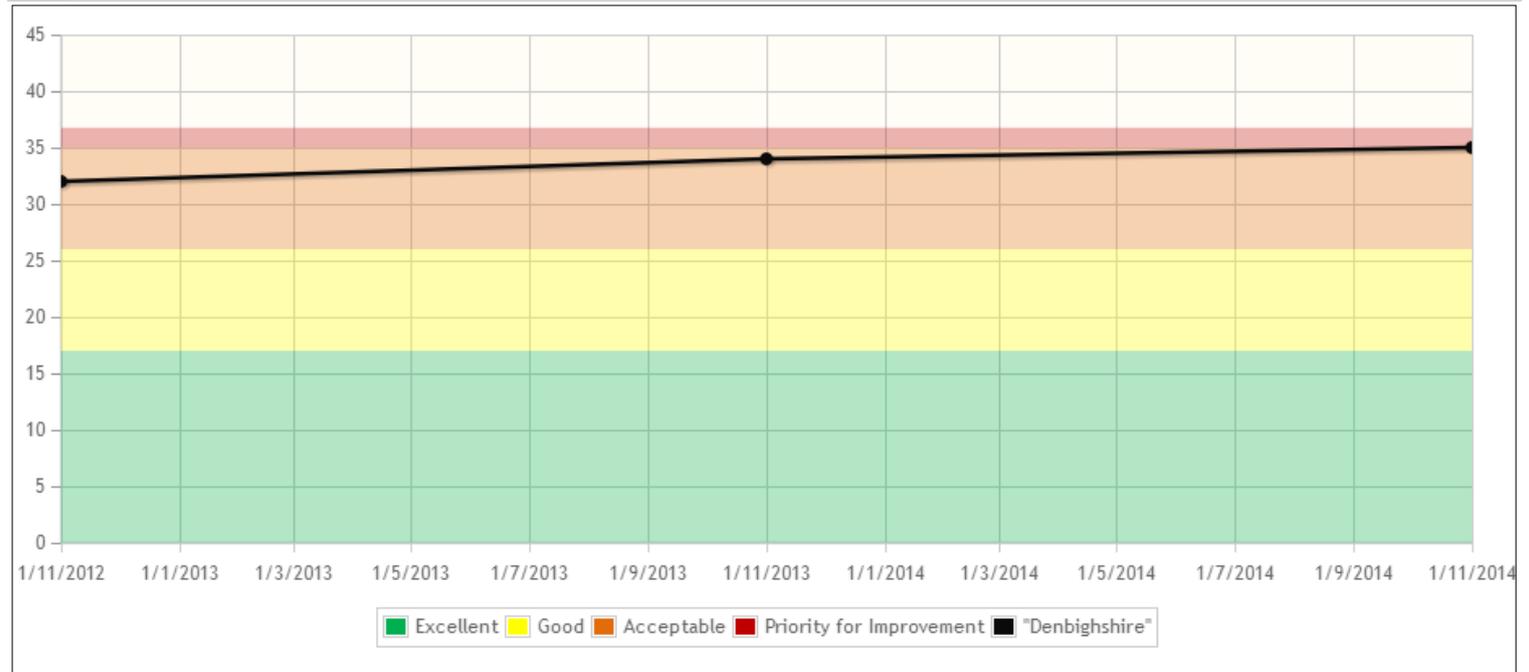
OUTCOME 5 - VIBRANT TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES

Status	Priority for Improvement
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Red: Priority for Improvement.</p> <p>None of this data is updated on a basis more frequently than annual - WiMD data is only updated once every three years, and was last updated in 2014. Therefore there is no change in the indicators' status.</p> <p>An update to note is that there is work underway to create an Anti-Poverty Group in Denbighshire, which will endeavour to assess the similarities and gaps between anti-poverty programmes operating within the county, and any other issues that seem to be prevalent among those living in poverty. It is hoped this holistic, strategic group will strengthen the approach to tackling poverty in Denbighshire, enabling the faster delivery of more effective anti-poverty measures.</p>

Indicators	
ECA5.1i	% of vacant town centre premises (Denbighshire average)
RSQ11	% of residents reporting overall satisfaction with their town centre
RSQ2	% of town residents reporting overall satisfaction with their local area
BusSurv2.1	% of town centre businesses reporting confidence in future prospects
ECA5.2i	% of LSOA that fall into the 10% most deprived in Wales
ECA5.3i	No. of LSOA with a claimant count (%) greater than Great Britain



ECA5.4i	No. of LSOA with a median household income below Wales
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Latest Data Comment

Q1 There is work underway to create an Anti-Poverty Group in Denbighshire, which will endeavour to assess the similarities and gaps between anti-poverty programmes

operating within the county, and any other issues that seem to be prevalent among those living in poverty. It is hoped this holistic, strategic group will strengthen the approach to tackling poverty in Denbighshire, enabling the faster delivery of more effective anti-poverty measures. The group will have its first meeting before the end of Q3 2015.

ECA5.5i	% of the rural working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance
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Activities				
ECA 5.1c	Town Centre Growth & Diversification Plan	15/07/14	31/03/17	
ECA 5.3a RGF	Rhyl Going Forward			
ECA 5.3a RGF 01	Rhyl Harbour: Pedestrian and cycle bridge, public square, quayside building and extended quay wall	02/03/09	31/03/15	
ECA 5.3a RGF 01.1	Rhyl Harbour: Harbour Empowerment Order	02/05/12	30/06/16	
ECA 5.3a RGF 02	West Rhyl Housing Improvement Project			
ECA 5.3a RGF 03	The Honey Club, Rhyl			
ECA 5.3a RGF 10	49 - 55 Queen Street	01/09/14	31/03/15	

OUTCOME 6 - WELL-PROMOTED DENBIGHSHIRE

Status	Yellow, Good
Outcome Summary	The projects for which we have updates have an Excellent status, but there is one for which we are awaiting an update.

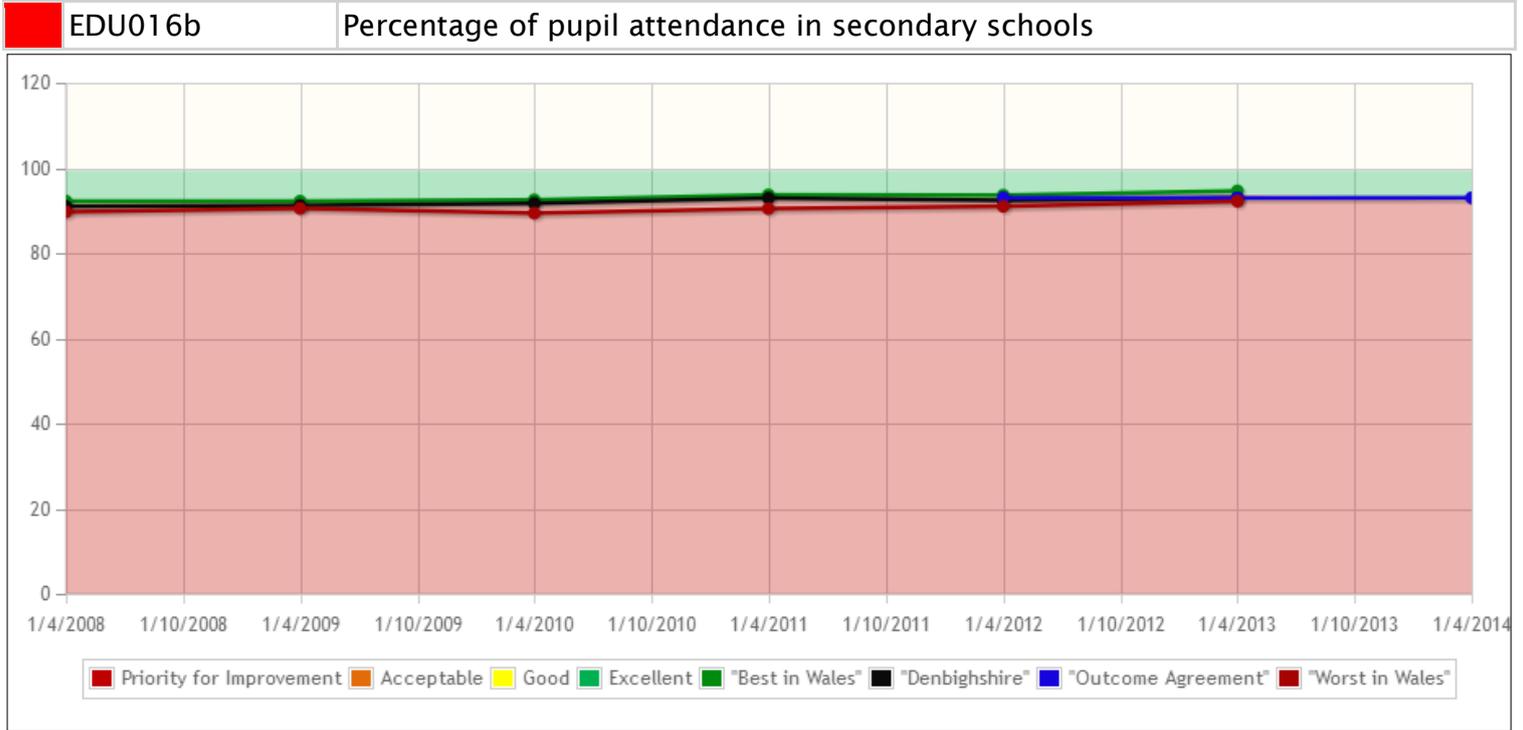
Activities				
ECA 6.1a-c	Locate in Denbighshire- Inward Investment Marketing Campaign	17/04/14	04/02/15	
ECA 6.2a	Develop a Destination Management Plan for Denbighshire	01/04/14	30/06/14	
ECA 6.2b / 1.3a	Enquiry Handling for Sites & Premises	24/11/14	30/06/15	

PRIORITY - IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN EDUCATION & THE QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

OUTCOME 7 - STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Status	Acceptable
Outcome Summary	The overall position for this outcome is Orange: Acceptable. We are using a higher benchmark for excellence for educational attainment where 'Green: Excellent' is the best in Wales. There is one indicator that is considered to be a priority for improvement, and two performance measures. These are detailed below.

Indicators	
Ed001i	The average capped points score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August in schools maintained by the local authority (all pupils)
EDU017	The percentage of pupils achieving the level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and maths (all pupils)
Ed006i	The percentage of pupils achieving the level 2 threshold or vocational equivalents (all pupils)
Ed009i	The percentage of pupils who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 4 (all pupils)
Ed204c	The average number of school days lost from school per total fixed term exclusions
Ed205c	The number of fixed term exclusions from school (total)
EDU002i	The percentage of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification.
EDU003all	The percentage of pupils who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2 (all pupils)
EDU016a	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools

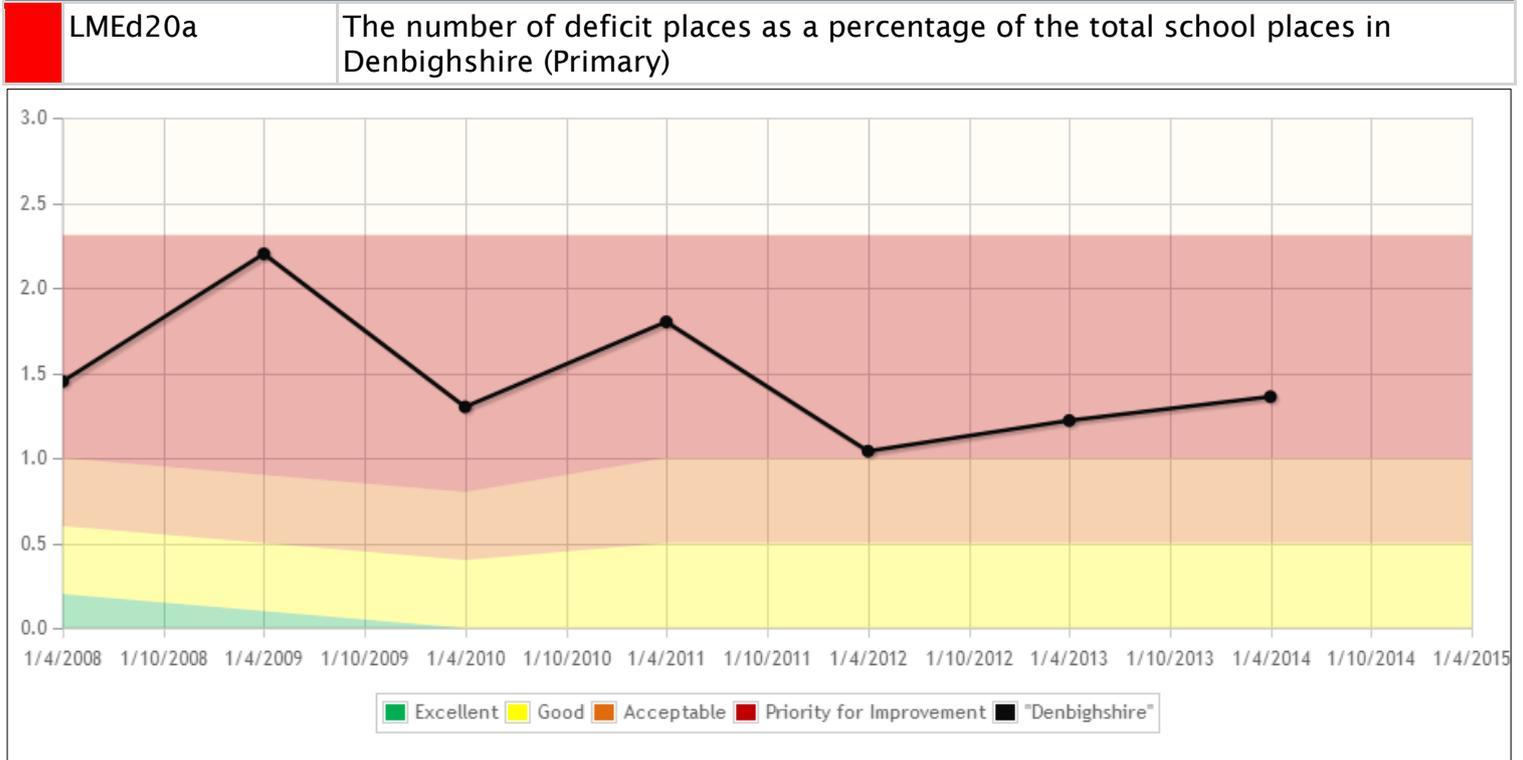


Latest Data Comment

2013/14 Academic Year

Secondary school attendance has recovered beyond last year's decline, and just beyond the excellent position established in 2011/12. However, attendance improved more markedly in the rest of Wales, leaving us below the median for both authorised and unauthorised absence. Where our rank position in Wales for authorised absence has worsened over the last three years, it has actually improved for unauthorised absences.

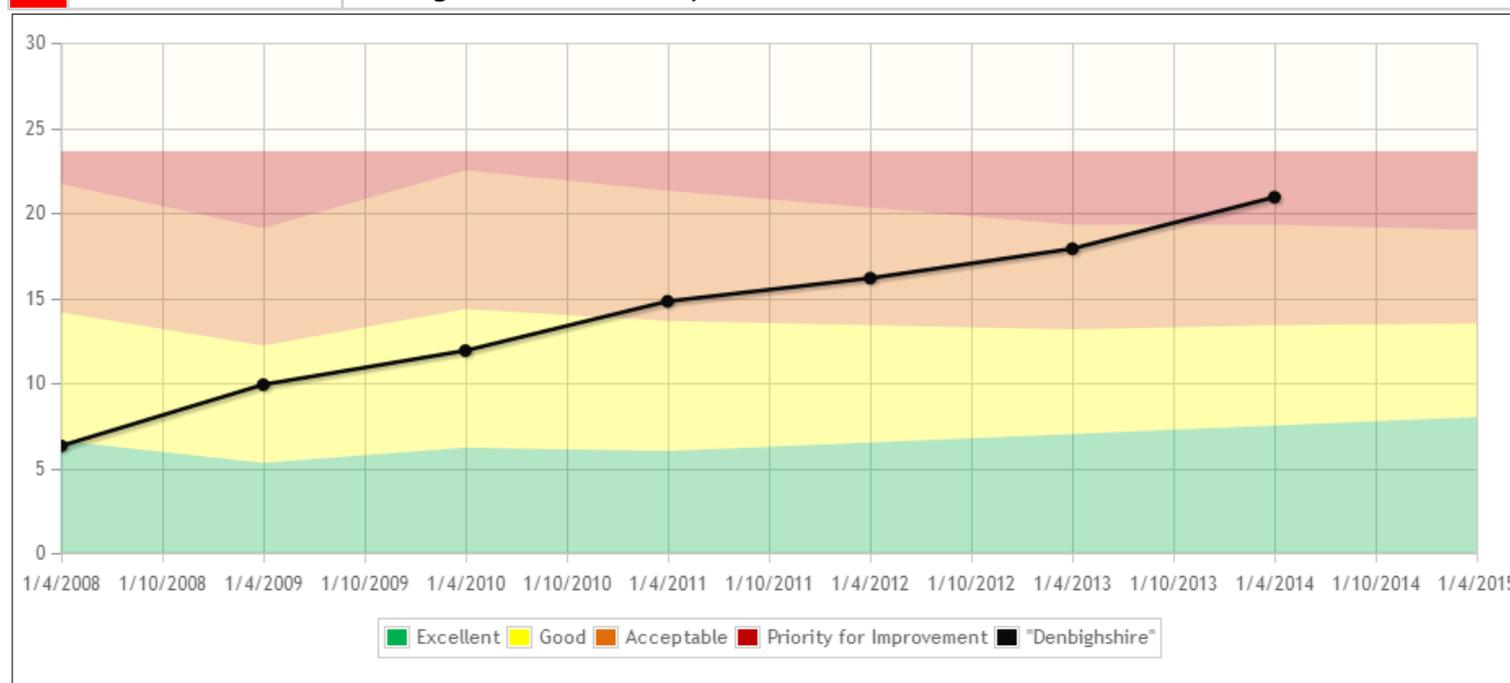
Measures



Latest Data Comment

2014/15 Annual	The increase in pupil numbers in the primary sector has created a small increase in the number of deficit places in the primary sector
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LMEd20b	The number of deficit places as a percentage of the total school places in Denbighshire (Secondary)
LMEd21a	The number of surplus places as a percentage of the total school places in Denbighshire (Primary)
LMEd21b	The number of surplus places as a percentage of the total school places in Denbighshire (Secondary)



Latest Data Comment

2014/15 Annual	The percentage has increased as the number of pupils in secondary education has reduced due to demographics. These numbers are not expected to increase until 2018.
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LMEd22a	The number of school places provided through mobile classrooms (Primary)
LMEd22b	The number of school places provided through mobile classrooms (Secondary)

Activities

CES102a	Funding the 21st Century Schools Programme and wider Modernising Education Programme	01/04/14	01/08/19
CES111a	To reduce the reliance on mobile accommodation	01/04/14	31/03/16
CES112a	To progress business cases for further investment in the school estate	01/04/14	31/03/16
ECA 4.1b,4.2a-c,4.3a	Pathways +	01/04/15	31/07/16
ECA 4.2a-c	TRAC	07/04/14	31/08/20
EDU117a	Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Schools	01/04/15	31/03/16
EDU118a	Review of Athrawon Bro Service for schools	01/04/15	31/03/16

EDUa003	Review current provision for students who access the Behaviour support Service and remodel as appropriate	01/04/13	31/03/16
EDUa005	Revisit Service Level Agreement with GwE	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa006	Celebrating teacher achievements / good practice through an award scheme (Excellence Denbighshire for teachers)	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa008	Literacy, Numeracy & ICT Skills development in schools	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa009	Soft skills / skills for employment	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa011	Careers advice and support	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa012	Work experience opportunities	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa013	Apprenticeships	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa014	Links between schools, colleges and employers	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa015	Advanced skills for growth sectors	01/04/14	31/03/16
EDUa018	Challenge Action: Further develop the role of the School Standards Monitoring Group (SSMG), to include focus on headteacher performance and school attendance	22/04/15	31/05/16
EDUa019	Challenge Action: Continue to develop Denbighshire's own leadership of GwE	22/04/15	31/03/16
EDUa020	Challenge Action: Service to progress its strategy on improving secondary school attendance, and to circulate a paper to Scrutiny for information	22/04/15	30/06/15
EDUa021	Challenge Action: Analysis of Yr13 2015 destination data using a sample from our sixth-form schools	01/07/15	31/10/15
EDUa022	Curriculum Enrichment Programme	01/04/15	31/03/16
PR000044	Rhyl New School	22/10/12	11/07/16
PR000055	Bodnant Community School Extension and Refurbishment	20/12/12	31/12/16
PR000247	Extending Secondary Welsh Medium Provision - Ysgol Glan Clwyd Extension & Refurbishment	06/01/14	31/08/18
PR000319	Ruthin Area Review: Ruthin Town School Modernisation	21/04/14	01/09/18
PR000330	Ruthin Area Review: New Area School for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	01/01/14	30/10/17
PR000332	Ruthin Review -New Area School for Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn	01/08/14	03/09/18

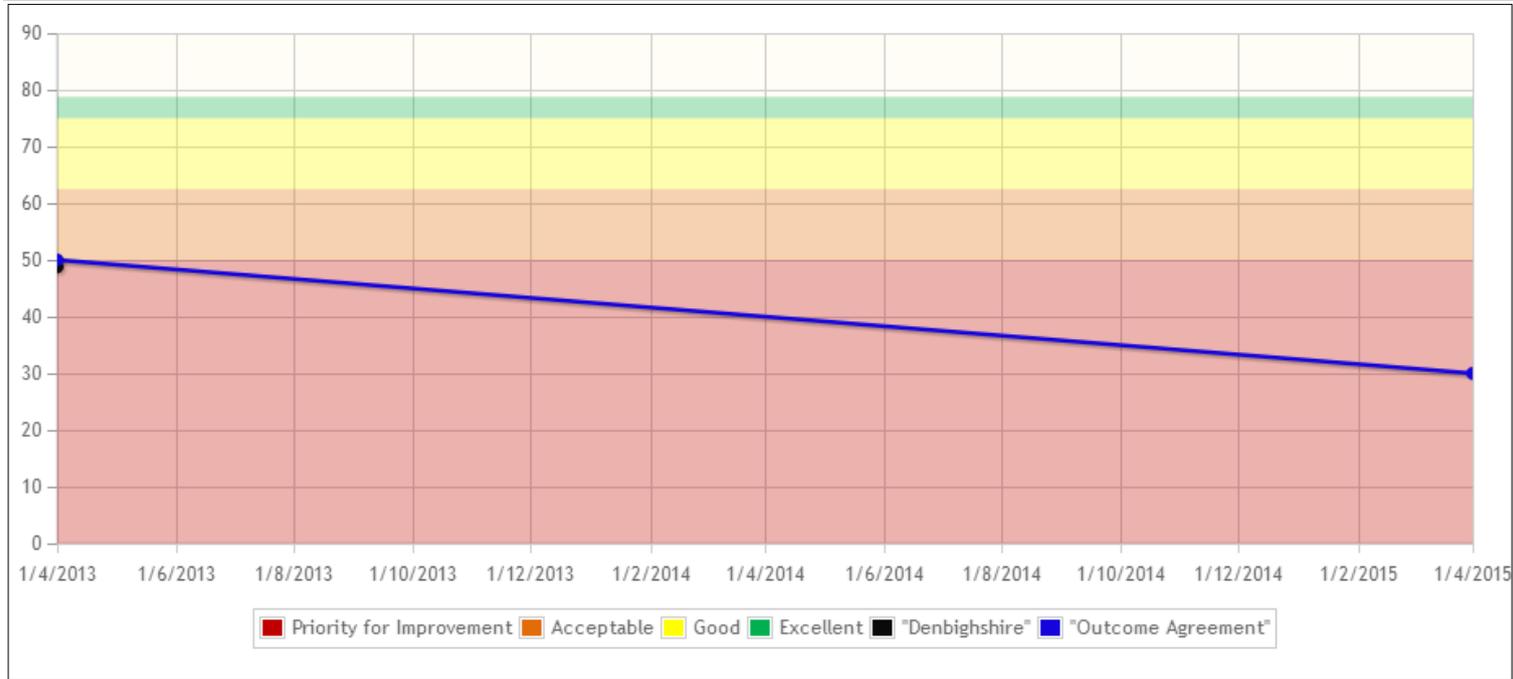
PRIORITY - IMPROVING OUR ROADS

OUTCOME 8 - RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO DENBIGHSHIRE HAVE ACCESS TO A SAFE AND WELL-MANAGED ROAD NETWORK

Status	Good
Outcome Summary	The overall position for this outcome is Yellow: Good. We compare our position for the road condition indicators with a group of similar rural local authority areas in Wales. There are two indicators that are considered to be a priority for improvement, and one performance measure. These are detailed below.

Indicators

HES101i	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the council's work in maintaining rural roads in good condition
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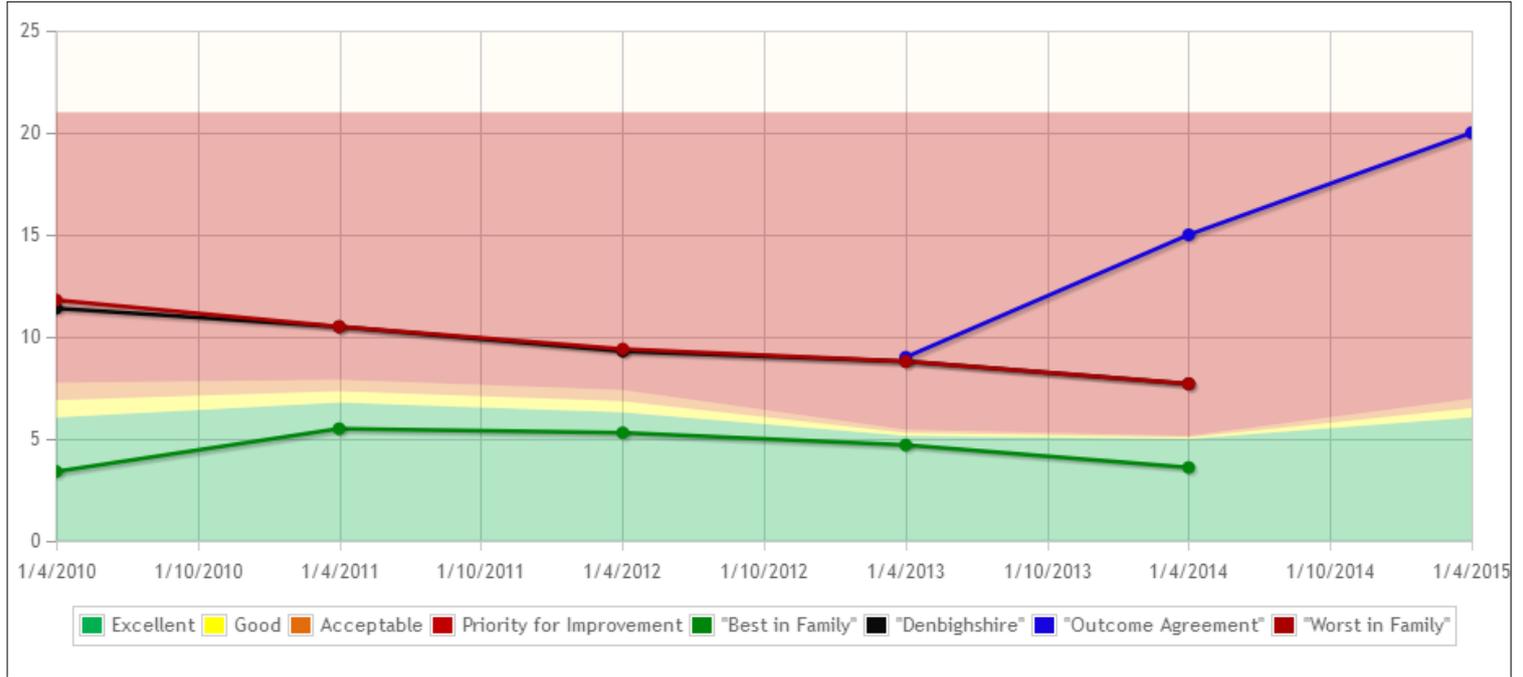


Latest Data Comment

2013 Bi-Annual	The 'acceptable' threshold was missed by just 1%, which equates to around 9 people in the survey. 2013/14 was also the baseline year for this indicator. Denbighshire is switching its focus of spend from reactive to proactive work across all road categories in future. However, with budget reductions we should not expect public perceptions to improve. The Outcome Agreement target for 2015/16 has been amended to reflect this.
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RSQ09A	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the council's work in maintaining main roads in good condition (excluding don't know)
RSQ09B	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the council's work in maintaining streets in towns and villages in good condition (excluding don't know)
THS012a	The percentage of principle A roads that are in overall poor condition

	THS012b	The percentage of non-principal/classified B roads that are in overall poor condition
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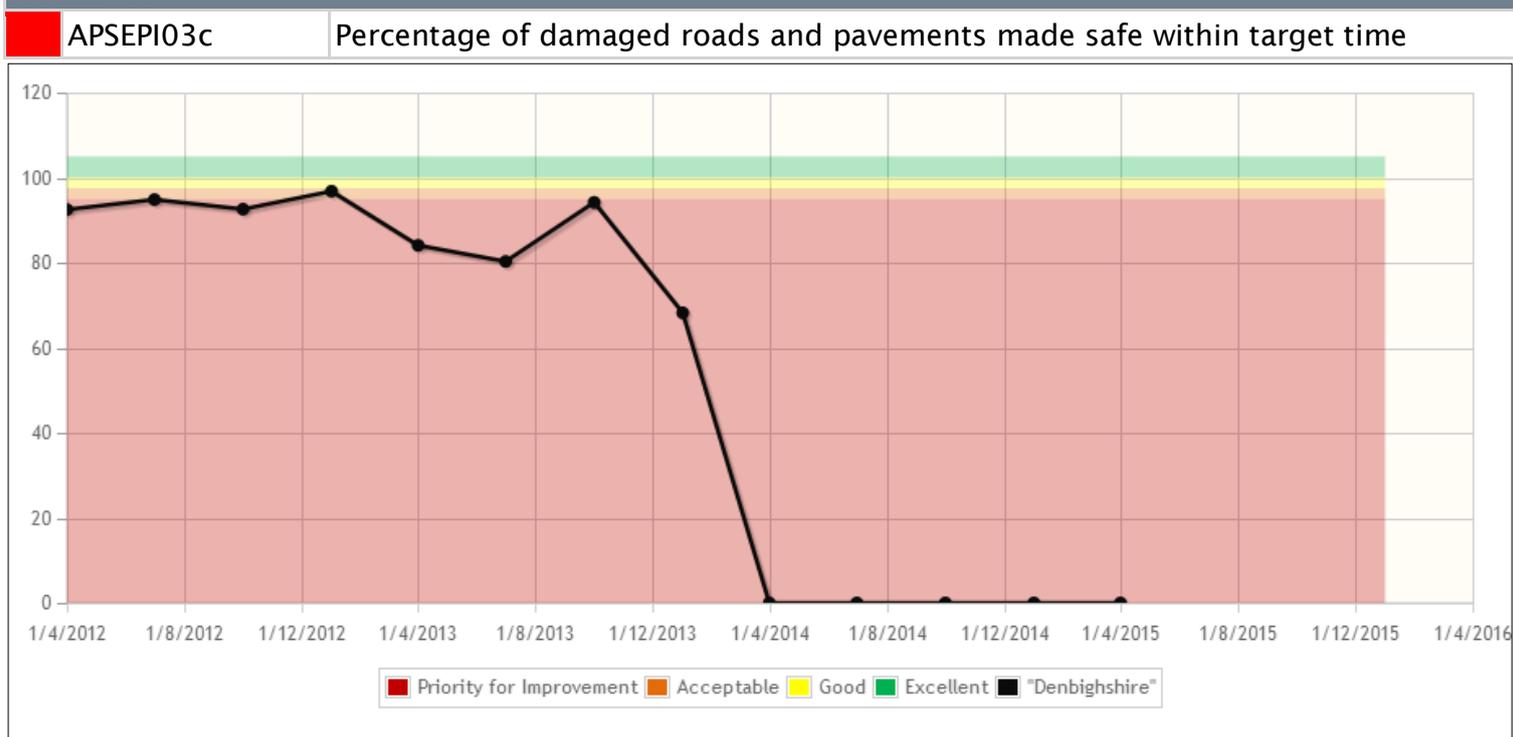
Latest Data Comment

2014/15 Annual

Denbighshire improved by 1.09% in 2014/15. Our position in terms of our family group (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and The Vale of Glamorgan) continues to be a Priority for Improvement. It is anticipated that budget reductions will have an adverse impact on this indicator.

	THS012c	The percentage of non-principal/classified C roads that are in overall poor condition
	THS012	The percentage of principal (A) and non-principal (B) and (C) roads that are in overall poor condition

Measures



Latest Data Comment

Q1 In the interests of efficiency and modernisation, Streetscene moved away from using COMMS (the system previously used to create this percentage figure) and is introducing the new Symology system. Percentage figures will be generated in Quarter 2 with more accurate data available in Quarter 3 and 4 for measure.

HES102m	The percentage of planned dropped-kerbs delivered along key routes within the year
HIM006	The percentage of Category C (Final) Street Works inspections carried out on utility works before their guarantee period ends (legislation states 10%)
HIM007	The number of successful claims against the council concerning road condition during the year
HIM042	The proportion of the planned Highways Capital Maintenance Programme achieved (schemes)
THS003	The percentage of the annual structural maintenance expenditure that was spent on planned structural maintenance

Activities

HES106a	Continue to strengthen the Elwy Bridge, St Asaph, and undertake extensive repairs to the East Abutment of Foryd Road Bridge, Rhyl.	01/04/14	31/03/15
HES107a	Local transport infrastructure barriers to growth (from Economic & Community Ambition Programme Plan)	01/09/14	31/03/16
HES113a	Resurfacing works	01/04/15	31/03/16
HES114a	Microasphalt laying works	01/04/15	31/03/16
HES115a	Surface dressing works	01/04/15	31/03/16
HES116a	Review car park tariffs	01/04/15	31/07/15
HES117a	Introduce telemetry system for car park pay & display	01/04/15	31/03/16

		machines		
	HIA004	Implement policy by delivery of dropped kerbs on prioritised key routes	01/04/14	31/03/16

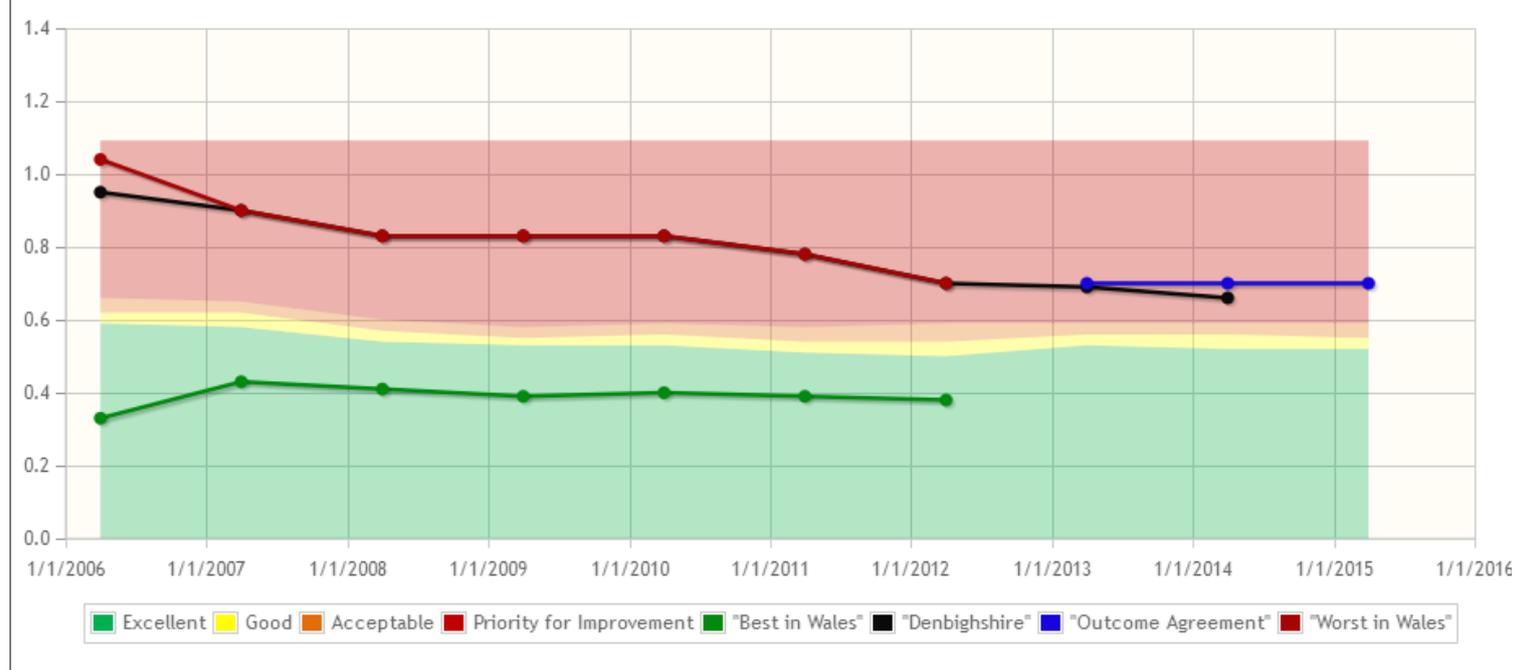
PRIORITY - VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED & ABLE TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE

OUTCOME 9 - VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE

Status	Good
Outcome Summary	The overall position for this outcome is Yellow: Good. There is one indicator that is considered to be a Priority for Improvement. This is detailed below.

Indicators

Independent 18	The percentage adults who live independent of a formal package of social care provided/arranged by the council (aged 18 or over)
Residential18	The percentage of the population who cannot live independently (aged 18 or over)



Latest Data Comment

Q1	Denbighshire has traditionally experienced a higher rate of placements than many other LAs. We are working to reduce the no. of new admissions through the use of both modern and traditional care packages in the home and working with people to maximise their independence. Overall, this means the no. of people we support in residential care is diminishing, but it will take a no. of yrs to bring the total to an acceptable level due to the long term nature of the services already being provided.
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Measures

ABS m3	The percentage of people no longer needing a social care service following involvement from the reablement and intake service
Assistive18	The number of adult clients in receipt of assistive technology (aged 18 or over)
Newcarehome65	The number of new placements of adults whom the authority supports in care homes (aged 65 or over)

Latest Data Comment

Q1 Newcarehome65 - this is a `count` only. ROYG status not applicable

QPSR002	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant
QSCA001	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1000 population aged 75 or over
Supported(a)18	Of the people who can live independently with a package of care, the percentages that are supported to live independently through, modern supportive options (aged 18 or over)
Supported(b)18	Of the people who can live independently with a package of care, the percentages that are supported to live independently through, traditional care options (aged 18 or over)

Activities

ABS02	In-house Social Care Provision		
ABS110a	Service Challenge Action: Carry out review of Single Point of Access (SPoA) and develop a meaningful set of indicators with data available late 2015.	30/09/14	30/09/15
CFS206a	The development of a new Care Leavers Service commissioned through engagement and co-production	01/04/15	30/09/15
CFS406a	Improve the approach to inclusive practice of mainstream providers of services to children and young people, so that these services can be easily accessed by children with additional needs	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS101a	Development and implementation of the Supporting Independence in Denbighshire (SID) vision, including: engaging with Town & Community Councils and the 3rd Sector to develop supportive communities	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS102a	Working with providers in the independent sector to enable the council to commission "outcomes" rather than "services" from providers.	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS302a	Specialist Services Development. We will review the roles & responsibilities within Specialist Service and consider whether it is feasible to develop a whole of life disability service.	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS304a	Implementation of changes necessary to respond to the Housing Act	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS305a	Continue to promote and develop integrated partnership working with health (developing formal integrated structures and governance arrangements).	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS306a	Continue to develop person centred approaches to support and empower citizens to gain independence and achieve the outcomes that are important to them, including working with the Social Services Improvement Agency to test the National Outcomes Framework.	01/04/15	31/03/16
CSS307a	We will test a different way of working with citizens at risk of losing their independence that is community focussed and geared towards promoting independence. This will be part of a national `Community Led Conversations' programme run by the NDTi	01/04/15	31/03/16

MSSEWB201 3/03	Extra Care - Independent living in a safe and supported environment	15/04/13	
PR000173	Single Point of Access		

OUTCOME 10 - VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED

Status	Excellent
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall position for this outcome is Green: Excellent. There are no exceptions to report on for quarter 1 2015/16.</p> <p>The two activities which relate to Community Support Services with regard to the improvement of processes in both POVA and DoLS are due to commence in quarter 2; therefore, a ROYG status for quarter 1 is currently not applicable.</p>

Indicators	
QSCC010	The percentage of referrals that are re-referrals within 12 months

Measures	
QSCA019	The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed
QSCC013ai	The percentage of open cases of children on the child protection register who have an allocated social worker
QSCC015	The percentage of initial core group meetings due in the year which were held within 10 working days of the initial child protection conference
QSCC034	The percentage of child protection reviews carried out within statutory timescales during the year

Activities			
CFS102a	Implement a coherent service wide approach to the use of risk models and risk management in the direct work with families.	01/04/14	31/03/16
CFS106a	Develop a Strategy to further strengthen impact of early intervention services and an Options Appraisal for strengthening the interface between TAF and Intake Services	01/04/15	30/09/15
CFS107a	Develop the final year plan for delivery of Families First to include preparation to exit from the programme	01/04/15	31/03/16
CFS108a	Develop and deliver an effective training programme for 'all staff' around providing stability for vulnerable families	01/04/15	31/03/16
CFS207a	Implement actions from Foster Care Profile exercise undertaken in 2014/15.	01/04/15	30/09/15

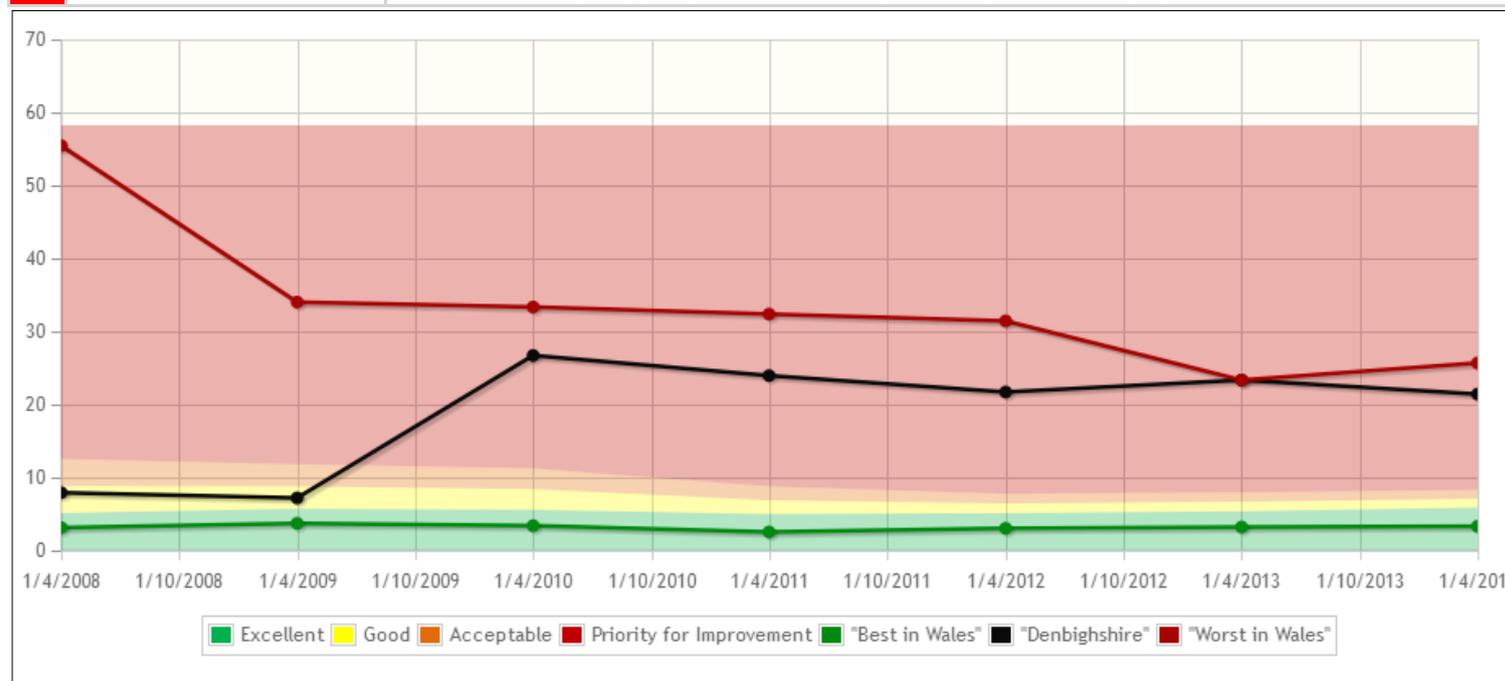
CFS208a	National Outcomes Framework Pilot for Looked After Children and children at risk of becoming Looked After	01/04/15	30/09/15
CFS302a	Establish a learning framework for identifying and prioritising safeguarding issues to be addressed	01/02/14	30/09/14
CFS303a	Implement Signs of Safety approach to manage child protection conferences	01/02/15	31/12/15
CFS304a	Aim to ensure every child is subject to an appropriate intervention	01/05/15	31/03/16
CFS305A	Improve basic Skills Set for communicating with children	01/04/15	31/12/15
CFS306a	Implement an effective approach to Core Groups ensuring they adhere to the creation and implementation of a child protection plan	01/05/15	31/03/16
CSS201a	Improve POVA processes to support the role of the Designated Lead Manager	01/07/15	31/03/16
CSS202a	Improve processes to ensure more effective management of the DoLs workload	01/07/15	31/03/16
Latest Data Comment			
Q1	CSS201a and 202a - Improvements to processes in POVA and DoLS - to be reported Quarter 2 onwards.		

PRIORITY - CLEAN & TIDY STREETS

OUTCOME 11 - TO PRODUCE AN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE

Status	Good
Outcome Summary	The overall position for this outcome is Yellow: Good. There is one indicator that is considered to be a priority for improvement. The Cleanliness Index has now been replaced with the Keep Wales Tidy Cleanliness Indicator, as the Index is no longer to be collected.

Indicators	
HES201i	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets within their local area
HES202i	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets within their local area in relation to dog fouling
HES203i	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets within their nearest town centre
HES204i	The percentage of respondents reporting satisfaction with the cleanliness of the streets within their nearest town centre in relation to dog fouling
HES207i	Clean Streets Survey - Improvement Areas
RATE/STS/006D	The rate of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1000 population



Latest Data Comment

2014-15 Annual	The rate of fly-tipping in Denbighshire fell slightly in 2014/15, but remains high in the context of Wales, with 2024 incidents being recorded. We believe we are reporting this indicator differently from other councils because we include incidents that we identify ourselves through our street cleaning activities, in addition to incidents reported by the public.
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KWT001i	Keep Wales Tidy - Cleanliness Indicator
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Measures	
QPPP101m	The percentage of untidy land incidents resolved within 12 weeks
STS006	The percentage of reported fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days
PPP102m	The rate of fixed penalty notices (all types) issues per 1000 population
PPP103m	The rate of fixed penalty notices (dog fouling) issues per 1000 population

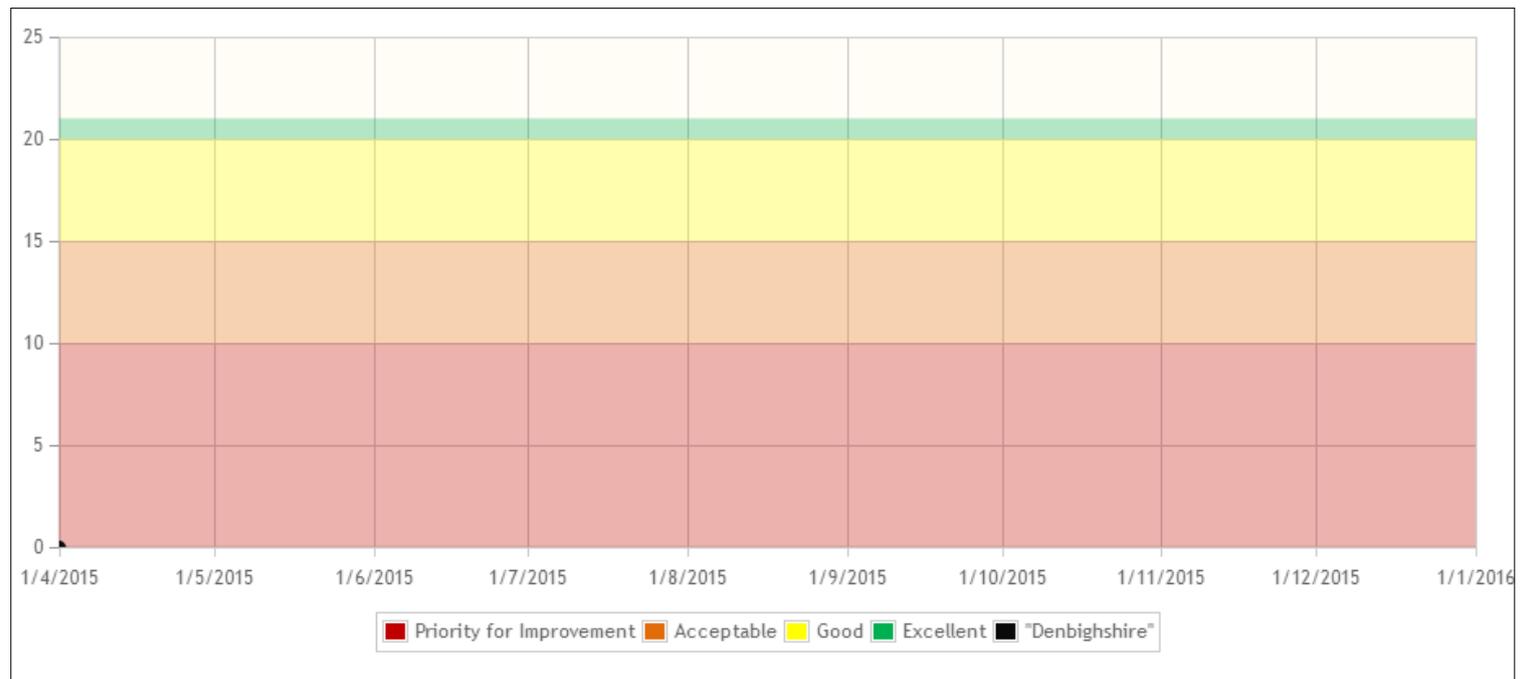
Activities			
HES204a	Collaboration between Streetscene and Public Protection in relation to dog fouling	01/04/15	31/03/16
HES205a	Streetscene/Countywide engagement with the general public in relation to dog fouling	01/04/15	31/03/16
PPP104a	Develop and implement a coordinated approach to tackling identified eyesore sites across the county		31/03/15
PR000069	Former North Wales Hospital	01/03/10	31/03/16

PRIORITY - ENSURING ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY HOUSING

OUTCOME 12 - THE HOUSING MARKET IN DENBIGHSHIRE WILL OFFER A RANGE OF TYPES AND FORMS OF HOUSING IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Status	Good
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall position for this outcome is Yellow: Good. There is one indicator and one performance measure that are considered to be a priority for improvement. These are detailed below.</p> <p>Housing managers within the council’s tenanted housing services (now within the Finance & Assets Service) have met to review their Service Plan, supported by the Strategic Planning & Performance Team. From this a number of key activities that would support this outcome were identified, to be taken forward during the next 18 months or so. Once confirmed these will be included in the quarter 2 report. It is also possible that some indicators / performance measures will also be reviewed as part of this work.</p>

Indicators	
JHLAS03i	The years of supply of housing land as determined by the Joint Housing Land Availability Study
QPSR007a	Of the Houses in Multiple Occupation known to the local authority, the percentage that have a full license
QLI-PLA006	The number of additional affordable housing units granted planning permission as a percentage of all additional housing units granted planning permission during the year



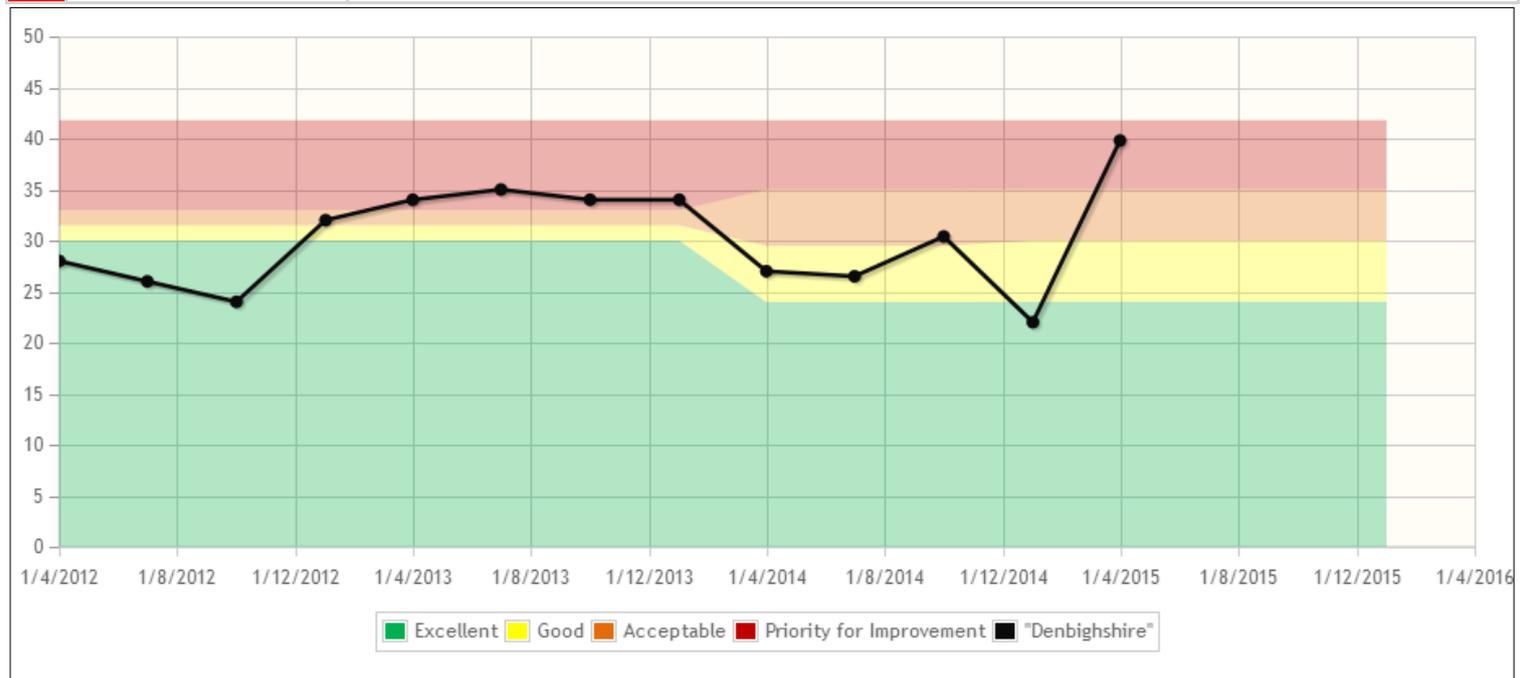
Latest Data Comment

Q1 This indicator shows how many dwellings have been granted planning permission and out of those how many are `affordable`. In the first quarter, planning permission has been granted for 9 dwellings, none of which meet the policy criteria to provide an affordable dwelling. Even though this indicator is showing as `red` it would be inappropriate to identify this as a `Priority for Improvement` because the Council Policy does not require an affordable dwelling to be provided in these cases.

PPPAH001	The additional supply of affordable housing, including social housing, provided during the year
PPPMH001	The additional supply of market housing, provided during the year

Measures

HHA013	The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months
QPLA004c	The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks
QPSR002	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant
QPSR004	The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority
Q-CMPI03	The number of calendar days taken to let empty properties - GN & HFOP



Latest Data Comment

Q1 There has been an increase in hard to let properties in Quarter 1 resulting in increased re-let times.

Q-HSG406i	The percentage of core KPI's Benchmarked with HouseMark that are in the top quartile
Q-LI/HS/13	The number of potential homeless people assisted to find a home
Y-HSG304m	The percentage of council properties compliant with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard

Activities			
FAA402a	Develop and embed some county-wide initiatives to enhance tenant engagement and satisfaction	01/04/15	31/03/16
Latest Data Comment			
Q1	This item is currently under review by tenanted housing managers, there being a number of new activities that have been identified for the Finance & Assets Service Plan that will improve the way the council engages with its tenants and understands their needs.		
FAA405a	Publish results from the 2014/15 Council Tenant survey	01/04/15	31/03/16
FAA406a	Create an action plan based on the results from the Council Tenant survey	01/04/15	31/03/16
FAA502a	Undertake work to enable identified vacant private sector dwellings to be converted into Council Housing	01/04/15	31/03/16
FAA503a	Prepare sites to enable new Council House builds	01/04/15	31/03/16
Latest Data Comment			
Q1	This item is currently under review and will link with the work that is being undertaken to revise the council's housing strategy. The council is committed to improving its strategic approach to the buying, selling and building of council houses to better meet the needs of our residents.		
HCD103a	Develop and deliver a Housing Strategy	01/04/14	31/03/16
MSSEWB2013/03	Extra Care – Independent living in a safe and supported environment	15/04/13	
PPP203a	Take a pro-active approach to encourage the private sector to bring forward allocated housing sites, to deliver mixed type and range of housing, by producing master plans, planning briefs and SPGs	01/04/14	31/03/15
PPP205a	Ensure as many Affordable Houses as possible are provided through the planning system and other methods of delivery	01/04/14	31/03/16

PRIORITY - MODERNISING THE COUNCIL TO BE EFFICIENT & IMPROVE SERVICES FOR CUSTOMERS

OUTCOME 13 - SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE

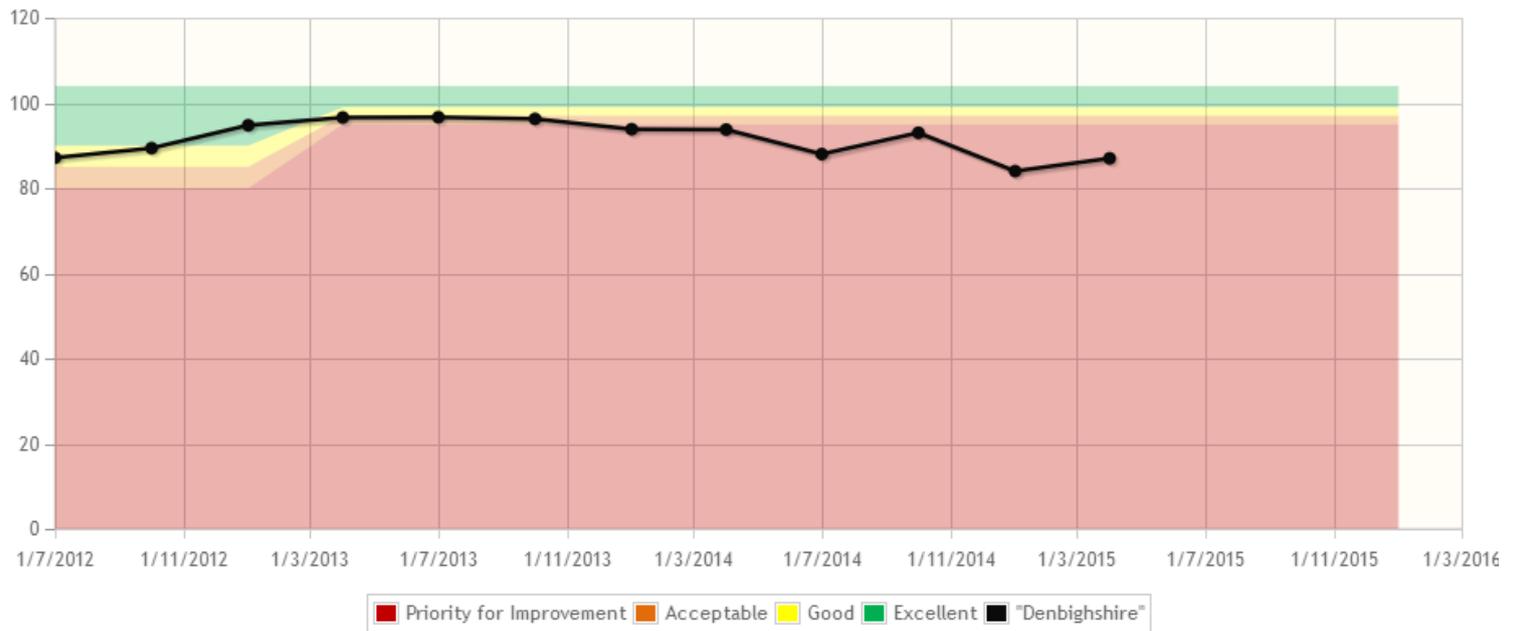
Status	Good
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Yellow: Good.</p> <p>Two indicators with a Red: Priority for Improvement status are from the Residents' Survey that was conducted in 2013.</p> <p>The number of complaints received increased very slightly this quarter. The percentage of external stage 1 complaints that were responded to within corporate timescales remains Red: Priority for Improvement. 87% were responded to on time (85 out of 106). An item regarding the response rate was due at June's Performance Scrutiny, but was moved to the July meeting. An update will be provided once minutes are available.</p>

Indicators	
BPP1002	The number of formal recommendations for improvement within the WAO Improvement Reports
BPP101i	The percentage of Open projects generating a Green or Yellow ROYG status in terms of being on-track to deliver their outputs according to pre-defined scope
RSQ16B	The percentage of residents responding positively to the statement: My Council is efficient and well-run
RSQ16C	The percentage of residents responding positively to the statement: My council acts on the concerns of residents (excluding don't know)

Measures	
BPP1004	The percentage of Outcome Agreement Grant awarded by WG
M102m	The percentage of Modernisation projects that were due a post-implementation review this quarter that have been subject to one
Latest Data Comment:	
Q1	M102m - No Modernisation projects were due a post implementation review during quarter 1.

PCOTDCC	The % of external stage 1 complaints that are responded to within corporate
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timescales (DCC)



Latest Data Comment

Q1 85 out of 106 stage 1 complaints were responded to within corporate timescale in Quarter 1.

ROCDCC The rate of stage 1 complaints received by Denbighshire County Council per 10,000 population

Activities

BIM114a	Support Town and Area Champions and Member Area Groups to develop revised Town and Area Plans in collaboration with Partners and Communities in line with the Wellbeing Plan	01/04/15	31/03/16
CML13	Modernisation of the Library Service		
EDU119a	Preparing for merger with Children & Family Services	01/04/15	31/03/16
LDS203a	Establish and operate a Task & Finish sub-scrutiny group to examine the Impact of Budget Cuts on the Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance	01/04/15	31/03/17
PR000317	Digital Choice - Getting the Customers Ready	11/04/14	01/04/15
PR000494	Archives & Records Management Transformation	01/09/14	28/02/18
WLS001	Consider our position in relation to the Welsh Language Standards set by the Welsh Language Commissioner and develop an action plan to deliver them	01/04/15	31/03/17

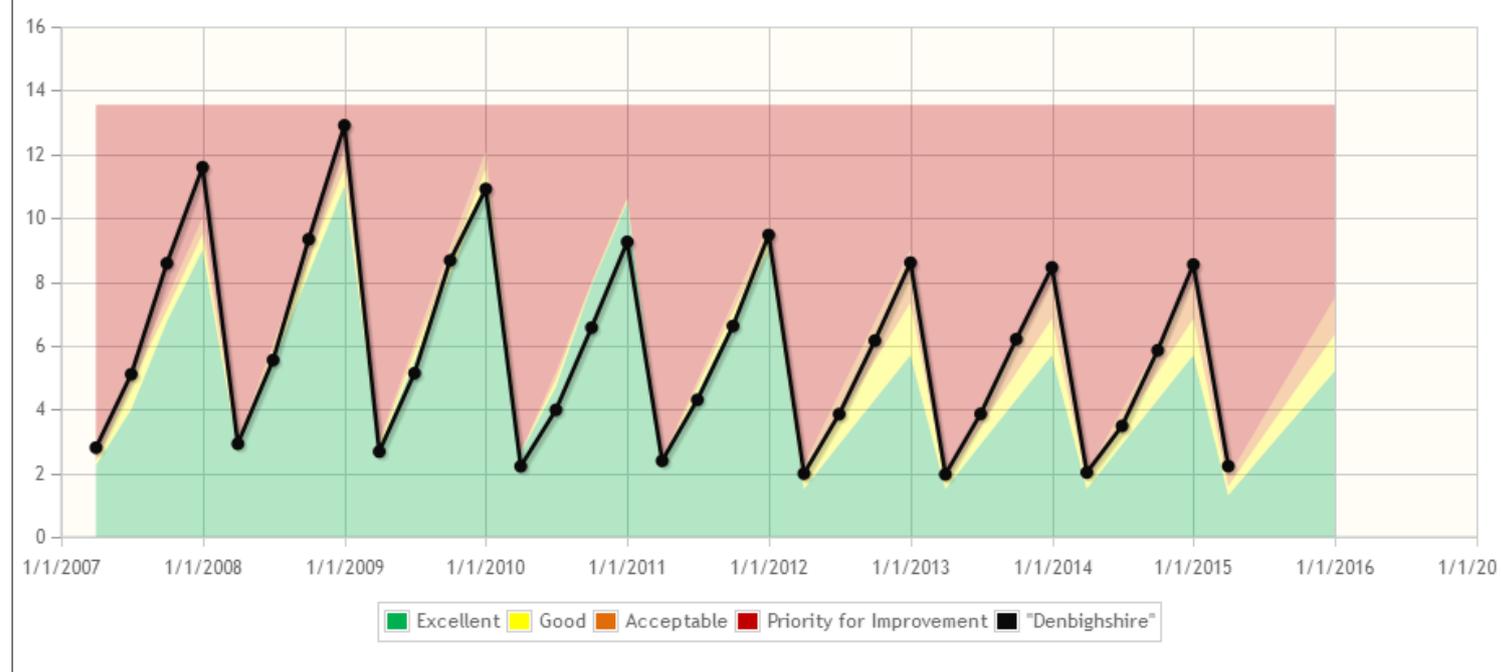
Latest Data Comment

Q1 Final Welsh Language Standards are currently awaited - expected to be received in September 2015.

OUTCOME 14 – MORE FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE SUPPORTED BY COST EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Status	Acceptable
Outcome Summary	<p>The overall status for this Outcome is Orange: Acceptable.</p> <p>Red indicators include the number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence (HR Business Partners are working closely with services to tackle these issues); Carbon emissions in primary schools (reflecting the age of many schools and an increased IT provision within them); the percentage of non-school staff equipped for agile working (which is relatively stable and we want it to increase); and the percentage of staff receiving a performance appraisal when one is due (HR is monitoring this monthly with services).</p>

Indicators	
M202a	Staff Survey Q3a - The percentage of staff responding positively to the statement: I have the skills to do my job effectively
QCHR002	(Corporate) The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence



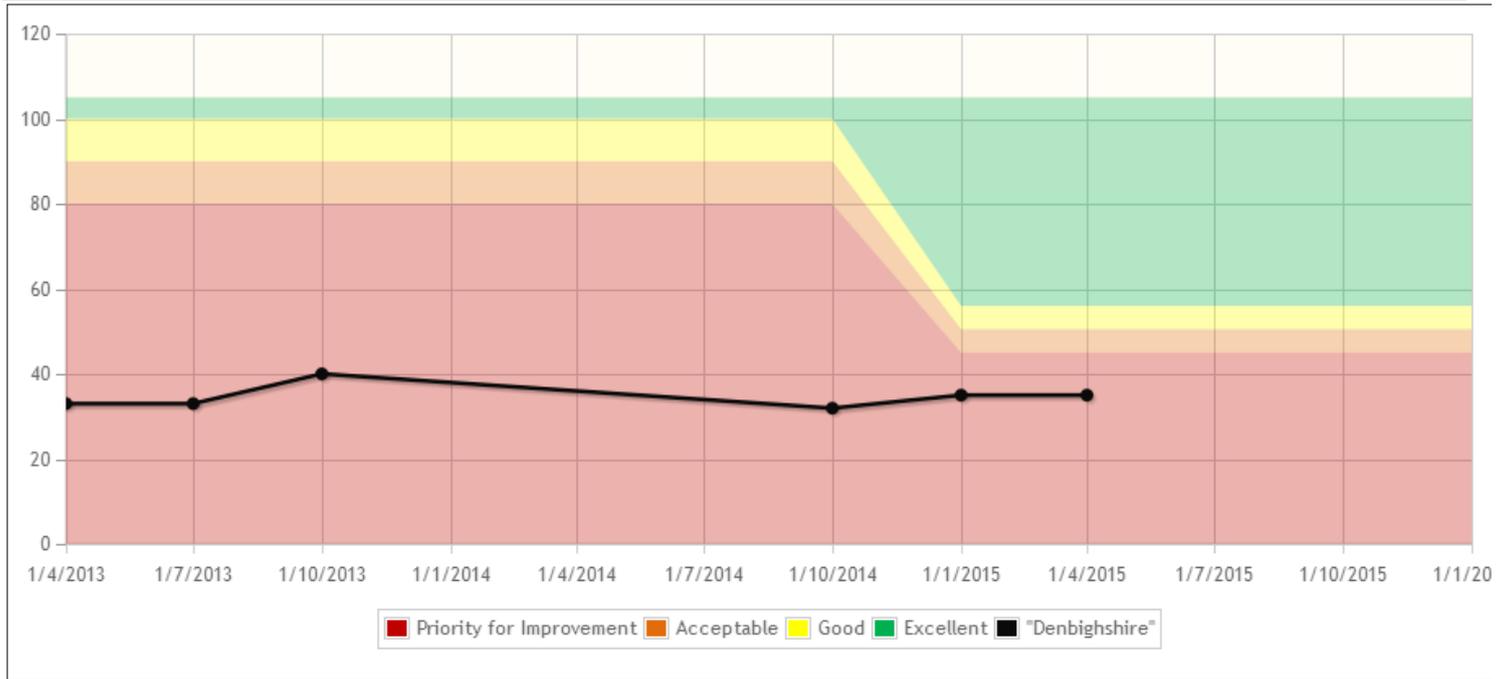
Latest Data Comment

Q1	HR Business Partners are aware of the sickness levels being high across a number of services and have raised that with their service areas and we have started to tackle some of the issues in those services.
SSQ13a	The percentage of staff responding positively to the statement: I have access to the information and IT I need to work efficiently
SSQ1A	The percentage of staff responding positively to the statement: I know what is expected of me

Measures	
ABMCORP	The average number of business miles recorded per FTE across all corporate services
CES301	The percentage of transactions undertaken via the web, compared to the total number of transactions undertaken using all access channels
Latest Data Comment	
Q1	This is an indicator for which baseline data is currently being collected

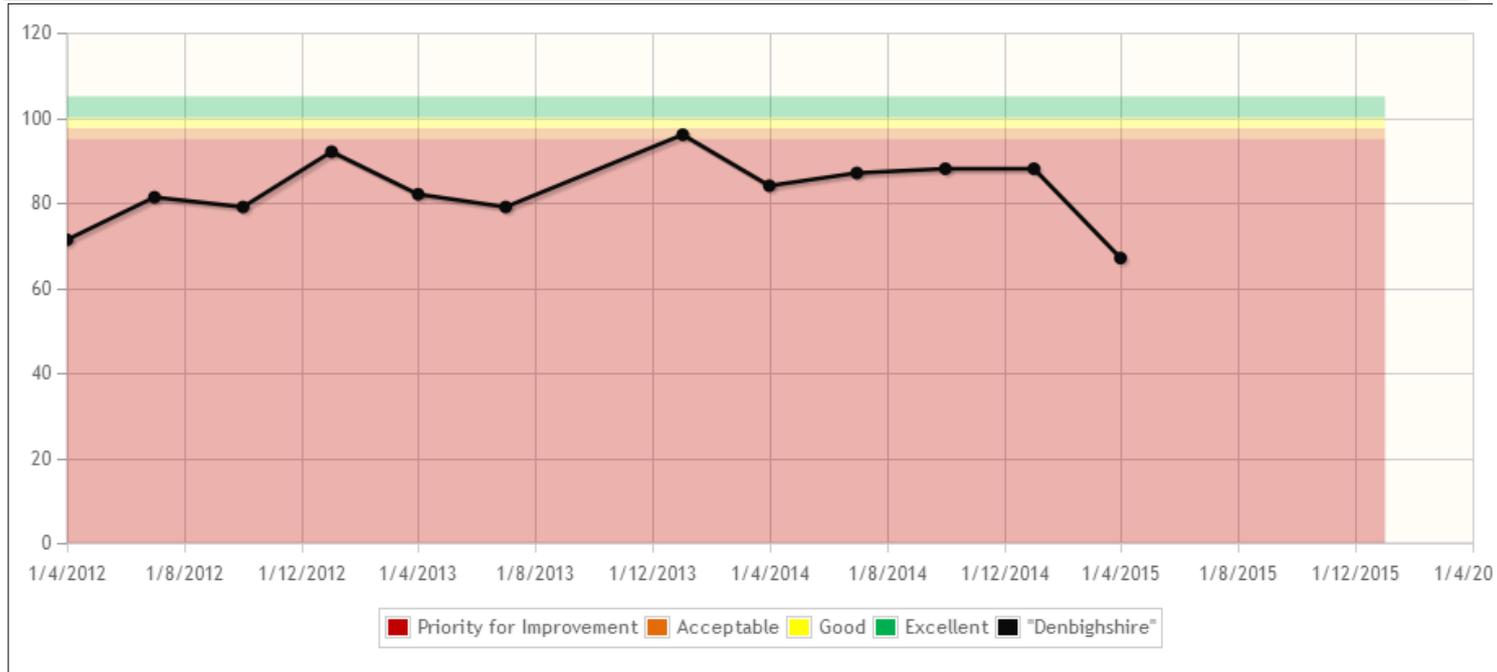
FAA101m	Corporate office space occupied by Denbighshire County Council (m2) per FTE
FAA110i	Carbon emissions (carbon kgs) per m2 of Denbighshire's corporate office space
FAA111i	Carbon emissions (carbon kgs) per m2 in Denbighshire's primary schools
FAA112i	Carbon emissions (carbon kgs) per m2 in Denbighshire's secondary schools
Latest Data Comment	
Q1	FAA110, 11 & 12 – We are unable to provide information for carbon emissions at present due to a major issue with the new British Gas billing system. This issue is affecting the majority of Welsh authorities. British Gas are working on fixing the errors but it is taking quite some time.

ICT106i	The percentage of non-school staff who have been equipped for agile working
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Latest Data Comment	
Q1	This is a red status because we want more of our personnel to work on a more agile basis, but we have a project underway to roll out agile working and this is progressing well.

SHR104i The percentage of eligible staff that were due a performance appraisal within the last 13 months and have received one (corporately)



Latest Data Comment

Q1 HR Business Partners are now receiving monthly reports to enable them to monitor more effectively completion percentages and are keeping their services informed of the figures.

Activities				
Green	FAA302a	Introduce an apprenticeship scheme for the repairs & maintenance section	01/04/15	31/03/16
Yellow	PMPDCC	Implement the project: Change Management the Denbighshire Way	01/04/14	31/03/16
Green	PR00073	Office Accommodation Review		
Yellow	PR000157	Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMs)	01/04/13	31/03/16
Green	PR000251	Centralised Mailroom Project	01/04/15	30/04/17
Green	PR000304	Outlook Rollout	28/05/14	31/12/14
Green	PR000309	Windows 2003 Migration		31/12/15
Green	PR000318	Digital Choice - Getting the council ready	01/10/14	
Yellow	PR000344	Flexible Working	01/08/14	31/12/15
Blue	PR003096	Central Invoice Registration Phase 2	01/10/14	31/03/18

NATIONAL STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Denbighshire's performance in the statutory indicators is excellent, with 20 in the top half of Welsh authorities and 14 in the top quartile. We also have the fewest number in the bottom half. We improved or maintained our position in 22 indicators, but declined in 8.

NSI	Indicator	Denbighshire	Quartile	Improvement
1	EDU/002i - School leavers with no qualifications (%)	0.00	1	↑
1	EDU/002ii - Looked after school leavers with no qualifications (%)	0.00	1	↔
2	EDU/003 - Pupils achieving the KS2 CSI (%)	86.61	2	↑
3	EDU/006ii - Pupils receiving a Welsh teacher assessment in Welsh at KS3 (%)	20.23	1	↑
4	EDU/011 - Average qualification points score	562.77	1	↑
5	EDU/015a - SEN statements issued in 26 wks (inc. exceptions) (%)	100.00	1	↔
6	EDU/015b - SEN statements issued in 26 wks (exc. exceptions) (%)	100.00	1	↔
7	EDU/017 - Pupils achieving Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh (1st language) and maths (%)	55.64	2	↑
7	**HHA/013 - Homeless prevention (%)	98.45	N/A	↑
8	LCL/001(b) - Library use, per 1,000 population	5798.86	2	↓
9	LCS/002(b) - Visits to sports facilities per 1,000 population	8044.83	3	↑
10	PLA/006(b) - Additional affordable housing units provided (%)	23.19	4	↓
11	PSR/002 - Delivering Disabled Facility Grants (average days)	178.22	1	↑
12	PSR/004 - Vacant private dwellings returned to occupation (%)	22.15	1	↑
13	SCA/001 - Delayed transfers of care, per 1,000 population 75+	1.27	1	↓

14	*SCA/002a - Older people helped to live at home, per 1,000 population 65+	43.84	4	↓
14	SCA/002b - Older people in care homes, per 1,000 population 65+	19.30	2	↑
15	SCA/019 - Adult Protection Referrals - risk managed (%)	100.00	1	↔
16	SCC/002 - Looked after children changing school (%)	21.78	4	↓
17	SCC/004 - Looked after children with 3 or more placements (%)	9.88	3	↑
18	SCC/011b - Children seen alone by a social worker at initial assessment (%)	54.87	2	↑
19	SCC/033(d) - Former looked after children in contact with the authority at 19 (%)	100.00	1	↔
19	SCC/033(e) - Former looked after children in suitable accommodation at 19 (%)	88.89	3	↓
19	SCC/033(f) - Former looked after children in education, training or employment at 19 (%)	55.56	3	↓
19	SCC/037 - Average qualification points score for looked after children	438.50	1	↑
19	SCC/041a - Eligible, relevant and former relevant children with pathway plans (%)	83.33	4	↓
22	STS/006 - Fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days (%)	97.48	2	↑
23	THS/007 - Concessionary bus pass holders aged 60+ (%)	82.46	3	↑
24	WMT/004(b) - Waste sent to landfill (%)	14.32	1	↑
25	WMT/009(b) - Local Authority collected municipal waste prepared for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	65.87	1	↑

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* SCA/002a does not take into account Denbighshire's ambition to meet people's need through reablement and community services rather than managed care. Good performance should be low in this indicator. Denbighshire's performance has therefore improved in relation to both our and Wales' ambition to reduce formal support to individuals, and should therefore be seen as being in the top quartile.

**Reference to comparative information for HHA/013 has been removed, which is in line with Welsh Government's approach. This indicator should not be compared between local authorities due to doubts about the consistency of data provided.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Performance declined in the following National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) and Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) in 2014/15:

Indicator	2013/14	2014/15	Narrative
SCA/001 - Delayed transfers of care, per 1,000 population 75+	0.54	1.27	The rate of delayed transfers of care has increased, however, performance remains at an excellent level and within the top quartile. This is as a result of increases in admissions to hospital creating pressures for the provision of domiciliary care at discharge. Work is continuing with BCU to ensure discharge arrangements are improved.
SCA/002a - Older people helped to live at home, per 1,000 population 65+	50.34	43.84	Performance remains in the bottom quartile. NB. This indicator does not take into account Denbighshire's ambition to meet people's need through reablement and community services rather than managed care. Good performance should be low in this indicator. Denbighshire's performance has therefore improved in relation to both our, and Wales', ambition to reduce formal support to individuals and should therefore be seen as being in the top quartile.
SCA/007 - Care plan reviews completed in time (%)	93.80%	88.30%	Care plan reviews have declined in performance, however, remain in the top quartile and our focus remains on ensuring that the review is high quality rather than just being on time.
SCA/020 - Adult clients supported in the community (%)	85.40%	83.99%	Performance has slightly declined and remains within the 3 rd quartile. The planned reduction in numbers of people supported in the community has decreased faster than the numbers living in care homes due to the long term nature of the latter arrangements.
SCC/002 - Looked after children changing school (%)	8.10%	21.78%	The percentage of looked after children changing school has increased and has dropped from an excellent level, top quartile to the bottom quartile. There are good reasons for school moves in all of the cases and are not considered a priority for improvement.
SCC/025 - Appropriate statutory visits (%)	89.00%	88.30%	Performance has decreased by less than 1% since 2013/14. Sustained efforts took place over 2014/15 to monitor and improve performance on statutory visits. Work is currently ongoing to implement the monitoring of LAC statutory visits directly from PARIS, including the testing of functionality to send practitioners automated reminders of stat visits due.
SCC/033(e) - Former looked after children in suitable	93.80%	88.89%	Performance has declined to 3 rd quartile. The 88.89% in 2014/15 relates to 8 out of 9. These cases are due to explainable circumstance and are not considered a priority

accommodation at 19 (%)			for improvement.
SCC/033(f) - Former looked after children in education, training or employment at 19 (%)	81.30%	55.56%	Performance has declined from an excellent, top quartile position to 3 rd quartile. The 55.56% in 2014/15 relates to 5 out of 9. These cases are due to explainable circumstance and are not considered a priority for improvement.
SCC/041a - Eligible, relevant and former relevant children with pathway plans (%)	90.90	83.33	Performance has declined to the bottom quartile. 2014/15 - 83.33% completed. This equates to 5 out of 6 pathway plans completed within timescale. 1 was completed out of timescale. The young person in question came into our care as a teenager and was not encouraged by their family to work with the Service. It is evidenced that the social worker took time to engage with the young person regarding the process, ultimately leading to a meaningful plan that had received input from the young person, but unfortunately out of timescale.
SCC/045 - Reviews carried out within timescales (%)	94.60%	89.81%	The drop in performance is due to issues with the timely completion of LAC Reviews. This was due to a combination of having two IRO vacancies, illness, cancellations and some administrative issues which have now been resolved. Performance has improved in the first quarter of 2015/16.
PLA/006(b) - Additional affordable housing units provided (%) 206	49.00%	23.19%	Performance has declined to bottom quartile. The performance of 23% has derived from 69 houses being built during the year (denominator); 16 of which were affordable (numerator). Even though this performance is reported against the National Strategic Indicator for 2014/15, it relates to data from 2013/14. This is due to the way Welsh Government report against this indicator. Actual data for 2014/15 is 60% (74 out of 122 housing units being affordable). The projection for affordable completions for this year up to April 2016 is 38. Out of the last 9 years, Denbighshire has exceeded the Wales average on six occasions. That said we accept there is more we can/should be doing to increase the total number of houses being built in the County and consequently the total number of affordable housing. This is clearly reflected in the emerging, draft Housing Strategy.
STS/005b - Cleanliness of highways (%)	100%	95.5%	The results are based on random samples of roads, so a natural statistical variation is to be expected, and is entirely normal. It is still a very high percentage score.
LCL/001(b) - Library use, per 1,000 population	7827	5798.86	New automatic counters have been installed in libraries, and we're not entirely sure of their accuracy. Also, Rhyl Library staff are reporting much quieter periods since key shops such as Marks & Spencer and Next left the High Street to relocate to Parc Prestatyn. Rhyl's library is going to be refurbished, and the cashiers and a new One-Stop Shop will be located there. It is hoped this might boost public visits, but it should be noted that our position is still 'Good' when benchmarked nationally.

PROJECT REGISTER

This is the summary position for each project on the Corporate Project Register as at July 2015. The status has been determined based on an evaluation of project performance against the project management methodology.

CORPORATE PROGRAMME: ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY AMBITION

Digital Denbighshire	GREEN
Denbighshire Coastal Facilities	GREEN
Rhyl Harbour: Pedestrian and cycle bridge, public square, quayside building and extended quay wall	ORANGE

CORPORATE PROGRAMME: MODERNISATION

Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMs)	YELLOW
Office Accommodation Review	GREEN
Denbighshire Telephony	YELLOW
Centralised Mailroom	GREEN
Outlook Rollout	GREEN
Domino Migration	GREEN
Windows 2003 Migration	GREEN
Digital Choice	GREEN
Central Invoice Registration Phase 2	GREEN
Flexible Working	YELLOW

CORPORATE PROGRAMME: MODERNISING EDUCATION

Bodnant Community School Extension and Refurbishment	YELLOW
Welsh Medium Primary's North Denbighshire - Ysgol Twm o'r Nant	YELLOW
Ruthin Area Review: New Area School for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	YELLOW
Extending Secondary Welsh Medium Provision – Ysgol Glan Clwyd – Extension & Refurbishment	GREEN
Ruthin Area Review: Ruthin Town School Modernisation	GREEN
Ruthin Review -New Area School for Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn	GREEN
Rhyl New School	GREEN

CORPORATE PROGRAMME: MODERNISING SOCIAL SERVICES & ENHANCING WELLBEING

Single Point of Access	YELLOW
Intelligence Requirement for Children and Family Services	YELLOW
Review of Assessed Services for Children with Disabilities	YELLOW
Vulnerable People Mapping	GREEN

Extra Care – Independent living in a safe and supported environment	GREEN
Service Inclusion Review	GREEN
RHYL GOING FORWARD	
The Honey Club, Rhyl	YELLOW
49-55 Queen Street	YELLOW
SERVICE: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT & MODERNISATION	
Vodafone On-line Billing	GREEN
2 nd Internet Feed	GREEN
SERVICE: CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES	
Capturing the voice of children, young people and families	GREEN
SERVICE – COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES	
PARIS 5.1 upgrade	GREEN
Cefndy Capital Investment	YELLOW
Welfare Advice Modernisation Project	GREEN
SERVICE: CUSTOMERS & EDUCATION SUPPORT	
Capita Regional MIS	YELLOW
SERVICE: EDUCATION & CHILDRENS SERVICES	
Joining of Education and Children and Families services	GREEN
SERVICE: FINANCE & ASSETS	
Excellent Housing	ORANGE
PROACTIS eSourcing Rollout	YELLOW
SERVICE: HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Residual Waste (North Wales Collaboration)	GREEN
Loggerheads Traffic Congestion Initiative	YELLOW
Corwen Flood Risk Management Scheme	GREEN
Rhyl Promenade Railings	GREEN
West Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme Phase 3	GREEN
East Rhyl Flood Defence	YELLOW
Foryd (Blue) Bridge East Abutment Strengthening	YELLOW

Former North Wales Hospital Denbigh

YELLOW

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Agenda Item 8

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	29 September 2015
Lead Member / Officer:	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill
Report Author:	Head of Finance and Assets
Title:	Annual Treasury Management Report 2014/15 (Appendix 1)

1 What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report is about the Council's investment and borrowing activity during 2014/15. It also provides details of the economic climate at that time and shows how the Council complied with its Prudential Indicators.

2 What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 The main purpose of this report is to update members on the performance of the treasury management function and to demonstrate compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators during 2014/15.

3 What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to note the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2014/15.

4 Report details

- 4.1 The report gives details of the Council's treasury management activities and an overview of the economic background for the year. The report also reports on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions and confirms compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 Good investment and borrowing decisions allow additional resources to be directed to other Council services.

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

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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

- 7.1 This is not required as a part of this report.

8 What consultations have been carried out?

- 8.1 The Council has consulted with its treasury advisers, Arlingclose Ltd.
- 8.2 The Corporate Governance Committee has been updated on Treasury Management activities throughout the year and has reviewed this report before its submission to Cabinet.

9 Chief Financial Officer Statement

- 9.1 Treasury Management involves looking after significant sums of cash so it is a vital part of the Council's work. It requires a sound strategy and appropriate controls to safeguard the Council's money, to ensure that reasonable returns on investments are achieved and that debt is effectively and prudently managed.
- 9.2 It is a requirement of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management for the Council to prepare an annual report on treasury activity for the previous financial year. Cabinet is required to note the performance of the Council's Treasury Management function during 2014/15 and its compliance with the Prudential Indicators as reported in the Annual TM Report 2014/15.

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

- 10.1 Treasury Management is inherently risky but the Council is monitoring and controlling these risks as outlined in the main report. However, it is impossible to eliminate these risks completely. The council's treasury management strategy and procedures are audited annually and the latest internal audit review was positive with no significant issues raised.

11 Power to make the Decision

- 11.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations require local authorities to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice on Treasury Management which determines the requirement for the Cabinet to receive an annual report on treasury activities for the previous financial year.

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

***ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT
REPORT
2014/15***

**Richard Weigh
Chief Finance Officer**

CONTENTS

Section	Title
1	Background
2	Economic Background
3	Borrowing Activity
4	Investment Activity
5	Compliance with Prudential Indicators
6	Money Laundering Update
	Annex A - PWLB borrowing rates and UK Money Market rates
	Annex B – Compliance with Prudential Indicators 2014/15
	Annex C – Glossary

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code"), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. Reports are made twice a year to the Corporate Governance Committee which is the committee with responsibility for the scrutiny of the Council's treasury policy, strategy and activity, as well as the annual report made to cabinet and the report to full council for approval of the annual treasury strategy.
- 1.2 Treasury management is defined as: "The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
- 1.3 The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

2. Economic Background

Growth and Inflation

- 2.1 The robust pace of GDP growth of 3% in 2014 was underpinned by a buoyant services sector, supplemented by positive contributions from the production and construction sectors. Resurgent house prices, improved consumer confidence and healthy retail sales added to the positive outlook for the UK economy given the important role of the consumer in economic activity.
- 2.2 Annual CPI inflation fell to zero for the year to March 2015, down from 1.6% a year earlier. The key driver was the fall in the oil price (which fell to \$44.35 a barrel a level not seen since March 2009) and a steep drop in wholesale energy prices with extra downward momentum coming from supermarket competition resulting in lower food prices. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney wrote an open letter to the Chancellor in February, explaining that the Bank expected CPI to temporarily turn negative but rebound around the end of 2015 as the lower prices dropped out of the annual rate calculation.

Labour Market

- 2.3 The UK labour market continued to improve and remains resilient across a broad base of measures including real rates of wage growth. January 2015

showed a headline employment rate of 73.3%, while the rate of unemployment fell to 5.7% from 7.2% a year earlier. Comparing the three months to January 2015 with a year earlier, employee pay increased by 1.8% including bonuses and by 1.6% excluding bonuses.

UK Monetary Policy

- 2.4 The Bank of England's MPC maintained interest rates at 0.5% and asset purchases (QE) at £375bn. Its members held a wide range of views on the response to zero CPI inflation, but just as the MPC was prepared to look past the temporary spikes in inflation to nearly 5% a few years ago, they felt it appropriate not to get panicked into response to the current low rate of inflation. The minutes of the MPC meetings reiterated the Committee's stance that the economic headwinds for the UK economy and the legacy of the financial crisis meant that increases in the Bank Rate would be gradual and limited, and below average historical levels.
- 2.5 Political uncertainty had a large bearing on market confidence this year. The possibility of Scottish independence was of concern to the financial markets, however this dissipated following the outcome of September's referendum. The risk of upheaval (the pledge to devolve extensive new powers to the Scottish parliament; English MPs in turn demanding separate laws for England) lingers on. The highly politicised March Budget heralded the start of a closely contested general election campaign and markets braced for yet another hung parliament.

3. Borrowing Activity

- 3.1 The table below shows the level of the Council's borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at the start and the end of the year.

	Balance at 01/04/2014 £000	Maturing loans £000	Premature repayments £000	New Borrowing £000	Balance at 31/03/2015 £000
Fixed rate loans – Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	141,648	6,876	0	10,000	144,772
Total borrowing	141,648	6,876	0	10,000	144,772

- 3.2 The Council's strategy in 2014/15 was to internally borrow to fund part of its borrowing requirement and to undertake new external borrowing to fund the remainder. One new loan for £10m was undertaken in August 2014 to take advantage of relatively low rates before the anticipated increase in rates. The loan was at a rate of 3.5% over a 23.5 year period on an Equal Instalment of Principal (EIP) basis.
- 3.3 The use of internal resources to fund the borrowing requirement was sustainable during 2014/15 because the Council had sufficient reserves and balances to avoid the need for external borrowing. We took the view however that the Corporate Plan is progressing so our reserves will reduce

and we will come to a point where we need to borrow in the future. We reviewed our strategy and decided to borrow to take advantage of the low rates at that time. The EIP basis means that we will pay off an equal amount of principal each year so it will not have an adverse impact on our maturity profile. The borrowing we undertook was also affordable as we have a capital financing budget to fund the cost of the borrowing.

- 3.4 Although this will create a cost of carry while the proceeds are temporarily held as investments, we will save in the long term because of the anticipated increase in borrowing rates which will result in higher interest costs. For example, a 1% increase in the rates would cost us approximately £1.2m more in interest based on the example above of a £10m loan over a 23.5 year period.
- 3.5 As a result of maturities and new borrowing during the year, the average rate on the Council's debt decreased from 5.63% at 1 April 2014 to 5.40% at 31 March 2015.
- 3.6 Annex A shows how interest rates for borrowing have moved over the course of the year.

Abolition of the PWLB

- 3.7 In January 2015 the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) confirmed that HM Treasury (HMT) would be taking the necessary steps to abolish the PWLB. HMT has confirmed however that its lending function will continue unaffected and local authorities will retain access to borrowing rates which offer good value for money. The authority intends to use the PWLB's replacement as a potential source of borrowing if required.

Welsh HRA Subsidy Reform

- 3.8 The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 became law in Wales on 17 September 2014 and provided for the abolition of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) system. The Authority was required to buy itself out of the current arrangement by making 'settlement payments' to the Welsh Government. In return the Authority will be able to keep all future rental revenues generated from the housing stock. A cap has been set by the Welsh Government for how much the Authority can continue to borrow for the HRA in the future. The Authority was required to enter into a Voluntary Agreement with Welsh Ministers under section 80B of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This Agreement set out all the terms and conditions of settlement.
- 3.9 The Authority was required to make an application for loans totaling £40m on the morning of 31st March 2015. As part of the settlement, the Authority was required to borrow for the full settlement amount from the PWLB at

special Welsh HRA Subsidy Reform interest rates. These were set at a margin above PWLB Standard rates due to the methodology adopted by the Welsh Government and HM Treasury in determining the settlement amounts. The Authority was required to draw down loans that would deliver a minimum interest payment to the PWLB of £1.7m for each of the first five years following settlement.

- 3.10 Receipt of funding from the PWLB took place on 2 April 2015 on which date the Authority was required to make its settlement payment to the Welsh Government to exit the HRA Subsidy system. This transaction has therefore been accounted for in 2015/16.

4. Investment Activity

- 4.1 The Council held cash balances of £28.6m at the end of 2014/15. These represent the Council's Balances and Reserves, working cash balances and also where money has been borrowed before capital expenditure is incurred.
- 4.2 The Welsh Government's Investment Guidance requires local authorities to focus on security (keeping the money safe) and liquidity (making sure we never run out of cash) as the primary objectives of a prudent investment policy. The Council's aim was to achieve a return on investments in line with these principles. The return is important but is a secondary consideration and the priority is the security of the sums invested.
- 4.3 The table below shows the level of the Council's investments at the start and the end of the year.

	Balance at 01/04/2014 £000	Investments Raised £000	Investments Repaid £000	Balance at 31/03/2014 £000
Investments	32,500	308,850	312,750	28,600

- 4.4 The Council's investment income for the year was £0.230m compared to £0.265m in 2013/14 which meant that the low interest rates available in the market continued to have a significant impact on the investment return earned by the Council.
- 4.5 Security of capital remained the Authority's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Authority's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2014/15 which defined "high credit quality" organisations as those having a long-term credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher.

Unsecured Bank Deposits

- 4.6 Conventional bank deposits became riskier during 2014/15 because of a lower likelihood that the UK and other governments would support failing banks. As the Banking Reform Act 2014 was implemented in the UK from January 2015, banks were no longer able to rely on government bail-outs if they got into difficulty. They would be required instead to bail themselves out by taking a proportion of investors' deposits to build up their capital. This new risk has been termed 'bail-in' risk and is potentially a greater risk to investors than the 'bail-out' risk of the past.
- 4.7 There were many investors such as companies and charities which were protected but local authorities' deposits were not eligible for protection because public authorities have much better access to credit than citizens.
- 4.8 As a result of the increased risks, we felt it was prudent to reduce our duration limits for unsecured bank and building society investments from 1 year to 6 months in October 2014 and further to 100 days in February 2015.
- 4.9 The Council has also been placing a far greater emphasis on investing with the UK Government's Debt Management Office and other local authorities in order to minimise these risks.

Secured Investment Options

- 4.10 The Council also included secured investment options within its investment strategy such as those described below with a view to using them during 2015/16.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements (REPOs)

- 4.11 These involve the purchase of a security (usually bonds, gilts or other government securities) tied to an agreement to sell it back later at a pre-determined date and price. REPOs provide protection through the ownership of collateral in the form of securities which is significantly more secure than investing in unsecured bank deposits. These are therefore secured investments with banks which are exempt from bail-in risk so they offer a safer alternative at similar rates to unsecured bank deposits.

Covered Bonds

- 4.12 These are also secured investments with banks which are exempt from bail-in risk and they offer a secure option for our long term investments.

(The glossary in Annex C provides definitions of the various treasury terms used)

Credit Risk Management

4.13 Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to the following:

- credit ratings (minimum long-term counterparty rating of A- across rating agencies Fitch / S&P / Moody's);
- credit default swap prices;
- financial statements;
- information on potential government support;
- share prices.

4.14 The credit rating of Natwest Bank is below the Authority's minimum credit criterion of A- so it has been withdrawn from the counterparty investment list. However, Natwest is the Council's banker and has been used for operational and liquidity purposes.

Liquidity Management

4.15 In keeping with the WG's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of overnight deposits and instant access call accounts. The Authority uses purpose-built cash flow forecasting software to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed.

Yield

4.16 The Council sought to achieve the best return balanced against its objectives of security and liquidity. The UK Bank Rate was maintained at 0.5% through the year. Short term money market rates also remained at very low levels which had a significant impact on investment income.

4.17 All investments made during the year complied with the Council's agreed Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Practices and prescribed limits. Maturing investments were repaid to the Council in full and in a timely manner.

5. Compliance with Prudential Indicators

5.1 The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2014/15, which were set in February 2014 as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement. Details can be found in Annex B.

5.2 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2014/15. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

6. Money Laundering Update

- 6.1 The Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it maintains procedures for verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and reporting suspicions, and will ensure that relevant staff are properly trained.
- 6.2 The Chief Finance Officer has been appointed as the Money Laundering Reporting Officer. There haven't been any cases of money laundering reported since the start of Denbighshire to date and we consider the risk to the Council to be minimal.

Interest Rates 2014/15

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rates and UK Money Market rates during the year were:

Example PWLB Borrowing rates (The rate at which the Council could borrow money from the Government)

Start Date	Length of Loan		
	1yr %	19½-20 yrs %	49½-50 yrs %
01-Apr-14	1.44	4.41	4.47
30-Sep-14	1.57	3.96	4.03
31-Mar-15	1.31	3.20	3.28

Example Bank Rate, Money Market rates (The rate at which the Council could invest with banks)

Date	Bank Rate %	7-day Investment Rates %	1-month Investment Rates %	6-month Investment Rates %
01-Apr-14	0.50	0.39	0.42	0.56
30-Sep-14	0.50	0.45	0.43	0.66
31-Mar-15	0.50	0.62	0.43	0.74

Compliance with Prudential Indicators 2014/15

1 Estimated and Actual Capital Expenditure

1.1 This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed investment in capital assets remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on the Council Tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

Capital Expenditure	2014/15 Estimated February 2014 £000	2014/15 Revised February 2015 £000	2014/15 Outturn March 2015 £000
Non-HRA	23,903	24,051	32,078
Corporate Plan	13,895	11,857	
HRA	6,178	5,382	3,585
Total	43,976	41,290	35,663

2 Estimated and Actual Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

2.1 This is an indicator of affordability and demonstrates the revenue implications of capital investment decisions by highlighting the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet the borrowing costs associated with capital spending. The financing costs include existing and proposed capital commitments.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2014/15 Estimated February 2014 £000	2014/15 Revised February 2015 £000	2014/15 Outturn March 2015 £000
Financing Costs	13,002	13,330	13,330
Net Revenue Stream	187,683	188,183	188,183
Non-HRA Ratio	6.93%	7.08%	7.08%
Financing Costs	3,249	3,205	3,016
Net Revenue Stream	13,260	13,080	13,080
HRA Ratio	24.50%	24.50%	23.06%

3 Capital Financing Requirement

3.1 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the Council ensures that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and next two financial years. This is demonstrated in the following table:

Capital Financing Requirement - Non-PFI Basis	31/03/2015 Estimated February 2014 £000	31/03/2015 Revised February 2015 £000	31/03/2015 Outturn March 2015 £000
Non-HRA	161,803	152,757	149,617
HRA	31,705	29,760	27,994
Total	193,508	182,517	177,611
Borrowing	161,598	154,773	144,773
PFI Liability	10,437	10,437	10,437

NB The outturn figures are taken from the pre-audited Statement of Accounts 2014/15 so they may be subject to change.

Note that the projected debt level at 31/03/15 was originally estimated in February 2014 to be £7m higher than the revised estimate because the original estimate was based on the capital expenditure in the Capital Plan to be funded by borrowing for 2014/15. In practice, the Council internally borrowed during the year to fund part of its borrowing requirement and undertook new external borrowing of £10m to fund the remainder.

4 **Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt**

Summary Table:

2014/15	March 2015 £000
External Borrowing	144,773
Internal Borrowing	32,838
Operational Boundary	215,000
Authorised Limit	220,000

- 4.1 **Operational Boundary:** This limit is set to reflect the Council's best view of the most likely prudent (i.e. not worst case) levels of borrowing activity.
- 4.2 **Authorised Limit:** This is the maximum amount of external debt that can be outstanding at one time during the financial year. The limit, which is expressed gross of investments, is consistent with the Council's existing commitments, proposals for capital expenditure and financing and with its approved treasury policy and strategy and also provides headroom over and above for unusual cash movements.
- 4.3 The levels of debt are measured on an ongoing basis during the year for compliance with the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary. The Council maintained its total external borrowing and other long-term liabilities within both limits; at its peak this figure was £141.7m. In addition to external borrowing, the Council uses its own reserves and balances to fund capital expenditure and this is known as internal borrowing as shown in the table above.

5 Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure and Variable Interest Rate Exposure

- 5.1 These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates. The exposures are calculated on a net basis i.e. fixed rate debt net of fixed rate investments. The upper limit for variable rate exposure allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on our portfolio of investments.

	2014/15 Estimated %	2014/15 Actual Peak Exposure %
Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure	100	100
Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure	40	0

6 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate borrowing

- 6.1 This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates and is designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period, in particular in the course of the next ten years.
- 6.2 It is calculated as the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate.

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing	Upper limit %	Lower limit %	Actual Borrowing as at 31/03/2015 £000	Percentage of total as at 31/03/2015 %
under 12 months	10	0	3,652	2.52
12 months and within 24 months	10	0	4,440	3.07
24 months and within 5 years	20	0	10,295	7.11
5 years and within 10 years	25	0	13,548	9.36
10 years and above	100	50	112,837	77.94
Total			144,772	100

7 Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

- 7.1 This indicator is set in order to allow the Council to manage the risk inherent in investments longer than 364 days. For 2014/15 this limit was set at £10m. The Council did not have any investments which exceeded 364 days during 2014/15 because the policy was to limit investments to a shorter period than 1 year.

8 Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

- 8.1 The Council confirms its adoption of the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management at its Council meeting on 26 March 2002. The Council has incorporated the changes from the revised CIPFA Code of Practice into its treasury policies, procedures and practices.

GLOSSARY - Useful guide to Treasury Management Terms and Acronyms

BANK OF ENGLAND	UK's Central Bank
BANK RATE	Bank of England Interest Rate (also known as Base Rate)
CPI	Consumer Price Index – a measure of the increase in prices
RPI	Retail Price Index – a measure of the increase in prices
DMO	Debt Management Office – issuer of gilts on behalf of HM Treasury
FSA	Financial Services Authority - the UK financial watchdog
GDP	Gross Domestic Product – a measure of financial output of the UK
LIBID	London Interbank Bid Rate - International rate that banks lend to other banks
LIBOR	London Interbank Offer Rate – International rate that banks borrow from other banks (the most widely used benchmark or reference for short term interest rates)
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board – a Government department that lends money to Public Sector Organisations
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee - the committee of the Bank of England that sets the Bank Rate
LONG TERM RATES	More than 12 months duration
SHORT TERM RATES	Less than 12 months duration
BOND (GENERAL)	An investment in which an investor loans money to a public or private company that borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a fixed interest rate
GOVERNMENT BOND	A type of bond issued by a national government generally with a promise to pay periodic interest payments and to repay the face value on the maturity date
CORPORATE BOND	A type of bond issued by a corporation to raise money in order to expand its business

COVERED BOND

A corporate bond issued by a financial institution but with an extra layer of protection for investors whereby the investor has recourse to a pool of assets that secures or “covers” the bond if the financial institution becomes insolvent

GILT

A bond that is issued by the British government which is classed as a low risk investment as the capital investment is guaranteed by the government

REPO

A repurchase agreement involving the selling of a security (usually bonds or gilts) with the agreement to buy it back at a higher price at a specific future date
For the party selling the security (and agreeing to repurchase it in the future) it is a REPO
For the party on the other end of the transaction e.g. the local authority (buying the security and agreeing to sell in the future) it is a reverse REPO

FTSE 100

Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 - An index composed of the 100 largest companies listed on the London Stock Exchange which provides a good indication of the performance of major UK companies

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2015

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

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 £0.380m (£0.594m under at the end of June). 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**. £5.406m (74%) of the savings have already been achieved, an increase of £0.113m from that reported in July. Progress on the remaining 26% 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 overspend by £126k (£88k underspend projected at the end of June). As noted in previous months' reports projections in this service can change as the year progresses due to in-year changes in high cost placements. Unfortunately the following changes to a small number of cases have adversely effected the projected outturn:

- A change to one specialist placement's care needs (placement now assessed as requiring 2 to 1 care) has increased projected costs by approximately £76k.
- It is now anticipated that the service will utilise an external agency to secure adoption places for two children at a cost of £76k.

It is hoped the service can reduce the current projected overspend through the management of vacancy savings and possibly through the utilisation of the Specialist Placement Reserve. However the possibility of further changes to high costs placements will remain a risk.

Planning and Public Protection – The service is currently projected to underspend by £50k (£52k 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 budget process.
- **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, college transport 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 August 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 still currently projected that there will be an underspend on Corporate budgets of £0.454m. It is anticipated that this will increase over the coming months as a result of the following initiatives:

- An ongoing review of contingency budgets held centrally.
- A review of reserves and provisions (including Bad Debt Provisions)

The current assumption is that corporate underspends will be used to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan, however recommendations will be made in future monitoring reports once the outcome of the initiatives are known in full.

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 £46.5m with expenditure to date of £15.1m. Also included within Appendix 2 is the proposed expenditure of £29.9m 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 £138 k compared to a budgeted increase of £168k. HRA balances are forecast to be £1.911m 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 August the council's borrowing totalled £183.707m at an average rate of 5.14%. Investment balances were £20.7m at an average rate of 0.52%.

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

Aug-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	10,576	-6,738	3,838	10,494	-6,656	3,838	-82	82	0	0.00%	0
Customers & Education Support	2,454	7,309	-1,988	5,321	7,625	-2,304	5,321	316	-316	0	0.00%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	4,555	15,419	-11,518	3,901	15,873	-11,972	3,901	454	-454	0	0.00%	0
Business Improvement & Modernisation	3,734	5,797	-1,743	4,054	5,858	-1,804	4,054	61	-61	0	0.00%	0
Legal, HR & Democratic Services	2,395	3,476	-1,061	2,415	3,385	-970	2,415	-91	91	0	0.00%	0
Finance & Assets	8,354	10,842	-4,257	6,585	10,800	-4,217	6,583	-42	40	-2	-0.03%	0
Highways & Environmental Services	18,829	34,383	-16,194	18,189	34,432	-16,243	18,189	49	-49	0	0.00%	0
Planning & Public Protection	2,480	3,801	-1,437	2,364	3,949	-1,635	2,314	148	-198	-50	-2.12%	-52
Community Support Services	32,269	46,031	-14,252	31,779	46,371	-14,592	31,779	340	-340	0	0.00%	0
Economic & Business Development	1,421	877	-80	797	1,040	-243	797	163	-163	0	0.00%	0
Children's Services	8,419	10,497	-2,199	8,298	10,642	-2,218	8,424	145	-19	126	1.52%	-88
Total Services	90,637	149,008	-61,467	87,541	150,469	-62,854	87,615	1,461	-1,387	74	0.08%	-140
Corporate	16,142	45,610	-29,007	16,603	45,156	-29,007	16,149	-454	0	-454	-2.73%	-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	62,916	-29,007	33,909	62,462	-29,007	33,455	-454	0	-454	-1.34%	-454
Council Services & Corporate Budget	124,451	211,924	-90,474	121,450	212,931	-91,861	121,070	1,007	-1,387	-380	-0.31%	-594
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	63,731	73,785	-10,479	63,306	74,173	-8,960	65,213	388	1,519	1,907	3.01%	1,907
Total Council Budget	188,182	285,709	-100,953	184,756	287,104	-100,821	186,283	1,395	132	1,527	0.83%	1,313
Housing Revenue Account	-163	13,441	-13,609	-168	13,601	-13,739	-138	160	-130	30		18

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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	Achieved	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	Achieved	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	5,406	74
Savings In Progress/Being Reviewed	1,879	26
Savings Not Achieved or Deferred and not replaced	0	0
Total	7,285	

General Capital Plan

		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital Expenditure					
	Total Estimated Payments - General	22,117	688	171	171
	Total Estimated Payments - Corporate Plan	23,452	2,418	394	
	Contingency	919	500	500	500
	Total	46,488	3,606	1,065	671
Capital Financing					
1	External Funding	15,027	5,021	4,605	4,605
2	Receipts and Reserves	14,339	154	61	
3	Prudential Borrowing	17,122	2,536	504	171
5	Unallocated Funding	(0)	(4,105)	(4,105)	(4,105)
	Total Capital Financing	46,488	3,606	1,065	671

Corporate Plan

		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Approved Capital Expenditure					
	Cefndy Healthcare Investment	140			
	Extra Care	782			
included in above plan					
	Highways Maintenance and bridges	2,500			
	Feasibility Study - New Ruthin School	6			
	Feasibility Study - Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn				
	Rhyl High School	17,116	1,856	333	
	Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy - Dee Valley West Review	4			
	Bodnant Community School	2,326	562	61	
	Ysgol Glan Clwyd	536			
	Faith Based Secondary	42			
Estimated Capital Expenditure		6,460	31,971	25,748	13,324
	Total Estimated Payments	29,912	34,389	26,142	13,324
Approved Capital Funding					
included in above plan					
	External Funding	1,005	416		
	Receipts and Reserves	9,426	562	61	
	Prudential Borrowing	13,021	1,440	333	
Estimated Capital Funding		2,535	8,537	17,277	11,875
	External Funding	2,535	8,537	17,277	11,875
	Receipts and Reserves	3,749	3,593	2,497	480
	Prudential Borrowing	176	19,841	5,974	969
	Total Estimated Funding	29,912	34,389	26,142	13,324

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Appendix 4 - Major Capital Projects Update August 2015

Rhyl Harbour Development

Total Budget	£10.648m
Expenditure to date	£10.537m
Estimated remaining spend in 2015/16	£ 0.111m
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 accessible board walk route from the harbour to the viewing platform has been completed. An extension to the viewing platform and a further short section of boardwalk are due to be completed by the end of September 2015.</p> <p>The picnic area is complete. The map and boards for the children's trail have been delivered to site but have yet to be installed.</p> <p>Work is on-going to rectify any remaining defects associated with 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	£1.096m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£1.723m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.622m
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>Steelwork has been erected to form the new hall and the block work for the new hall and remaining rooms of the new extension are almost complete. Over the summer holiday, improvement works have been carried out in the existing key stage 2 building including: new fire alarm system, creating a new corridor to improve circulation, reshaping two rooms for use as Year 6 classrooms, fitting a new</p>

	<p>staff room, replacing certain window screens and re-designing the car park to improve pedestrian safety and increase parent parking spaces.</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	£2.326m

21st Century Schools Programme - Rhyl New School

Total Budget	£24.586m
Expenditure to date	£ 9.887m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£12.508m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 2.191m
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 roof is complete and the associated plant room has been installed. The glazing is complete and the brickwork is progressing well. The internal walls have been erected and are now being plastered. The first fix of the mechanical and electrical installation is making good progress.</p> <p>The Youth Centre building has been demolished and the adjacent car park is now part of the construction site. Works to create the elevated link between the school and the leisure centre are taking place, and the external works, which have included improvements to the entrance at Grange road are underway.</p> <p>The works to re-roof and re-clad the leisure centre commenced in July. The gymnasium will be back in use mid-September and the sports hall by the end of the month.</p> <p>Works have commenced on the design for the new PE classroom which will be on the footprint of the squash courts.</p> <p>There have been some legal issues relating to the substation which has been a cause for concern; the substation has been relocated to avoid/ minimise any delays.</p>

	<p>The new school is still programmed to complete in February/March 2016, at which point the pupils will transfer to the new school, and the existing school buildings will be demolished and the grounds 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	£2.895m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£1.515m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.014m
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 with all internal block work alterations, formations and internal stud walls now complete. The mechanical and electrical first and second fix are on-going. The cladding solution for the main elevation is also complete. The 8 week road closure to facilitate this caused minimal disruption for residents and businesses and the road is now fully open.</p> <p>The works to the sea defence walls have now commenced and the final design of the sea defence gates/barriers and window shutters have been agreed.</p> <p>The final finish of the resin bond that will be applied to the promenade has now been agreed and will be</p>

	<p>installed after the sea defence walls are completed.</p> <p>All furniture for the café, restaurant and function room is approved and the layout of the fitness suite has been agreed. Equipment installation dates have been agreed.</p> <p>Property and Legal Services are currently working on the lease having agreed Heads of Terms with the company providing the food and beverage offer. The company is working with the Council to agree opening hours, menu costs, soft play party packages, marketing and promotions, calendar of events, normal operating procedures and emergency action plans. They are currently pulling together 'job packs' and will be recruiting shortly.</p> <p>After a consultation exercise it was agreed that the centre will remain known as the Nova. A new Nova brand has now been developed and will be used on web pages, promotional materials, social media and external signage. A website holding page has been developed and will be launched in the coming weeks. This will be supported by a 'coming soon' campaign. The full website will be launched two weeks before the attraction opens to the public.</p> <p>Other promotional campaigns will include use of social media, radio, newspaper editorials, adverts and printed material distributed across the North West. Visit Wales have recognised the Nova as an accredited attraction. The Nova will appear on Visit Wales associated marketing materials and online listings. Brown tourism signs from the A55 will be in place by Easter 2016.</p> <p>The Nova staffing structure has been agreed and expressions of interest from internal staff received. External advertising will start shortly.</p> <p>Temporary toilets were installed near Beach Road West in May 2015; these will remain in place until the end of September 2015.</p> <p>The Council will take partial hand over of the building on 2nd November 2015, with full hand over from 16th November 2015. The centre will open fully to the public from the 23rd November 2015.</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£3.367m

West Rhyl Coastal Development Phase 3

Total Budget	£5.262m
Expenditure to date	£5.035m
Estimated remaining spend in 15/16	£0.227m
Future Years estimated spend	£Nil
Funding	DCC £0.577m; WG/WEFO £4.346m; WG £0.199m; 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 October 2015.</p> <p>Removal of contaminated fill from Phase's 1 & 2 is complete.</p> <p>Lower promenade, including cycleway is complete.</p> <p>Street lighting to the upper promenade is 85% complete.</p> <p>Connecting footpaths are 70% complete.</p> <p>Drainage construction and repairs to existing drainage are complete.</p> <p>The site compound has reduced in size, to allow for landscaping works to take place on Ocean Plaza.</p> <p>Fill to replace the areas for the car parks is still being sought. Works 30% complete.</p> <p>Surfacing and reinstatement of existing footways is 70% complete.</p> <p>Reinstatement of laybys/parking bays is 70% complete.</p> <p>The tie in of works at the eastern end is 95% complete.</p> <p>Works due for completion include:</p> <p>Surfacing of upper promenade; Tie in works at East End; Works to extension of Drift Park play area; Placement of 12 No. benches and bins and Construct foundation for shelter</p>
Forecast In Year Expenditure 15/16	£2.230m

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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
27 October	1	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
	2	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 whether to publish the relevant statutory notice	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	3	Community Infrastructure Levy	To present the findings of a county wide development viability report and outline whether there is a case for pursuing a Community Infrastructure Levy	Yes	Councillor David Smith / Angela Loftus

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	4	Denbighshire's Local Development Plan - Annual Monitoring Report 2014-2015	To approve the annual monitoring report for submission to Welsh Government by the 31st October 2015	Yes	Councillor David Smith / Angela Loftus
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	6	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 Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
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	Supporting People Local	To approve the Supporting	Yes	Cllr Bobby Feeley /

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		Commissioning Plan	People Local Commissioning Plan 2016-19 for submission to the North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee		Sophie Haworth-Booth
	4	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - Compulsory Purchase Order	Tbc	Tbc	Graham Boase
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
12 January	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
16 February	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Future of Adult Provider Services	To consider the future of adult provider services.	Yes	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy / Holly Evans

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
29 March	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 Q3	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
26 April	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

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline
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Cabinet Forward Work Plan

<i>September</i>	<i>15 September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>13 October</i>	<i>10 November</i>	<i>13 November</i>

Updated 15/09/15 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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