

To: Members of the Partnerships
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8 May 2015

Direct Dial: 01824 712554

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **9.30 am** on **THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2015** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, RUSSELL HOUSE, RHYL**.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

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

5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 19th March, 2015 (copy enclosed)

6 ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND THIRD SECTOR IN DENBIGHSHIRE (Pages 13 - 34)

A discussion with representatives from the Denbighshire Coastal Partnership and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) on their role in promoting and supporting community, voluntary and third sector involvement in the county.

9:35am – 10:45am

7 THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB) 2014-15 PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 35 - 52)

To consider a report by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Officer (copy enclosed) which outlines the progress achieved with the governance of the AONB and associated projects.

11:00am – 11:30am

Comfort break

8 REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES IN WALES (Pages 53 - 78)

To consider a report by the Countryside and Heritage Services Manager (copy enclosed) which details the Stage 2 consultation on the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales.

11:30am – 12:00pm

9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 79 - 102)

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

12:00pm – 12:20pm

10 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (Chair)

Councillor Raymond Bartley (Vice-Chair)

Joan Butterfield
Meirick Davies
Richard Davies
Pat Jones

Dewi Owens
Merfyn Parry
Bill Tasker

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PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 1A, County Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 19 March 2015 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Raymond Bartley (Vice-Chair), Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (Chair), Ann Davies, Meirick Davies and Pat Jones

Councillors Brian Blakeley and Martyn Holland attended as observers.

ALSO PRESENT

Director of Social Services (NS), External Funding Team Leader (SMJ), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Administrative Officer (CIW).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Davies, Dewi Owens, Merfyn Parry and Bill Tasker.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ann Davies declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 "Urgent Item" because her son-in-law was employed at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

In accordance with the requirements of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair declared that he intended to include for discussion the following matter requiring urgent attention under Part II:-

1. Closure of Community Development Agency:- Members expressed concerns about the loss of this service at the end of March, 2015. Albeit a Rhyl based facility it does serve the whole County, particularly individuals and community groups in the county's most deprived wards. The Director of Social Services advised that a decision had been taken in 2013 to reduce the funding to the Community Development Agency (CDA) by £25K.

This decision had been taken partly to deal with reducing budgets, but also to meet the needs of developing and delivering social care services to meet the requirements of new social care legislation. Transitional arrangements had been in place during the last two years and the two staff members affected would move to new roles within the Service. Officers, including the Director had met with Rhyl Town Council and the Rhyl Coastal Partnership with a view to the future of the building and alternative methods of delivering the services available there at present.

It was emphasised that some of the services which the Council currently offered at the Agency were non-statutory services, but during austere times the Authority had to concentrate on statutory services and core functions. Since some services offered by the CDA were offered through other agencies such as the Job Centre it would not be an efficient use of limited Council resources for it to duplicate those services. The Director advised that the Council was content for a 'partner' organisation to take over the facility and to have use of the equipment there which was currently owned by the Council. If a social enterprise took over the building it could benefit from incentives such as reduced rents, rates, utility costs etc. However, the Council could not provide the staff for the Centre as its aims would no longer comply with the Welsh Government's (WG) vision and expectations for social care services going forward. The Corporate Director informed members that another meeting was scheduled to take place within the next few days with the Rhyl Coastal Partnership, which in response to members' questions she advised was a registered constitutional body, to see if its interest in the facility could be progressed.

The Committee were of the view that Rhyl was yet again losing a valuable community service. They informed officers that the community owned a number of items of equipment at the CDA and advised that therefore they should not be moved from the facility without the community's consent. Responding to Members' concerns about how the void left by the CDA's closure could be filled the Director advised that the voluntary sector had an important role to play in this area as it could access funding to support such services from central government. She suggested that it may be useful for the Committee to invite both Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and Rhyl Coastal Partnership to a future meeting to discuss their role in supporting community groups across Denbighshire going forward. It was:-

RESOLVED – *that representatives from Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and the Rhyl Coastal Partnership be invited to a future meeting to discuss their role in supporting communities to access services and funding when non-statutory Council services were withdrawn.*

2. Welfare Rights Unit and Macmillan Nursing:- Concerns were raised by Members with respect to the availability of the Macmillan Nursing services to Denbighshire residents following the closure of the Welfare Rights Unit (WRU) at the end of the current financial year. They had been privy to recent information which indicated that the new arrangements for access to Macmillan Nursing care services via the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) were yet to be formally signed, therefore the service would not be up and running by 1 April 2015 as originally intended. The Director of Social Services advised that no formal transition arrangements could be initiated until County Council had taken the decision to withdraw the WRU service. Transitional arrangements were now underway and officers had met with staff the previous day to finalise the arrangements. CAB would gradually be taking over responsibility for hosting the Macmillan Service for Denbighshire for which they would receive funding from the charity.

3. Acute Surgery Services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd:- Members raised concerns about the future of acute surgery services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and the accuracy of an article in the Daily Post, dated the 17th March, 2015 in light of assurances given by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's (BCUHB) Chief Executive, Professor Trevor Purt, on acute surgery services that will be available at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in future.

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to BCUHB's Chief Executive seeking clarity on the types of surgery that would be performed at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in future.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 18th December, 2014 were submitted.

Matters arising:-

8. Rural Development Plan Partnership – The Scrutiny Coordinator explained that a response to a question from Councillor M.LI. Davies, in relation to the awarding funding for projects by Cadwyn Clwyd, would be provided under Agenda Item 5.

RESOLVED – that, subject to the above, the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

5 CO-ORDINATION OF COMMUNITY FUNDING STREAMS

A copy of a report by the Team Leader Economic and Business Development South (TLEBD), which outlined the the current position with European Union (EU) and other funds currently available for Community benefit, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The report provided the current position and availability of potential funding sources, subject to eligibility criteria, for Community benefit. It detailed the support available to Community groups in applying for funding which was also available via external agencies and support networks, and provided a guide to the main sources of EU and other types of funding currently available.

A guide to the main funding sources currently available had been provided and included EU Funds and EU Structural Funds 2014-2020. It was explained that the amount of matched funding would vary according to each theme and project. The programme level grant rates had been provided to give an indication of grant levels anticipated. The investment objectives for the programmes in Wales had been outlined in the report.

the TLEBD during the presentation of her report informed the Committee that:-

- that the focus of the new round of European Funding had changed. Under the new programme fewer local projects would be funded, the emphasis would be on

large strategic projects that would be delivered on either a sub-regional, regional or even a national basis:

- Cadwyn Clwyd had been appointed as the Local Action Group (LAG) to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2014/20, but as the European Union (EU) was yet to approve the RDP, funding for projects could not be released and as a result staff had been released or were under notice of redundancy. This was not an ideal situation but it was out of the Council's control;
- Conwy Voluntary Services Council (CVSC) had recently been appointed as administrators for the Gwynt y Môr Windfarm Fund. This had been a consortia bid, which had included Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and Flintshire Voluntary Services Council (FVSC) amongst other partners. The Advisory Group was now scheduled to meet on 7 April to discuss project eligibility criteria and how to progress with the distribution of grants and monies.

In response to Members' questions the TLEBD advised that:-

- with respect to the Gwynt y Môr Community Fund there was some discrepancies on how far inland the benefits of the Fund should be distributed, the reason for this being that whilst the turbines themselves were offshore their visual impact was seen along the coast, and the associated connections and substation were inland, the substation being near St. Asaph, and as
- as part of the Gwynt y Môr Advisory Group work Denbighshire officers had a very good working relationship with all partners, including CVSC. To date Denbighshire had been represented on the Gwynt y Môr Advisory Group by officers, but now that the fund administrator had been appointed it was likely that the membership and the structures would be reviewed;
- commuted sums monies was administered by various Council departments e.g. Public Realm, Planning and Public Protection, Highways and Environmental Services dependent on the basis on which the commuted sums had been granted. She confirmed that all open spaces commuted sums monies had been committed;
- match-funding requirements for the new round of European funding would be: Structural Funds: 75% grant funding, 25% match funding; RDP: 80% grant funding, 20% match funding. No match funding monies had been allocated yet by the Council. The award and allocation of march funding would be considered on each projects' merit. One project had to date been put forward, this related to an education skills project for 14 to 19 year old students who were at risk of becoming disengaged with education. The match funding element of this project would be in the form of Council staff to work on purchasing alternative curriculum provision to reduce the risk of disengagement;
- support with information and accessing for European Funding projects would in future be available through the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), who had dedicated support for this type of work. Information would also be available on the Sell2Wales website;
- a gap analysis was being undertaken to try and identify areas of non-statutory services which may benefit from RDP funding going forward. It was explained that Councillors would have an important role to play going forward as the link between communities and the funding streams, as they would be key in signposting community groups etc. to DVSC/WCVA, to access advice and support;

- not all community funds provided development funding for the purpose of scoping projects, however there was some development funding available for some BIG Lottery projects;
- very large infrastructure projects sponsored by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, such as the electrification of the North Wales railway line, or the proposed tidal lagoon were outside the scope of the European Structural Funds due to their size and cost;
- she was not aware of any community funding available to help first time buyers access the housing market, but she would enquire with Registered Social Landlords (RSL) to see if they offered funding for this purpose, and she would check in case the rules relating to green spaces commuted sums had changed.

The Committee were keen that an Elected Member be appointed to represent Denbighshire on the successor body to the Gwynt y Môr Community Funding Advisory Board now that a Fund Administrator had been appointed. They also agreed that the invitation extended to the DVSC to attend a meeting of the Committee also outline members' wishes to discuss with its representatives the DVSC's role in assisting communities to access the various streams of external community funding available to them.

Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – *that:-*

- (a) subject to the above observations, to receive the information;*
- (b) to note the Member's role within the community to identify projects and raise awareness of funding sources available to community groups with a view to maximising their benefits to the communities and support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities and its Corporate Plan;*
- (c) to recommend that representations be made to the Gwynt y Môr Community Funding Advisory Group that an Elected Member should in future serve on the relevant body that will oversee the award of grant funding; and*
- (d) that the Committee's future meeting with representatives from Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) include a discussion on the organisation's role in assisting and supporting community groups to access advice on external community funding streams.*

6 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

A copy of a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator (SC), which requested the Committee to review and agree its Forward Work Programme and provided an update on relevant issues, had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

A copy of the 'Member's proposal form' had been included in Appendix 2 and details of the form were provided by the SC. In future no items would be included on a forward work programme without a 'scrutiny proposal form' being completed and accepted for inclusion by the Committee or the SCVCG. The SC explained that assistance in completing forms would be available if required. The Cabinet Forward Work Programme had been included as Appendix 3, and a table

summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising on progress with their implementation, had been attached at Appendix 4.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board:-

It was explained that as Professor Trevor Purt, Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, had attended a Council Briefing on the 16th March, 2015 to discuss the Board's three year plan with all Councillors it was considered premature to invite BCUHB representatives to the Committee on the 30th April to discuss progress to date. Members agreed that the meeting with Health Service representatives should be deferred until the 17th September, 2015 with the 3rd September as a possible alternative date if required.

Members agreed that Councillor J. Butterfield be appointed the Committee Representative on the Education Service Challenge Group. Appendix 5 included an up to date list of Scrutiny representatives on the Service Challenge Groups.

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

30th April, 2015:-

The Scrutiny Coordinator explained that the Principal Countryside Officer: Warden Services had indicated that he would be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for the 30th April, 2015 to present the report on the AONB Joint Committee, and it was agreed that the meeting be cancelled. The Committee agreed that a meeting be convened for either the 14th or 21st May, 2015, depending on the availability of those required to attend, to consider the report on the AONB Joint Committee. It was also agreed that representatives from Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and the Rhyl Coastal Partnership be invited to the meeting to discuss their role in supporting communities to access services and funding when non-statutory Council services were withdrawn. In response to questions from Members, details of the Membership of the Rhyl Coastal Partnership were provided for the Committee.

30th July, 2015:-

- The SC explained that an officer request for the Committee to consider a report on the Denbighshire Communities First Cluster had been permitted and scheduled into the forward work programme for the 30th July, 2015.

The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) had, on the 19th February, 2015, considered the Welsh Government's recent White Paper Devolution,

Democracy and Delivery – Reforming Local Government: Power: Power to Local People. Chapter 8 of the White Paper, ‘Strengthening the Role of Review’, set out the WG’s proposals for scrutiny, and a brief summary of the proceedings was provided by the SC.

The Annual Report on the Scrutiny Committees’ activities during the year would be presented to the Annual Council meeting in May. An evaluation exercise of Scrutiny had been undertaken with a questionnaire having been circulated to Scrutiny Members, and to a wider group including all Councillors and members of SLT. The SC requested that the questionnaires be returned as soon as possible.

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

7 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

No reports from Committee representatives had been received.

Meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.

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DENBIGHSHIRE COASTAL PARTNERSHIP



Charitable
Body Oversees

Rhyl Community
Partnership

Prestatyn & Meliden
Community
Partnership

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Rhyl Community Partnership

Public Sector
x 2 Members

Town Council
x 1 Member

Private Sector
x 2 Members

Third Sector
Network
8 – 10 Members

County Councillor
x 1 Member

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

WHAT DO WE DO?



We aim to bring together all sections of the community in an attempt to work in partnership to:

- Avoid duplication
- Share resources
- Share ideas
- Encourage joint working on integrated work projects

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

SINCE 2005

THE PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING AND
ADMINISTERING THE RWE INNOGY UK LTD COMMUNITY FUND
WHICH AMOUNTS TO £60,000 ANNUALLY



Applications for this fund are invited from eligible community groups / voluntary organisations using the following criteria

- Health, Social Care & Well Being- *Caring communities & healthy future*
- Housing - *A Place to Live*
- Environment and Transport - *A Clean and pleasant land*
- Community Safety - *Creating a safe and secure environment*
- Economic Prosperity & Tourism -*Developing business & enterprise*

Upwards of 350 groups have secured funding in support of projects which benefit the wider community

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

EXAMPLES OF A WIDE RANGE OF GROUPS
WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM
THE COMMUNITY FUND



- Normandy Veterans Association
- 8th Rhyl Guides
- Benefits Advice Shop
- Botanical Gardens Enterprises
- British Heart Foundation
- Cruse Bereavement Care
- Friends of the Pavilion Theatre
- Glan Morfa Cycling Association
- Rhyl Tynwydd Townswomen's Guild
- Rhyl Music Club
- Soroptimist International Rhyl & District
- SPAN –Disabled Children Respite Care
- Rhyl in Bloom
- NW Women's Centre
- Rhyl Visionaires
- Rhylcreate
- Rhyl Business Group
- West Rhyl Community Land Trust
- Rhyl Raptors Wheelchair Basketball
- Parkview Neighbourhood Watch
- Chat Away Coffee Club
- Hearing Aid – Hear to Help
- Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych
- NW Superkids
- Marsh Community Association
- Playdays Playgroup

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION EVENING



RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

NEW CHALLENGES



- Current economic challenges facing all local authorities poses a real challenge for the community in the future
- Increased need for third sector organisations to take on non statutory service delivery
- Commitment made in the financial year 2014-2015 to fund a proportion of the cut in the DCC Community Development Agency budget
- Developing, supporting and sustaining the community / voluntary sector through the provision of a unique practical Resource Centre, which is not currently available elsewhere within the county
- Promote resilience within the community through empowerment to identify needs and problems, seeking suitable solutions and playing an active role in their community, maximising and realising their full potential.

RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

THE FUTURE



- Continue to administer the RWE Innogy UK Ltd Community Fund
- Support Community Groups to secure other grant funding
- Ensure sustainability of the Community Resource Centre
- Further encourage a cohesive community with the skills and expertise to fully participate in the future of Rhyl
- Recognise a continually evolving and changing society and the need for diversification



A Third Sector Sector Perspective

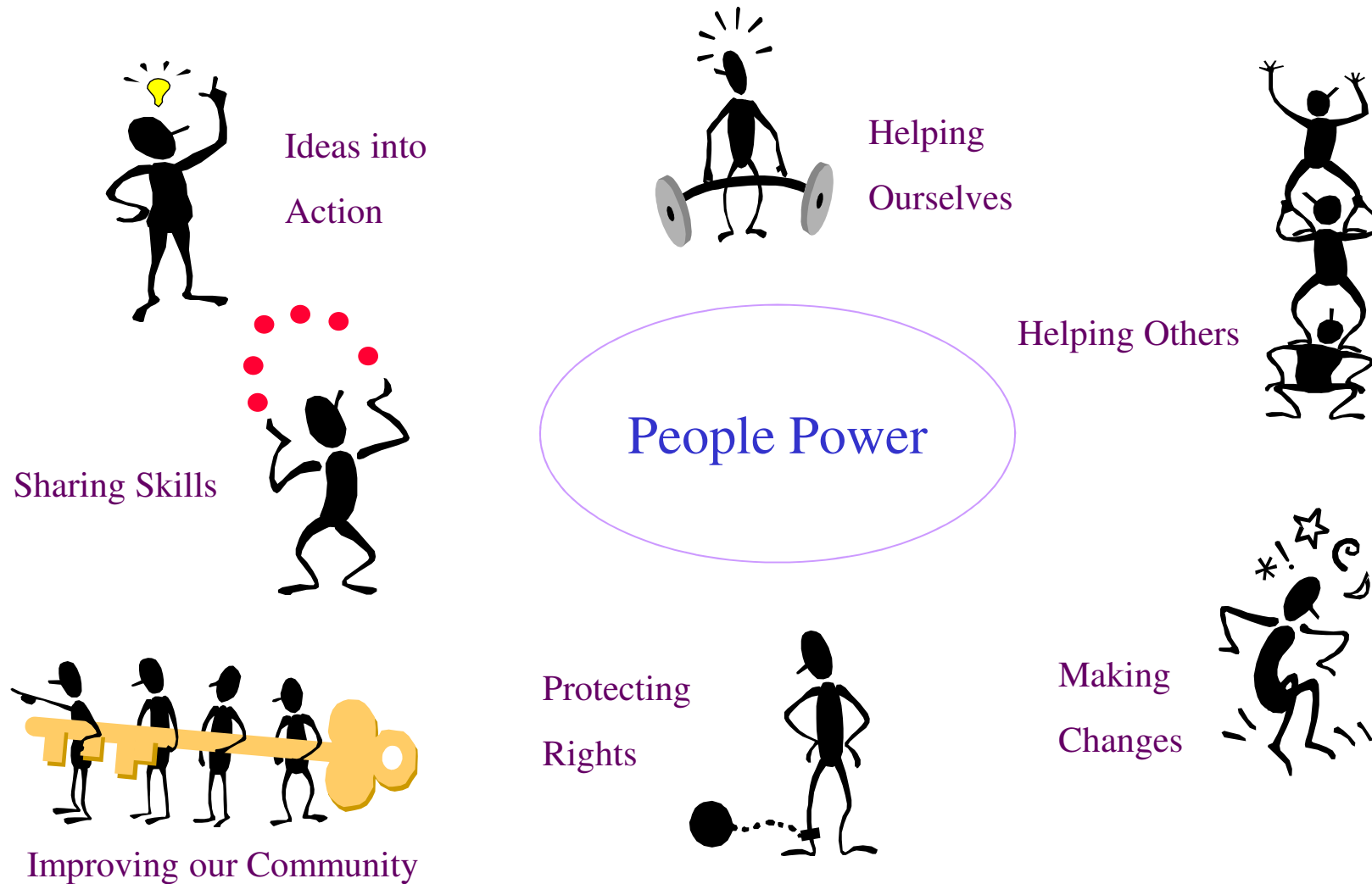
John Watkin

Role of the Third Sector

“Third Sector plays a vital role in improving the lives of people across Wales by releasing the energy and skills of ordinary people. Voluntary organisations provide services that the public and private sectors often cannot”

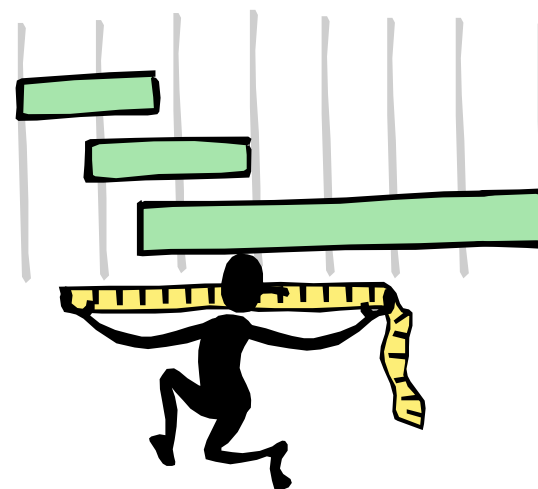
Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration
Nov 29 2007.

Voluntary Action



The Third Sector in Denbighshire

- Over 1,500 Charities, Voluntary, Community Groups, Social Enterprises, Cooperatives and Housing Associations.
- 4,500 Staff
- 20,000 Volunteers and Trustees
- £70 million plus Annual Income



What Does the Third Sector Do?

Community Groups Older People

Animal Welfare

Training

Health + Social Care

Arts

Disability

Families

Sports + Leisure



Children and Young People

Community Transport

Fundraising

Conservation +
Environment

Housing +

Minority Rights

Homelessness

Why Partnerships?

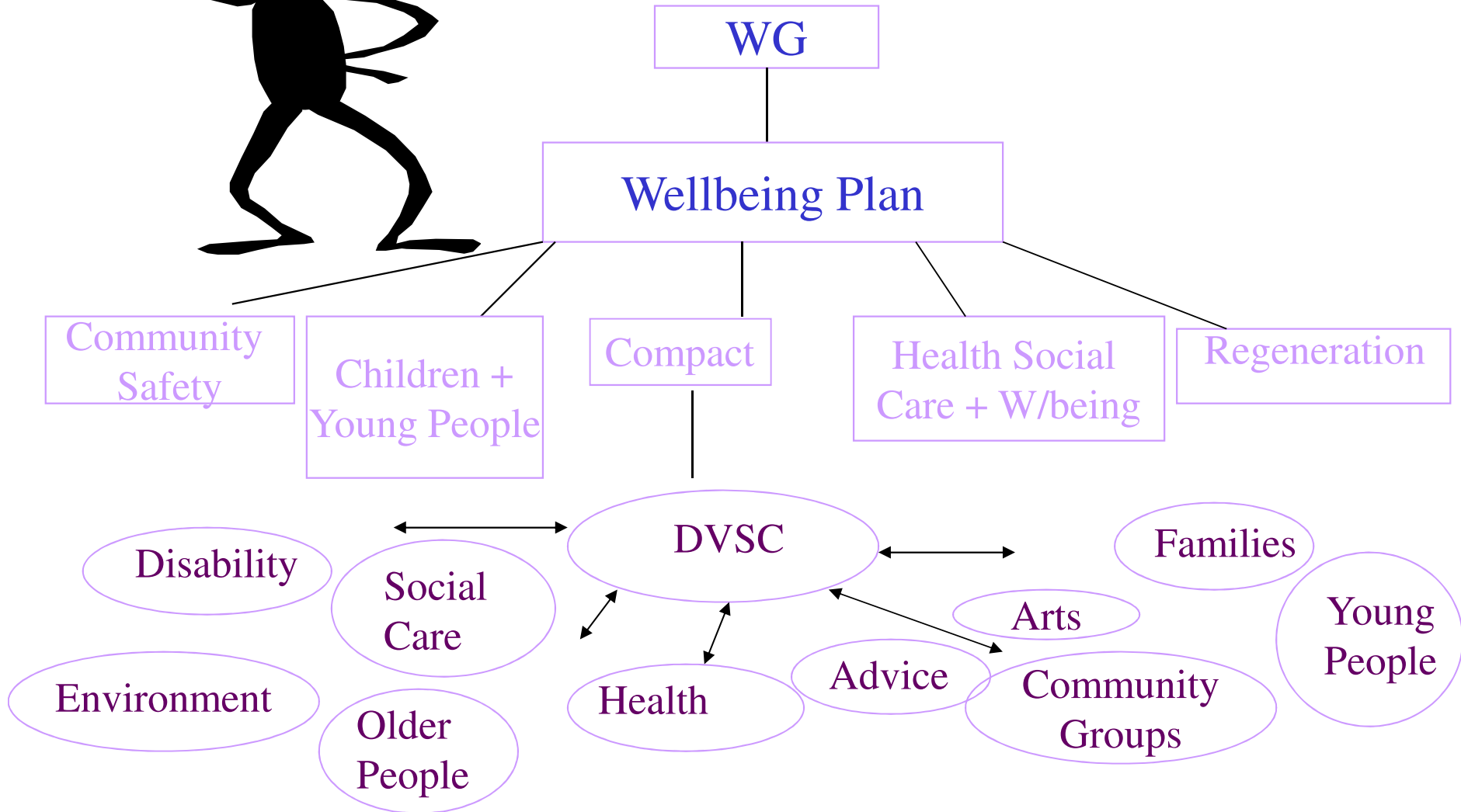
- Welsh Government
- Cooperation rather than Competition
- Better Way to Plan
- Better Use of Resources – Less Duplication
- More Inclusive



Partnership Map



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DVSC Role



What does DVSC do to help Third Sector

- Volunteer recruitment and placement
- Funding advice
- Low cost training courses
- Payroll / accounting service
- Social Enterprise support
- Representation and lobbying
- Governance, constitutional advice
- Charity registration advice
- Involvement in consultations
- Room and desk space hire
- B2C business brokerage scheme

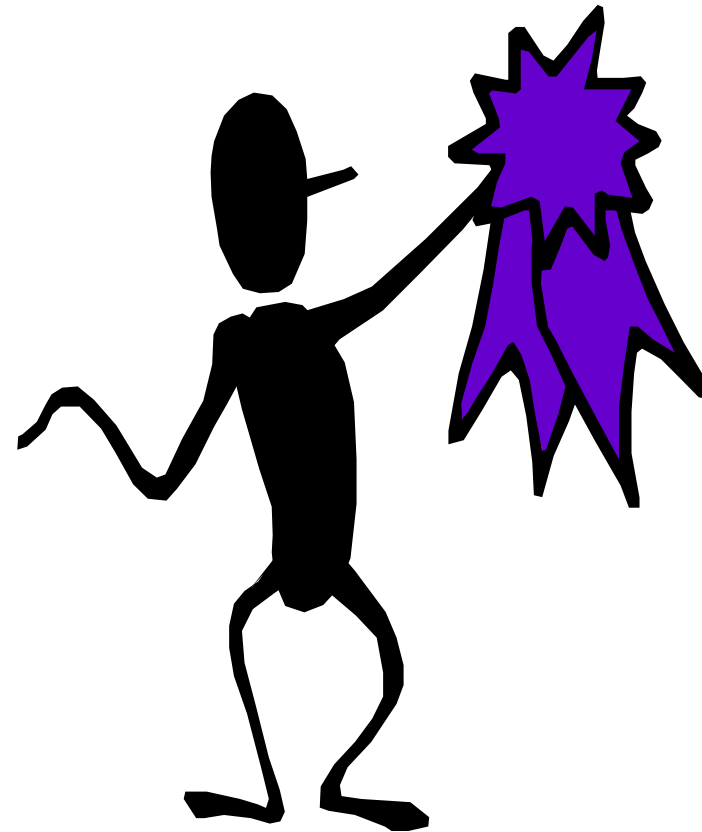
Challenges for the Third Sector

- ❖ Representation - Elected - Appointed
- ❖ Diversity - Size - Autonomy
- ❖ Capacity - Time - Skills - Resources
- ❖ Confidence and Competence
- ❖ Communication and Consultation
- ❖ Power and Influence

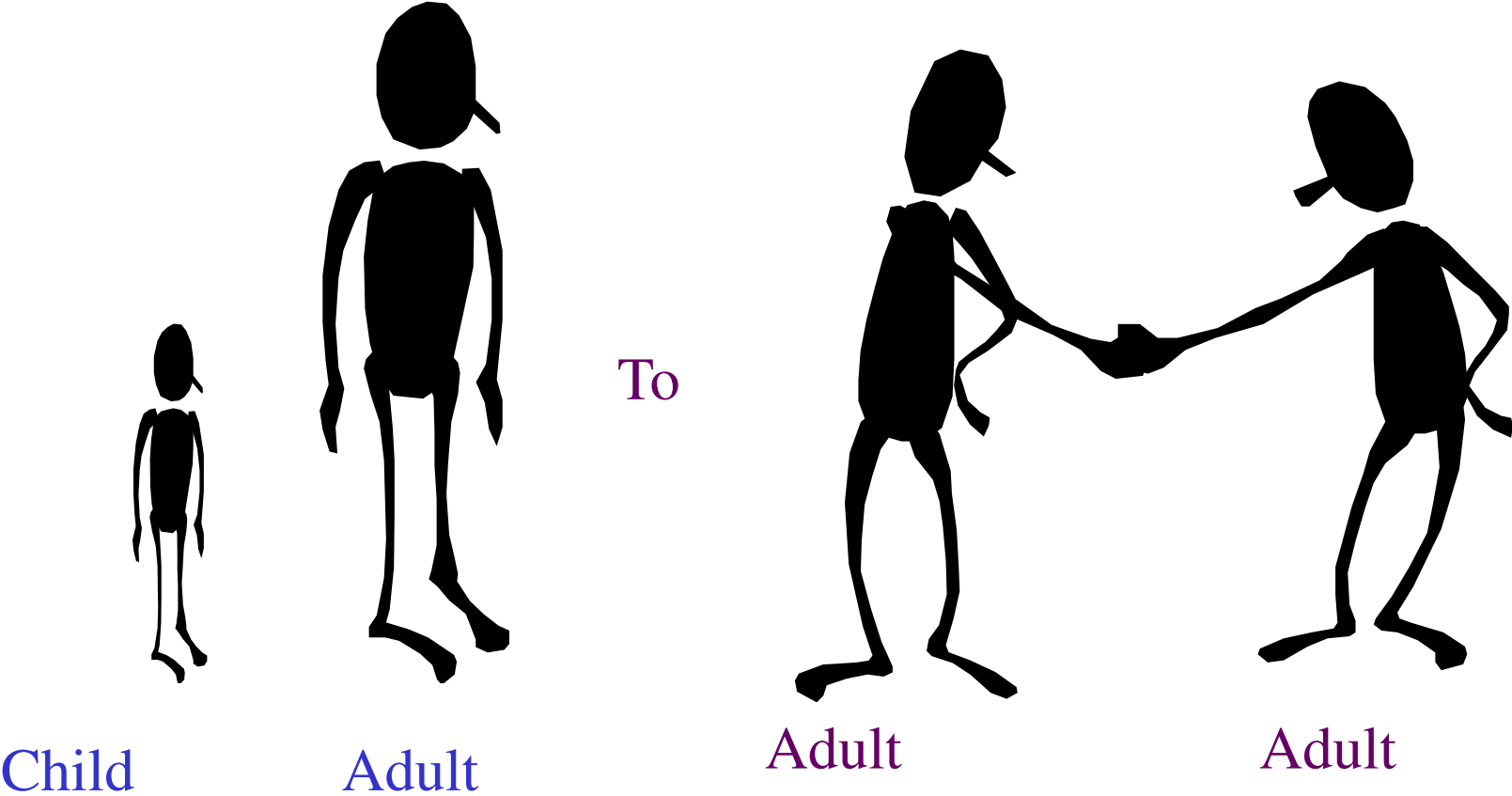


Making Partnerships Work

- ✓ Shared Goals
- ✓ Clear Purpose
- ✓ Trust and Respect
- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Mutual Understanding
- ✓ Positive Relationships
- ✓ Shared Power
- ✓ Shared Resources
- ✓ Effective Communication



Making the Change



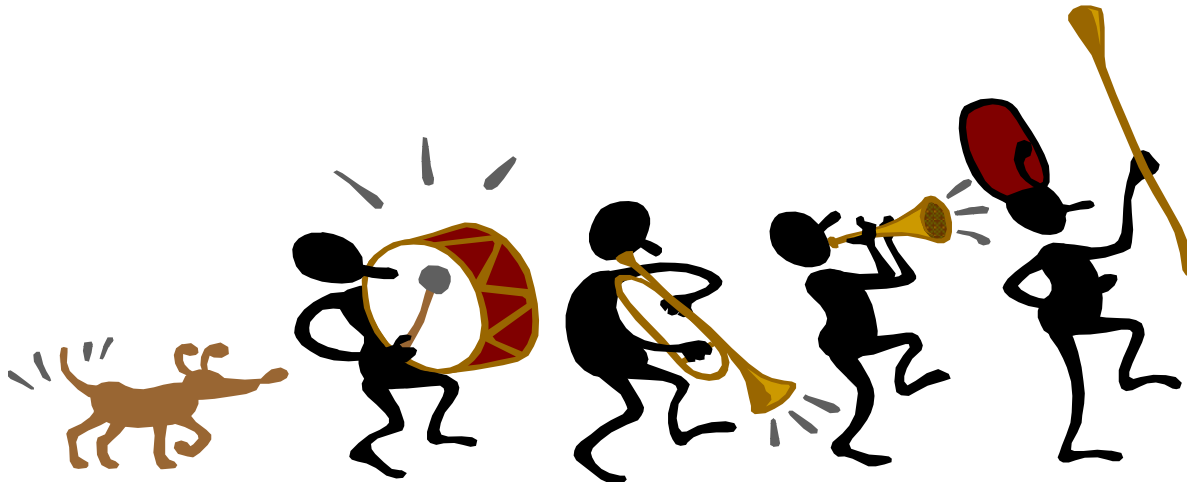
What Next?

- What Can the Third Sector Do?
- What Can the Local Authority Do?
- What Can the Local Health Board Do?
- What Can Welsh Government?



Over to You!

Thank you



Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14th May 2015

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development /AONB Officer

Report Author: AONB Officer

Title: The Joint Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 2014-15 Progress Report

1. What is the report about?

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) stretches from Prestatyn in the North, to Chirk Castle in the South; it includes the attractive towns of Llangollen and Corwen and encompasses 390 square kilometres of the three Counties of Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire. Map (Appendix 1). It is the largest of 5 AONBs in Wales and is nationally protected and locally managed.

From 1996 until November 2014 the AONB was managed by a Joint Advisory Committee and an Interim Joint Advisory Committee (IJAC), this was superseded by The Joint Committee of the three constituent Local Authorities. It met for the first time on the 14th November 2014 and has subsequently appointed the AONB Partnership (Similar to the former IJAC) which meets for the first time tomorrow the 15th May 2015.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

It was agreed at a previous Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting that the Lead Member and AONB Officer would update Denbighshire's Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on progress over the first 12 months.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee scrutinises, comments and supports the progress that has been undertaken on AONB Governance and the Projects delivered in the first 12 months

4. Report details.

Governance

The Joint Committee has met twice in the previous 12 months in November 2014 and February 2015, firstly in Ruthin and secondly in Wrexham. A third meeting is due on June the 26th in Mold. The first meeting appointed a chair for the Joint Committee, Councillor Hugh Jones from Wrexham County Borough Council

(WCBC) and a Vice Chair Councillor Huw Jones Denbighshire County Council (DCC).

The Joint Committee agreed to establish an AONB Partnership at its first meeting as per the legal agreement. Members appointed to the Partnership have a primary responsibility to ensure that the Partnership furthers the statutory purposes set out in the CROW Act 2000. They should regard themselves first and foremost as members of the Partnership, with a duty to act in the best interests of the Partnership and of the AONB, rather than representatives of any organisation or interest. The 16 Partnership Members (Which excludes the 9 LA Partnership Members) were agreed at a Sub Group of the JC on the 19th March 2015.

The Joint Committee agreed the following at its two meetings:-

- its Constitution and Legal Agreement
- to advertise and appoint an AONB Partnership
- its Budget
- to consult on Draft Management Plan
- to receive the Forward Work Programme (Appendix 2)

It has also received reports on the following:-

- interim JAC Minutes
- Climate Change Project
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy

As a consequence and possibly in recognition of this closer working relationship and the importance of the AONB around the World Heritage Site (WHS), the AONB Partnership Chair and AONB Officer have been appointed to the World Heritage Site Board.

A very positive funding message has been sign posted by WCBC. It increased their agreed £5,000 contribution for 2014-15 to £12,000 and their 2015-16 contribution to £19,000.

Project in and adjacent to the AONB

It is vitally important that the AONB connects to the surrounding areas, so that those who live there can enjoy the benefits and contribute to the landscape of the AONB, with this in mind the AONB are particularly focused on two areas of work for the future: - Volunteers Strategy and Outreach Strategy these will mutually benefit the AONB and the population who live around it.

Two major projects in the North of the AONB and its surrounding area have been the Green Lynx Project (Appendix 3) and the Cycling Centre of Excellence (Appendix 4), which is both closely linked to the AONB, and the Countryside Officers based in Rhyl.

Welsh Government contributed over £70,000 to the AONB Sustainable Tourism Fund. Here is a taste of the 19 projects the Fund supported:-

- Countryside Grant Schemes to Farmers, 9 projects were undertaken on separate farms, improving hedgerows; 1,760 metres of hedgerow were improved.

- Llanarmon-yn-Iâl - Walls working with local groups and businesses 130 metres of drystone walls were repaired.
- Pentredŵr Village Hall Improvements.
- Gwernymynydd School grounds for wildlife.
- Prestatyn Walking Festival.
- Plas Madoc Families Project.
- Lamb Branding, Clwydian range lamb is now available in the Food Hall at the Tweedmill.
- Pantymwyn Village Hall.
- Young Rangers.
- Llangollen Walking Festival.
- AONB Food Trail.
- Plas Madoc Youth Project.
- Corwen Welcome the Train.
- Shepherds Hut Moel Famau, this facility now provides traditional refreshments and local employment at Moel Famau.
- Community Transport, transport can be a barrier to groups getting out this fund was designed to help groups access the AONB.

The AONB Team has led and supported on a number of other major projects including:-

- Corwen Welcomes the Train - the AONB team have undertaken work in conjunction with the railway, local businesses and train users to deliver a number of initiatives. These included an official launch of the railway extension. An AONB presence at a railway gala event. Corwen business advertising on the temporary platform. The development of promotional material and souvenirs, such as postcards, mugs and plaques. The installation of new benches on the path between the railway and town, and in Coed Pen y Pigyn woodland, to provide better opportunities to enjoy a short stay in Corwen. (see leaflet)
- Llantysilio toilet refurbishment and improvements to car park, interpretation and access to the Horseshoe Falls.
- Contribution to the Chain Bridge restoration.
- Work on improving access to the Jubilee Tower and improvements to interpretation (see leaflet)
- Drafting of an SEA, State of the AONB Report, Management Plan and Action Plan.
- Adoption of Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2015-20 and as part of the action plan award of AONB Badge to 5 Activity Operators in the AONB.
- The Alyn and Wheeler landscape-scale project obtained grant funding from WREN and staff have continued to support implementation of the project via the NWWT project officer.

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

- **Economy-** there is no doubt that rural tourism economy plays a key role to the success of rural Authorities; the AONB supports this aim through the delivery of projects and partnerships.

- **Health and Wellbeing-** Both visitors and residents are encouraged to participate in outdoor events from walking, cycling, education to specific health events. In the future one aspect of work will focus on an inclusion project on education for other areas in North Wales and the North West.
- **Community-** Welsh Government has in recent years, played a pivotal role in supporting the AONBs through their Sustainable Development Fund.

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

Denbighshire is the Lead Authority for the AONB as it has been since local government reorganisation in 1996. It will continue to be the lead Authority for the Joint Committee; as such it will provide the following officers for the Joint Committee: the Secretary and Treasurer. The Joint Committee meetings will be hosted by each Authority in turn; the host Authority will provide the Secretariat for that meeting. These costs will be mainly to Legal and Democratic Services. Denbighshire will provide a separate budget line and report to the Committee. As with all Joint Committee Budgets the budget will have to be independently audited. These are costs to Finance and Countryside.

In terms of the budget, the current budget can be seen in the legal agreement. Over the next five years the budget will become, by negotiation equitable between the three Authorities.

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.

See Appendix 5

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

The AONB Officer consulted Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in 2014 on the new governance arrangements. The Joint Committee is by its nature a partnership and will lead on consulting and working with the AONB Partnership and other organisations.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The financial position of the Joint Committee (JC) has been reported to each of the JC meetings held so far. The meetings have provided a forum to scrutinise both the income and expenditure of the JC and also to formally approve the budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16. Work is currently ongoing to produce the final accounts for the JC which involves producing separate financial statements to the Local Authority. The financial statements for 2014/15 will be taken to the next meeting in June for formal approval and a note regarding the statements will be included in DCC's Statement of Accounts. The increase in annual contributions from Wrexham County Borough Council has been noted and welcomed.

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

- **Financial-** The risk is low; it is monitored and reported on by DCC Finance Officers.
- **Reputation-** The formation of the Joint Committee and AONB Partnership formalises the AONB Governance, and shows that the Local Authorities can work in a structured and collaborative way.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 The legal basis to establishing a Joint Committee lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee.'

11.2 Scrutiny's powers with respect to the partnerships such as the AONB are detailed in Article 6.1 and 6.3.4(d).

Contact Officer:

AONB Officer
Tel 01352 810614

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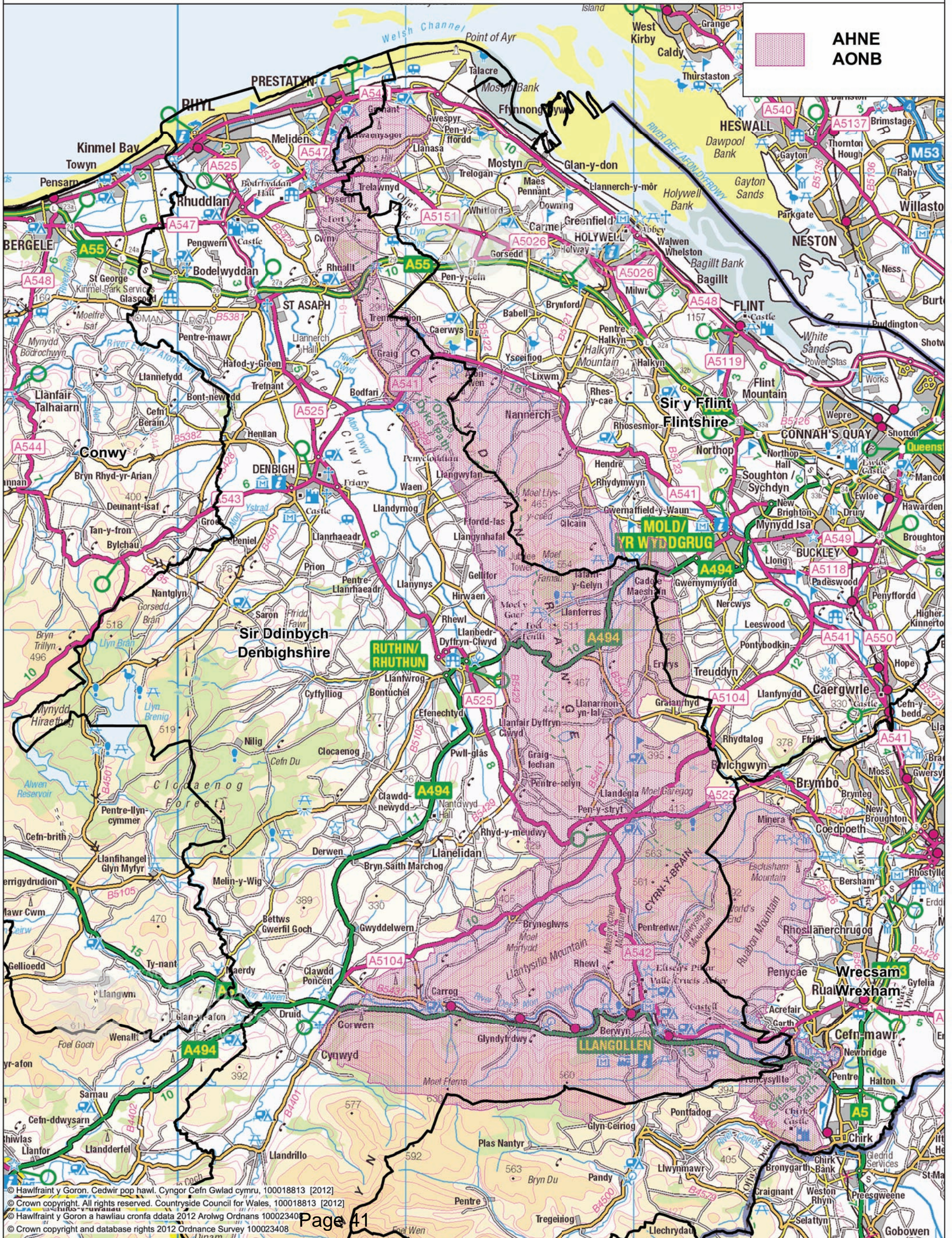
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Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB



Bryniau Clwyd a
 Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
 Clwydian Range
 and Dee Valley

National Heritage
 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Appendix 2

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme February 2015 Update			
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
Finance			
Finance and Funding	To be a standing item on the Forward Work programme	Report to each JC	Neutral
Strategic Plans 2014-16			
Communications Strategy	To asses monitoring and effectiveness of AONB Communication	Spring 2015	Neutral
Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	Launch of an independent 'Friends Group'	Summer 2015	Neutral
AONB Management Plan	To support the Policies of the AONB through contribution to consultations. To implement the AONB Action Plan	Summer 2015	Neutral
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	To provide a policy statement, engagement plan and action plan	Summer 2015	Neutral
Business Plan	To write a five year business plan	Autumn 2015	Neutral
Projects 2015-16			
Clwydian Range 30 th Anniversary	Celebration of Anniversary		Neutral
AONB Tourism Strategy	To Implement the action plan	Autumn 2015	Neutral
Climate Change Programme	To implement and promote the new literature	Summer 2015	Neutral
Edernion Tourism Strategy	To implement the action plan	Autumn 2015	Neutral
AONB Icons			
World Heritage Site	Collaboration between the two designations	Autumn 2014	Neutral
Section 85 Organisations			
Planning	To produce an SPG for the AONB	Spring 2016	-ve
Tranquillity	To investigate improvements to Dark skies	Spring 2016	-ve
Urbanisation	To enter into an agreement with NEWTRA and LA Highways to respect the AONB's rural nature	Spring 2016	-ve
Tourism	Investigate how best to integrate the NE Wales and AONB Brands	Spring 2016	Visit Wales E4G

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Green Links – End of Project Report

Background

Green Links was a 12 month £170,000 joint Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council initiative, largely funded by RWE Innogy UK as part of its Gwynt y Môr tourism fund. The project covers the coastal area between Llandudno and Prestatyn.



The principal aims of the project are promotion of the walking and cycling routes and the green spaces within the project area to bring about:

- Economic regeneration through tourism
- Improved links to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Improved access to Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Improved quality of life and health for local communities

The project was delivered by a dedicated project officer managed within the Countryside Services of Conwy and Denbighshire, and with support from their Tourism units. The project officer started in November 2013 and has now successfully delivered all project elements.

Project Deliverables

The project was mainly based around information sharing to both visitors and local residents. Small scale infrastructure work was completed to improve access and promote usage of the Green Spaces and walking and cycling infrastructure. The following is a summary of the key deliverables including who is now responsible for each product:

Web-based information

Web-based information forms the primary avenue for engaging with visitors before they arrive in the Green Links area. www.greenlinks.org.uk provides nature reserve information, itinerary planning, accommodation searches and booking along with interactive travel planning. The website also includes bespoke promotional media including videos and



pictures of the nature reserves; for some reserves this is the only online record. The site also contains event information including countryside service specific events as well as general events to improve visitor experience.

Greenlinks.org.uk forms part of the wider Destination Conwy suite of websites. This ensures sustainability of the web

content which will be kept updated by Conwy TICs and Denbighshire Countryside Service. The website was designed and marketed by Newmind Ltd with content and layout delivered by the Green Links Project Officer.

Touch Screen Information Points

Four touch screen information points were developed to provide information to visitors and tourists once they were in the Green Links area. Touch screens are available from the Rest

and Be Thankful Cafe on the Great Orme, Porth Eirias in Colwyn Bay, Public Square in Rhyl Harbour and Prestatyn. The touch screens provide information on available walking, cycling and green space opportunities in the local vicinity. The network of touch screens also encourage visitors to travel further within the Green Links area.

The touch screens applications were a bespoke development by the Web Publishing Portal with content provided by the Green Links project officer. The application was developed in such a way to allow additional touch screen locations to be easily incorporated into the network. The touch screens are in a branded kiosk and supported by specific Green Links leaflets.



Leaflets

Green Links has created a series of leaflets highlighting the promoted nature reserves, walking and cycling routes. Green Links developed 7 leaflets in partnership with Illustrative Mapping. 6 of the leaflets cover key towns and areas in a smaller scale with the final leaflet covering the whole Green Links area. Leaflets are available from relevant tourist information centres, some accommodation providers and public buildings.

Links to the AONB include Coed Bell, Bishops Wood, Prestatyn Hillside and the Prestatyn Dyserth way

Infrastructure Projects

The Green Links area is already well furnished with infrastructure including the North Wales Path, Wales Coast Path and North Wales Coastal Cycle Route. Green Links carried out small scale infrastructure improvements including path works to some local nature reserves, adding additional cycle parking facilities and signing part of NCN 84 from Rhyl to Rhuddlan.

Monitoring

Green Links has installed 1 dual pedestrian and cycle counter at the west end of Pensarn promenade and a pedestrian counter on the Marine Drive Llandudno. These are both managed by Conwy County Borough Council and will assist with traffic management; they will also complement existing counters within Denbighshire. A qualitative route user survey was also carried out in March 2014 to determine the attitudes of users of the Green Links route. This helped to influence the development of various Green Links products previously described here.



North Wales Cycling Centre of Excellence

The aim of the North Wales Cycling Centre of Excellence was to create an area nationally renowned as an outstanding, all year round destination for cycling and outdoor activities. The three year partnership project with Dŵr Cymru and Conwy County Borough Council came to an end in June 2014.

The project delivered the following outcomes, 1 jobs created, 270 km of promoted routes, 60,671 visits, one new development and 13 businesses assisted.

As part of the project a three day loop was established, the Triban Trail which has led to improvements to some Rights of Way in the area and also the creation of new routes. A significant outcome of the work is a new bridleway on the western side of the Clwydian Range, which adds value to the current trails in the Country Park and means that people do not need to do a return



route along the road.

Another area which provided a significant improvement was the resurfacing of the path along the railway line at Corwen as a multi user route, making the section accessible for wheelchair users and cyclists. Gateway signage has been installed at the start of each day's trail section.



In 2014 the projects achievements was celebrated with the visit of the Commonwealth Games' Queen's Baton. A relay of volunteers that have made a significant contribution to conserve the countryside or help people enjoy the countryside carried the baton to the summit of Moel Famau.



Promotional material has also been created by the project, which includes the development of a website and a mobile phone ap. The website and ap are both soon to be extended to include outstanding road cycling routes in addition to mountain biking routes. The portable track continues to be popular and was taken to venues across the UK in partnership with One Planet as part of the Mountain Biking Marathon Series, to promote the areas mountain biking offer.



Through the North Wales Cycling Centre of Excellence Scheme, Dwr Cymru built an extension to the visitor centre at Llyn Brenig, including the introduction of bike hire and bike wash facilities. Visitor figures to Llyn Brenig are up by 43% following the completion of the new visitor centre.



A new cycle track across was also established by the scheme on the northern side of the lake, which means that cyclists no longer need to negotiate the fast B road, creating a family friendly ride.

The new mountain bike track at Marsh Track has now been complete. The project was a great success with the development of a 2km trail, built on an old tip site. The project utilised material excavated from the Rhyl Cut, resulting in a saving of £437, 624.



The Joint Committee for the Clwydian
Range and Dee Valley Area of
Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
2014-15 Progress Report
14th May 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Proposed creation of Joint Committee

Contact: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer

Updated: 23rd April 2015

1. What type of proposal is being assessed?

Other

2. Please describe the purpose of this proposal

Reporting the progress in 2014-15 of AONB Governance and Projects

3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment?
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)

No

4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

The Governance meetings will be accessible to all. Projects where possible improve accessibility to all, sometimes upland terrain prevents this.

5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

No, the proposal is neutral

6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

No

7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?

No	This has not been necessary, as no potential negative impact has been identified.
----	---

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

Yes	As discussed earlier, no potential negative impact has been identified. However, the actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed after implementation to see if any lessons can be learned.
-----	--

Action(s)	Owner	Date
none		

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 will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	23/4/15
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Howard Sutcliffe	23/4/15

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

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Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14th May 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development/Head of Highways and Environmental Services

Report Author: Countryside and Heritage Services Manager
Denbighshire

Title: Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Stage 2
Call for Evidence

1. What is the report about?

On 25 September 2014 the Minister for Natural Resources announced an independent review into the purpose and governance of the designated landscapes in Wales, the three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

One of the 5 AONBs, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty spans the county boundaries of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

This report provides a brief summary of Stage 1 of the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales and explains what evidence Stage 2 is requesting. Both items of information are in Appendix 1.

The report presents a draft response (Appendix 2) to Stage 2 from DCC for members of the committee to discuss and refine.

If agreement can be reached by the Committee the final response will then be submitted to the Review Board after authorisation from Cabinet/Lead Member.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek members' views on the draft DCC response (Appendix 2) to the questions raised in Stage 2 of the Review of Designated Areas in Wales. A decision is then required on whether to agree the refined draft response can be passed to Cabinet for endorsement as DCC's official response to the Review.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To discuss and recommend for approval DCC's official response to the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Stage 2 call for evidence.

4. Report details.

In September 2014 the Minister for Natural Resources announced an independent review into the purpose and governance of the designated landscapes in Wales. This two stage review has firstly examined the designations themselves, looking at their purposes and the merits of classifying Wales' designated landscapes under one type of designation.

The recommendations from Stage 1 are outlined in Appendix 1 under the section labelled Annex 1. The main recommendations include;

- There should be no single designation;
- There is ONE set of statutory purposes and an associated single statutory duty for both designations.
- Changing the name of "Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty" (AONBs) to "National Landscapes of Wales"
- There should be THREE interlocking statutory purposes for both the National Parks *and* National Landscapes.

These are:

"To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape and seascape qualities of the area," (*the Conservation Purpose*)

"To promote physical and mental well-being through the enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the area," (*the Human Well-being Purpose*)

"To promote sustainable forms of natural resource management and economic and community development which support the cultural heritage of the area." (*the Sustainable Resource Management Purpose*)

- A new single Statutory Duty that removes the weak "have regard to" prefixes in the current duties on relevant public bodies, and replaces them with a single and clear duty: "To contribute to the delivery of the three Purposes of the National Designated Landscapes."

The report of Stage 1 will now provide the basis for proceeding to Stage 2 of the review as set out in the original terms of reference. This includes:

- Review the governance and management arrangements of the designated landscapes;
- Review and examine how any governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication; and
- Review and examine the best way for any future governing body to reinforce local accountability and decision making.

Both designations (National Parks and AONBs) currently have different governance arrangements.

The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of independent National Park Authorities for each of the National Parks in Wales. Each Park is governed by a board comprising two thirds local councillors appointed by constituent local authorities, and one third appointed by The Welsh Ministers. Their approved revenue expenditure is set each year by The Welsh Ministers, and the authorities levy their constituent authorities for the balance of their operational budget. National Park Authorities are the planning authorities for their areas.

Most of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales are overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), with any services embedded within constituent local authorities. However, there is no central funding. The JAC is a statutory consultee on planning applications for the area.

Recently the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB has moved away from this model. A Joint Committee has been formed, consisting of 2 cabinet/executive members from each of the Local Authorities. Below this a Partnership will be formed, consisting of a number of stakeholders with an interest in the AONB. This is considered a stronger model for the promotion of collaboration, better decision making and improved local accountability.

The Review has been very specific in its requirements and constructed a series of questions to help collect the evidence. Stage 2 asks the following;

1. What are the most effective governance arrangements for designated landscapes that allow them to lead on and meet ambitious outcomes within and for Wales?

In order to answer this question you may want to consider and respond to these additional, related questions:

2. In light of the Review's Stage One report and recommendations and the Minister for Natural Resources' written statement (dated the 4th March) what is your vision and ambition for the direction of Wales's designated landscapes in the medium to long term?

3. From a governance perspective, what factors are preventing and/or likely to prevent designated landscapes from achieving the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?

4. From a governance perspective, what factors will allow designated landscapes to achieve the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?

5. Are there other designated landscape/protected area governance models/approaches you wish to bring to the attention of the Review?

A draft response to these questions has been prepared for the Committee to discuss and is set out in Appendix 2.

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

The AONB has a proven track record in enhancing local communities and improving the local economy. Improving the governance of the AONB will contribute to the efficient running of the Council and improve services to our customers.

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

Responding to the review will not result in any costs or affect other services.

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

See Appendix 3 attached.

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

This is the first report about this review to go to a Denbighshire County Council committee. The review will also be considered by the Joint Committee of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB later in the month.

- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

In responding to this review there is no impact on budgets or implications of a financial nature.

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

n/a

- 11. Power to make the Decision**

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, and Articles 6.3.2(c) (d), and 6.3.4(ch) specify scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter.

Contact Officer:

Countryside and Heritage Services Manager

Tel: 01352 811029

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Third Floor, South Core, CO4
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

24 March 2015

I am writing on behalf of the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales – who are carrying out an independent review concerning Wales’ National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONBs) commissioned by the Minister for Natural Resources.

As you may be aware the Minister, as well as the wider Welsh Government Cabinet, has considered our Stage One report concerning the purposes and duties of designated landscapes, and whether there should be one designation covering both National Parks and AONBs. The report was received positively and the Minister has asked the Review to continue onto Stage Two of our work examining the governance arrangements of the two designations.

We have resolved, again, to involve stakeholders in gathering evidence over the forthcoming months; and we look forward to full and frank discussions around designated landscape governance. We want evidence to better understand what works; where change is required, and what are the optimum governance arrangements to achieve the Minister’s challenge that:

“...designated landscapes become international exemplars of sustainability... living landscapes with vibrant, resilient communities, with extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, thriving eco-systems and rich bio-diversity. With the right leadership they have the potential to be areas where innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability in fragile rural areas are tried and tested, understood and publicised.

As we move forward in Wales to develop our own ways of delivering public services associated with planning, regulating land use and managing our natural resources, it’s vital that the National Parks and AONBs are not left behind.”

We will consider the medium to long term vision and ambitions of our designated landscapes in the light of our earlier, Stage One report and recommendations, before considering the most effective delivery mechanisms for achieving that vision, ambition and direction of travel. This raises an important and timely “*grand challenge*” for the designated landscapes which encompasses this question: *what are the most effective governance arrangements for designated landscapes that allow them to lead on and meet ambitious outcomes within and for Wales?* The Panel will also consider comparisons with other governance models, both inside and outside the UK, to feed into this work.

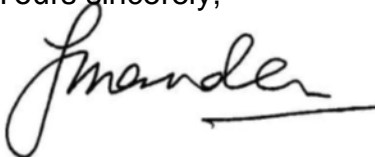
It has been made very clear to us that the Welsh Government as a whole regard designated landscapes as national assets which can deliver multiple benefits. They will be expected to assist the nation in achieving wider, ambitious social, economic as well and environmental priorities, while remaining distinctive, special landscapes. They will also be expected to become exemplars in facilitating cross portfolio working in such areas as health, education and tourism; tackling poverty and creating real progress around 'green growth'.

The Review Panel shall be pleased if you or your organisation will submit written evidence to them on designated landscape governance **up until 29th May 2015**. This letter sets out the preamble to Stage Two, while the questions on which we welcome your views and evidence can be found on the following page. **We also intend to conduct evidence gathering sessions with stakeholders in mid-late May.** **Please note that the Review Secretariat may approach you/your organisation in due course.**

Following the above deadline the evidence will be analysed, before informing the final report which is due to be delivered to the Minister for Natural Resources in late July 2015.

Stage Two presents us with an opportunity to create a realistic vision and governance framework for Wales' designated landscapes that could enable them to deliver for current and future generations. We look forward to your continued engagement, evidence and contributions.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Terry Marsden
Chair
The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Please submit evidence and comments by 29th May 2015:

By post:

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales
Third Floor, South Core, C04
Welsh Government, Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

By email:

designatedlandscapesreview@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The Stage One report can be accessed online via www.tinyurl.com/DLRWales

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Stage Two

Background

Welsh Ministers want to ensure that Wales' designated landscapes are equipped to meet current and future challenges, and they become internationally recognised exemplars for sustainability.

They commissioned this review in September 2014 to consider whether the current arrangements will deliver these objectives and, if not, what changes should be made in order to achieve them. The Review will engage with the public and designated landscape stakeholders in order to collate, examine and assess evidence concerning the designation, purposes, aims and governance of designated landscapes in Wales.

In the medium to long term, the new arrangements must enable any future body/bodies that govern our designated landscapes to further develop and enhance their strategic, policy making and operational delivery abilities such that they will:

- i. Deliver on designated landscape purposes.
- ii. Ensure the special qualities of designated landscape are protected.
- iii. Maximise the potential of these areas.
- iv. Support Natural Resource Management.
- v. Be exemplars particularly in landscape management and sustainability.
- vi. Develop clear and consistent ways of collaborating
- vii. Secure national leadership and yield the most effective use of resources.
- viii. Avoid duplication and maximise the use of scarce expertise.
- ix. Reinforce local accountability and decision making.

In January 2015 the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales reported on Stage One which examined the purposes and duties of designated landscapes, and whether there should be one designation covering both National Parks and AONBs.

Remit and Terms of Reference

The Minister for Natural Resources has since provided an update concerning the Review and has written to the Chairman of the Review, Prof. Terry Marsden (for ease of reference, enclosed) to set out the remit and terms of reference for Stage Two.

Within this stage the Review has been asked to consider:

- The governance and managements arrangements of our designated landscapes;
- How any future governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication;
- How any future governing body would best reinforce local accountability and decision making

The Review has also been asked to consider the future role of National Park Authorities as planning authorities; how the boards of these national assets can better reflect Welsh society in terms of gender, disability and ethnicity and specific issues of National Park Authority governance raised by the Review of Public Service and Delivery last year.

The following questions have been developed to help the Review identify and collate the evidence required to be able to reach its Stage Two conclusions. The first question, is referred to as the “Grand Challenge” by Professor Marsden in his covering letter/preamble, the additional questions have be constructed to assist the Panel and others in reaching their conclusions.

Questions for Stage Two

1	<p>What are the most effective governance arrangements for designated landscapes that allow them to lead on and meet ambitious outcomes within and for Wales?</p> <p>In order to answer this question you may want to consider and respond to these additional, related questions:</p>
2	<p>In light of the Review’s Stage One report and recommendations and the Minister for Natural Resources’ written statement (dated the 4th March) what is your vision and ambition for the direction of Wales’s designated landscapes in the medium to long term?</p>
3	<p>From a governance perspective, what factors are preventing and/or likely to prevent designated landscapes from achieving the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?</p>
4	<p>From a governance perspective, what factors will allow designated landscapes to achieve the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?</p>
5	<p>Are there other designated landscape/protected area governance models/approaches you wish to bring to the attention of the Review?</p>



WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Update on the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales**

DATE **4 March 2015**

BY **Carl Sargeant Minister for Natural Resources**

On 25 September 2014 I announced an independent review into the purpose and governance of the designated landscapes in Wales, the three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This two stage review would firstly examine the designations themselves looking at their purposes and the merits of classifying Wales' designated landscapes under one type of designation, before then considering the associated governance arrangements.

When I launched this Review I set out my own commitment to the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These areas are highly valued. They are integral to Wales' national identity and are recognised internationally as part of a global family of protected areas. I am proud that a quarter of Wales is recognised in this way. They are assets that we should celebrate and protect, but also continue to harness to tackle the environmental and economic challenges that we face. They have a valuable contribution to make to the green growth and natural resource management agenda.

I want to see our designated landscapes become international exemplars of sustainability. They should be living landscapes with vibrant, resilient communities, with extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, thriving ecosystems and rich biodiversity. With the right leadership they have the potential to be areas where new innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability in fragile rural areas are tried and tested, understood and publicised.

The purpose of the Review is to gather and analyse evidence in support of a comprehensive set of recommendations which should ensure that our designated landscapes are best equipped to realise their ambition, while building upon their internationally recognised status and brand.

As we move forward in Wales to develop our own ways of delivering public services associated with planning, regulating land use and managing our natural resources, it's vital that the National Parks and AONBs are not left behind. Reform will be

necessary to ensure that these areas prosper through their continued protection while maximizing the benefits they provide to the people of Wales.

So far the Review has considered whether the purpose and identity of the designated landscapes should be changed. Between late September and late November 2014 the Panel involved a wide range of designated landscape interests including constituent local authorities, community councils and the WLGA; the farming unions; the Federation of Small Businesses and Wales Tourism Alliance; The Welsh Language Commissioner; Natural Resources Wales and RTPI Cymru. Eight workshops (geographically within or near each designated area) were held with members of the public. Finally, meetings were held with officials from the Welsh Government and the Sustainable Futures Commissioner, Peter Davies.

The Panel has made six recommendations which are a modest package of amendments to the designations, see Annex 1. I expect that as the Panel expands its evidence base it will need to reflect on and amend these initial recommendations. The report of Stage one will now provide the basis for proceeding to Stage two of the review as set out in the original terms of reference. This includes:

- i. Review the governance and management arrangements of the designated landscapes;
- ii. Review and examine how any governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication; and
- iii. Review and examine the best way for any future governing body to reinforce local accountability and decision making.

Both designations currently have different governance arrangements.

The Environment Act 1995 led to the creation of independent National Park Authorities for each of the National Parks in Wales. Each Park is governed by a board comprising two thirds local councillors appointed by constituent local authorities, and one third appointed by The Welsh Ministers. Their approved revenue expenditure is set each year by The Welsh Ministers, and the authorities levy their constituent authorities for the balance of their operational budget. National Park Authorities are the planning authorities for their areas. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), with any services embedded within constituent local authorities. There is no central funding. The JAC is a statutory consultee on planning applications for the area.

I look forward to the second phase of the review, and to working with the Parks and AONBs to develop their ambition and to secure for them a future which builds on the special nature of these areas. I will respond to the Panel's recommendations when the review is completed.

The Panel's first stage report is available at <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/countrysidecoastalaccess/landscapes/?lang=en>

The final report will be available in July.

Annex 1: Recommendations from the first report of the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Recommendation 1

We recommend that there should not be a single designation.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that there is ONE set of statutory Purposes and an associated single statutory Duty for both designations.

Recommendation 3

We recommend changing the name of “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty” (AONBs) to “National Landscapes of Wales”

Recommendation 4

We recommend the establishment of a consistent and resilient nomenclature as well as structure, including:

“The National Designated Landscapes of Wales”

“National Parks” and “National Landscapes” which are “The Equivalent Designations”

The Equivalent Designations would possess Identical Statutory Purposes & Duties

Recommendation 5

We recommend there should be THREE interlocking statutory purposes for both the National Parks *and* National Landscapes.

These are:

“To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape and seascape qualities of the area,”

(the Conservation Purpose)

“To promote physical and mental well-being through the enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the area,”

(the Human Well-being Purpose)

“To promote sustainable forms of natural resource management and economic and community development which support the cultural heritage of the area.”

(the Sustainable Resource Management Purpose)

Recommendation 6

We recommend a new single Statutory Duty that removes the weak “have regard to” prefixes in the current duties on relevant public bodies, and replaces them with a single and clear duty:

“To contribute to the delivery of the three Purposes of the National Designated Landscapes.”

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Prof. Terry Marsden,
Chair of the "Review of Designated Landscapes in
Wales"
Sustainable Places Research Institute
33 Park Place,
Cardiff,
CF10 3BA

Zrd March 2015

Dear Terry,

I would like to thank you, John and Ruth for your work to date on the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales, and for the recommendations you have presented from the first stage. The report is a useful record of the progress made and provides the basis for proceeding to the next stage.

As you continue your work on the review can I take this opportunity to remind you that its purpose is to gather and analyse evidence in support of a comprehensive set of recommendations which should ensure that our designated landscapes are best equipped to meet current and future challenges while building upon their internationally recognised status.

In announcing the review I set out my own commitment to seeing the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty become international exemplars of sustainability: living landscapes with vibrant, resilient communities, providing extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, tackling social issues and, creating thriving ecosystems which are rich in biodiversity. I believe they have the potential to act as areas where new innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability and natural resource management can be tried, tested, understood and publicised. Your review is an important step in helping realise this ambition.

The remit for your next stage is to consider:

- the governance and management arrangements of our designated landscapes;
- how any future governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication;
- how any future governing body would best reinforce local accountability and decision making.

I expect that as you expand on your evidence base you will need to reflect and amend your initial recommendations. Your final report due in July should provide a single set of

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Carl.Sargeant@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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recommendations which encompass both stages of the review. This report will need to demonstrate clearly how the Panel has considered evidence from witnesses and literature, with clear analysis in support of its recommendations. It is important that any recommendations clearly articulate the issue they seek to address and evidence the difference in delivery that you would expect as a result of their implementation.

The role of National Park Authorities as Planning Authorities and whether this should continue has been raised and debated on many occasions. I believe that 25 local planning authorities are too many for a country and population the size of Wales. We need larger, more resilient bodies with a range of specialist skills so that they are better equipped to deliver for communities. They should have the potential to deliver an efficient and resilient planning service. In moving forward I am concerned that the National Parks are not left behind. Our designated landscapes demand and deserve the best possible service in terms of development and management and so your consideration of governance must encompass the future role of National Park Authorities as planning authorities.

In your consideration of representation and accountability you should have regard to board balance in terms of gender, disability and ethnicity.

I look forward to considering your report and recommendations later this year.

Yours sincerely



Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources

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Appendix 2

The Review of Designated
Landscapes in Wales
Third Floor, South Core, CO4,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Professor Terry Marsden,

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Response to Stage Two, Denbighshire County Council

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms an imposing upland frontier in North East Wales, one of Britain's scenic highlights. This AONB covers 390 square kilometres of windswept hilltops, heather moorland, limestone crags and wooded valleys, almost touching the coast at Prestatyn in the north and stretches to dramatic Moel Fferna, the highest point in the AONB at 630 metres, in the south. The area embraces some of Wales's most glorious landscape, the iconic Moel Famau, the World Heritage Site of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal and Castell Dinas Bran.

The Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), designated in 1985 celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. In 2011 the Vale of Llangollen and the Dee Valley were also designated as an AONB. The two areas were joined, creating the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. It is the most recent landscape designation in Wales and the largest AONB in Wales.

The extent of the AONB crosses the Local Authorities of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. The area contained within Denbighshire is the largest of the three Authorities at around 80%.

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) has been the lead authority since initial designation and has a dedicated AONB team within its Countryside Service. The Authority, with its other local authority partners, supports the principles and purposes of AONBs and proactively contributes to the delivery of the AONB Management Plan.

It recognises the AONB landscape supports a rich biological and cultural resource that delivers benefits for communities, local economies and ecosystems, often beyond its boundaries.

Denbighshire County Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute their comments to the Second Stage of the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales.

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Ffordd Wynnstay, Rhuthun,
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Question 1. What are the most effective governance arrangements for designated landscapes that allow them to lead on and meet ambitious outcomes within and for Wales?

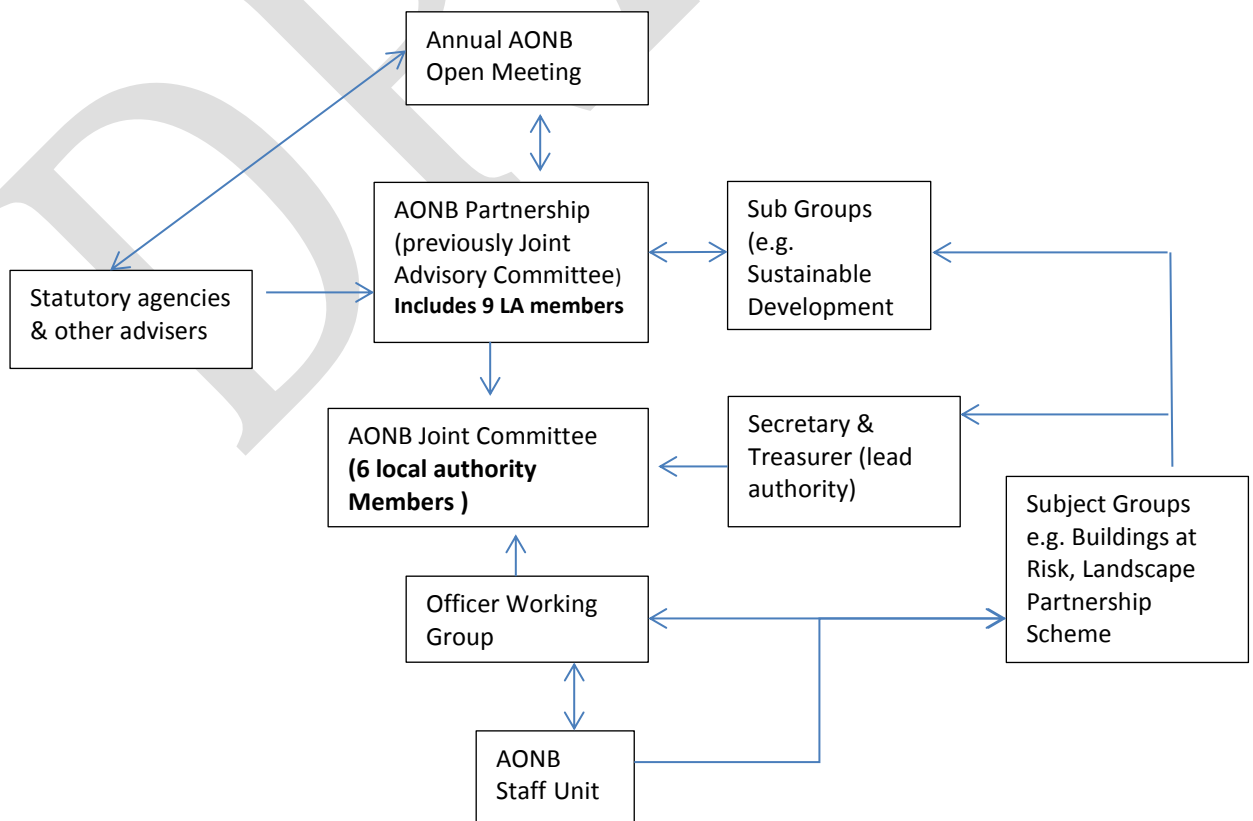
DCC believe that effective governance arrangements for AONBs need to enable:

- the delivery of its statutory purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area
- All public bodies and statutory undertakers as defined in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – to have a duty to have regard for the purposes of ANOBs
- Support of the AONB vision and enable the delivery of the AONB management plan
- The coordination of a State of the Environment Report for the AONB.
- AONB policies and projects contribute to the delivery of other National, Regional and local policies and plans.
- an open and accountable structure, a balanced representation of local interest and engagement with local communities

The extended Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is in its infancy. Following its designation, an Interim Joint Advisory Committee was established to guide the work of officers during a transitional phase. During this period a revised governance procedure was established and agreed by Denbighshire and Flintshire County Councils and Wrexham County Borough Council.

Under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under it, the local authorities created a Joint Committee to discharge the executive functions of the AONB, supported by an AONB Partnership and other subgroups.

The structure of the current governance arrangements for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB can be summarised in the following chart:



Two Council Executive members from each local authority have been appointed to the Joint Committee. The Committee has only met twice to date.

AONB Partnership members have also now been appointed by the Joint Committee following an open recruitment and application process. A total of 38 high quality applications were received for a total of 16 seats, with the remaining seats reserved for three county council member representatives nominated by each of the respective local authorities. Places on the Partnership Committee are linked to interest areas (Land management, Rural, Urban, Landscape, Recreation, Historic Environment, Natural Environment, and Business) to ensure that a balance of membership is sustained. Three places are reserved for individual interest. The first meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Partnership Committee will be held on the 15th of May 2015 and it is therefore not possible to provide actual evidence of its operational success.

Nevertheless it is felt that the current governance structure positions the AONB well to serve its statutory purpose and deliver against the management plan. Denbighshire County Council is represented at the highest level and 5 (possibly 6) elected members are involved.

The current structure has the benefit of senior political commitment from each local authority area, coupled with community engagement achieved through the Partnership. The governance arrangement is further strengthened by an Officer Working Group which also has representation from each local authority and includes other agencies, such as Natural Resources Wales. National bodies and groups are able to feed into the governance arrangement as advisors or within subject or sub-groups.

Within the governance structure the annual AONB open meeting provides the opportunity for people with an interest in Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to share their views and provide information to shape future work plans, which would include local communities from within and outside of the area, politicians, landowners, user groups and many more.

Within a national context, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB staff and committee members regularly meet with other AONBs across England and Wales to share good practice and discuss solutions to shared issues. Natural Resources Wales co-ordinates meetings for protected landscapes and provide valuable advice and guidance on both a national and local level. The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) also hosts meetings and a national conference for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In addition, the Association hosts a useful online Basecamp discussion forum, where AONBs can pose questions and generate debates. The forum is an excellent mechanism to avoid the duplication of work and also to share experience. Training events have been provided by the NAAONB, with one of the most recent held at Plas Tan y Bwlch in Snowdonia, targeted towards Welsh AONB Committee Members. As employees of the lead authority, staff engage with all of the above opportunities.

Denbighshire County Council also acknowledges that through the AONB activities, the County makes an contribution on the international landscape stage as a member of Europarc. It has secured the Europarc Sustainable Tourism Charter in the past and in partnership with others, has received a Bronze Medal Europa Nostra Cultural Award for the contribution of the Heather and Hill forts Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Denbighshire County Council feels that the current governance structure of the AONB provides an excellent framework to meet its statutory duty and deliver its management plan within a local, national and international context.

Other matters worthy to note during the governance review are:

- Some governance models available to AONBs, for example Conservation Boards and Limited Liability Companies have the disadvantage of not being VAT exempt, which would effectively result in a 20% decrease in funding.
- Any changes in governance arrangement proposed must be fit for purpose. Committees, authorities or Conservations Boards are appropriate for some areas where the scale is larger. In a Welsh setting, DCC do not feel the scale is right for what would be cumbersome and unwieldy governance structures with too many members. A maximum size of 12 members for the main committee is suggested.
- Additional resources would need to be made available for designated landscapes to support changes in governance resulting from the review.

Question 2. In light of the Review's Stage One report and recommendations and the Minister for Natural Resources' written statement (dated the 4th of March) what is your vision and ambition for the direction of Wales' designated landscapes in the medium to long term?

Denbighshire County Council support the vision for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB as set out in the management plan. This vision is

A dynamic landscape with flourishing communities and a thriving local economy; A landscape that supports a rich biological and cultural resource, delivering benefits for the communities, economies and ecosystems far beyond its boundary.

A landscape that is cherished as a peaceful haven by those living in and visiting the AONB and is treasured for its open spaces and commanding views. Its special features and the benefits they provide are understood and appreciated by all.

An AONB that is managed through sound and effective partnerships which ensure that communities and visitors are fully engaged in decision making and are empowered to have a stake in their local landscape and invest in its future.

For the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to be a flagship for sustainable development and forward planning with its international protection as a category V protected landscapes making it influential on an international, national and local stage.

In attaining the AONB vision, Denbighshire County Council supports Recommendation 5 of the First Stage of the Designated Landscape for one statutory purpose and duty for both AONBs and National Parks and supports the three interlocking statutory purposes.

Question 3. From a governance perspective, what factors are preventing and/or likely to prevent designated landscapes from achieving the vision you set out in response to question 2?

Denbighshire County Council believes the achievement of the vision for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is linked to resources. How much of the vision is achieved is dependent on Welsh Government funding as delivered through Natural Resources Wales and the local authorities. The Sustainable Development Fund has been very beneficial to lever additional resources towards the delivery of the AONB vision, especially through the work of partners at a local level. AONB Officers have been very successful in the past in securing additional resources from European and Lottery Funds. However these sources of funding are very resource heavy to attain, by nature ad hoc and becoming increasingly competitive due to the current economic climate.

Further, Denbighshire County Council believes there is a direct link between committing resources and the commitment to joint working by the partners. As resources become scarcer, there is a danger partners will reduce their commitments to the partnership or even disengage completely. The strength of the partnerships and the collaborative working within them will be tested at these times and strong governance is vital to secure continued support. DCC are committed to the partnership of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and believe the current structure is as resilient as it can be to this kind of pressure.

Question 4. From a governance perspective, what factors will allow designated landscapes to achieve the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?

The vision for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB can only be delivered in partnership with others. It depends on effective partnerships between a number of departments within the local authority, between local authorities and also external organisations and the local community. It is the enthusiasm of the people, often driven by a passion for the special qualities of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley landscape and its communities that underpins the delivery of the management plan and vision for the area. DCC believes the governance structure reflects this commitment to partnerships and delivers the passion at a community level.

Question 5. Are there other designated landscape/protected area governance models/approaches you wish to bring to the attention of the Review?

Denbighshire County Council considers local authority support to be fundamental to the local AONB partnerships and the delivery of the AONB management plan. It should be regarded as one of the real strengths underpinning AONB management. However, occasionally, AONB partnerships are required to consider national perspectives in their decision making. To this end, national representation on the AONB Partnership might be beneficial and an idea worthy of further investigation.

A copy of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Draft Management Plan, State of the Environment Report and latest Annual Report is available in support of this response on request.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Huw Rees, Countryside and Heritage Services Manager, Denbighshire County Council should you require any further information with regards to this response-, huw.rees@denbighshire.gov.uk .

Yours faithfully

Councillor Huw Jones

Lead member, Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development
Denbighshire County Council

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Appendix 3

Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Stage 2 Call for Evidence 14 May 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales Stage 2 Call for Evidence

Contact: Huw Rees, Countryside, Environment

Updated: 28th April 2015

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

Other

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

To consider the DCC response to the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales. No change will occur as a result of this consideration.

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

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

No

The response proposes a view to the questions posed by the Review Board. No change will result from the view submitted.

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

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

<Type here>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action(s)	Owner	By when?
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9. Declaration

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

Review Date: 28th April 2015

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Huw Rees	28/04/2015

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

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Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 May 2015

Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator

Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report presents Partnerships Scrutiny Committee with its draft forward work programme for members' consideration.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

3. What are the recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate; and
- 3.2 appoints/re-appoints representatives to serve on the Council's Service Challenge Groups.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 Article 6 of Denbighshire County Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, whilst the rules of procedure for scrutiny committees are laid out in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 4.2 The Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.
- 4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The aim of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.
- 4.4 In recent years the Welsh Government (WG) and the Wales Audit Office (WAO) have highlighted the need to strengthen scrutiny's role across local government and public services in Wales, including utilising scrutiny as a means of engaging with residents and service-

users. Going forward scrutiny will be expected to engage better and more frequently with the public with a view to securing better decisions which ultimately lead to better outcomes for citizens. In future the WAO will measure scrutiny's effectiveness in fulfilling these expectations.

4.5 Having regard to the national vision for scrutiny whilst at the same time focussing on local priorities, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) has recommended that the Council's scrutiny committees should, when deciding on their work programmes, focus on the following key areas:

- budget savings;
- achievement of the Corporate Plan objectives (with particular emphasis on the their deliverability during a period of financial austerity);
- any other items agreed by the Scrutiny Committee (or the SCVCG) as high priority (based on the PAPER test criteria – see reverse side of the 'Member Proposal Form' at Appendix 2) and;
- Urgent, unforeseen or high priority issues

4.6 Scrutiny Proposal Forms

As mentioned in paragraph 4.2 above the Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on the Committee's business agenda they have to formally request the Committee to consider receiving a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested subjects. No officer proposal forms have been received for consideration at the current meeting.

4.7 With a view to making better use of scrutiny's time by focussing committees' resources on detailed examination of subjects, adding value through the decision-making process and securing better outcomes for residents, the SCVCG has decided that members, as well as officers, should complete 'scrutiny proposal forms' outlining the reasons why they think a particular subject would benefit from scrutiny's input. A copy of the 'member's proposal form' can be seen at Appendix 2. The reverse side of this form contains a flowchart listing questions which members should consider when proposing an item for scrutiny, and which committees should ask when determining a topic's suitability for inclusion on a scrutiny forward work programme. If, having followed this process, a topic is not deemed suitable for formal examination by a scrutiny committee, alternative channels for sharing the information or examining the matter can be considered e.g. the provision of an 'information report', or if the matter is of a very local nature examination by the relevant Member Area Group (MAG). In future no items will be included on a forward work programme without a

'scrutiny proposal form' being completed and accepted for inclusion by the Committee or the SCVCG. Assistance with their completion is available from the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Meeting with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

- 4.8 At its March 2015 meeting the Committee resolved to arrange a special meeting with representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) in September 2015. Representatives from BCUHB have now confirmed their availability to attend a meeting on 17 September. Members are asked to note this new date in their diaries.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

- 4.9 The Committee had invited North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority to attend its July meeting to discuss the impact and effectiveness of the Council's increased contribution to the Fire and Rescue Authority's annual budget. Unfortunately they are unable to attend but have indicated their intention to consult on their improvement plan for the 2016/17 financial year during the autumn. Consequently that item of business has provisionally been rescheduled for presentation in November 2015.

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

- 4.10 When determining their programme of future work it is useful for scrutiny committees to have regard to Cabinet's scheduled programme of work. For this purpose a copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 3.

Progress on Committee Resolutions

- 4.11 A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 4 to this report.

5. Service Challenge Groups

As Annual Council was held on 12 May scrutiny committees have been asked, in line with normal procedures, to appoint/re-appoint members to serve on the Council's Service Challenge Groups. Attached at Appendix 5 for members' information is the current list of committee representatives. Members will note that some of the service names have changed during the last year.

6. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

- 6.1 Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The Group met on 2 April and at that meeting, in response to a request from the Lead Member for Leisure, Youth, Tourism and Rural Development, it asked this committee to consider the Stage 2 consultation on the 'Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales' at the current meeting. In addition, in response to an officer request form, it

has asked this Committee to consider a report on Denbighshire's Supporting People Local Plan 2016-19 at its meeting in October 2015 (see appendix 1).

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

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities, improve outcomes for residents whilst also managing austere budget cuts.

8. 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.

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

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

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

10. What consultations have been carried out?

None required for this report. However, the report itself and the consideration of the forward work programme represent a consultation process with the Committee with respect to its programme of future work.

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

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

12. Power to make the decision

Article 6.3.7 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work.

Contact Officer: Scrutiny Coordinator

Tel No: (01824) 712554

Email: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Note: Items entered in italics have not been approved for submission by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
25 June	Cllr. David Smith	1. Regional Emergency Planning Service	To review the operation, management and financial benefits of the new partnership 12 months after its establishment	A guarantee that Denbighshire's residents will be safe and supported in the County experienced a natural or man-made disaster	Rebecca Maxwell	June 2014
	Cllr. David Smith	2. CCTV Savings Update Report	To consider the progress made to date in devising an exit strategy and securing alternative solutions for the delivery of a CCTV Service for Rhyl, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan following the cessation of Council funding from April 2016 onwards	The establishment of viable alternative provision for the CCTV which will satisfy stakeholders	Graham Boase/Emlyn Jones	November 2014 (allocated by SCVCG in January 2015 following initial report to Performance Scrutiny Committee – November 2014)
	Cllr. Eryl Williams and Cllr. Bobby Feeley	3. Effectiveness of partnership working with the Education Service [Education]	To evaluate the effectiveness of partnership working arrangements between internal and external agencies and the County's education service (e.g. Bridge, TAF etc. – following concerns raised at a recent SSMG meeting)	More effective working and use of resources between all partner organisations and stakeholders to realise better outcomes for pupils	Karen Evans	Member request via Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (February 2015)

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				and students. Ensure that requests to various organisations are responded to on time and that various agencies do not duplicate service provision		
30 July		1. Denbighshire Communities First Cluster Report	To examine the work of the Communities First Lead Delivery Body in delivering its programme of work to improve the lives of citizens in the County's most deprived areas	Formulation of recommendations to the Communities First Cluster Advisory Board to ensure that the programme delivers its intended programme of work and improve the lives of the County's most vulnerable citizens and contributes to significantly improved the most deprived communities	Liz Grieve	SCVCG February 2015
	Cllr. David Smith	2. Community Safety Partnership	To detail the Partnership's achievement in delivering its	Effective monitoring of the CSP's	Alan Smith/Liz Grieve/Steve	September 2014

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		[Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee]	2014/15 action plan and its progress to date in delivering its action plan for 2015/16 and its work in complementing that of the Denbighshire Single Integrated Plan and the LSCB. The report to include financial sources and the progress made in spending the allocated funding.	delivery of its action plan for 2014/15 and its progress to date in delivering its plan for 2015/16 will ensure that the CSP delivers the services which the Council and local residents require	Parker	
17 September	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	1. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's Three Year Plan 2015-2018	To consider progress to date with the implementation and delivery of the Health Board's new three year plan	Better planning and coordination of health and social care work and associated funding	Sally Baxter/Nicola Stubbins	March 2015
	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	2. BCUHB in Conwy & Denbighshire	To consider the progress made with the introduction of the new local management structure for the Conwy & Denbighshire	Identification of any early problems with the introduction of the new management structure and the interface between Health and Social Care	BCUHB/Nicola Stubbins/Phil Gilroy	March 2015
8 October (Rhyl)	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	1. Single Point of Access	To consider the progress made with the establishment of the Single Point of Access Service	Identification of any problems associated with the Service and actions to address	Phil Gilroy/Cathy Curtis-Nelson	April 2014

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				them		
	Leader(?)	2. Wellbeing Plan Annual Report	To consider the progress made to date with the delivery of the Local Service Board's Annual Wellbeing Plan	To evaluate the progress made to date with the Plan's delivery and identify any gaps or shortcomings with its delivery in order to recommend solutions of courses of action that will help improve outcomes for residents	Liz Grieve	February 2015
	Councillor Bobby Feeley	3. Denbighshire Supporting People Local Plan 2016-19	To consult with members on the allocation of the Supporting People Programme Grant, including the management of the minimum 5% cut to the County's grant and its impact on Council services	Pre-decision scrutiny and an overall evaluation of the impact of the grant cut on residents and the Council	Katie Newe	By SCVCG April 2015
26 November	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	1. Protection of Vulnerable Adults Annual Report 2014/15	To consider the POVA annual report, and information in place to meet the statutory requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and an evaluation of the financial and resource impact	An evaluation of whether the Authority is meeting its statutory duty with respect to adult safeguarding and has sufficient	Phil Gilroy/Alaw Pierce/Nerys Tompsett	December 2014

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			of the Supreme Court's 2014 Judgement on deprivation of liberty on the Service and its work	resources to undertake this work along with the additional work in the wake of the Supreme Court's judgement		
		2. North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (tbc)	To examine the impact and effectiveness of the increased contribution by the Council to the NWFRA's annual budget and consult on their improvement plan for the 2016/17 financial year	An evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the increased contribution on the safety of residents and on Council services	NWFRA	December 2014 (rescheduled April 2015)
14 January 2016						
25 February						
14 April						
26 May						
7 July						
6 Oct 2016	Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill	1. Commercial Partnership for the Revenues and	To review the Partnership's progress and in particular the new business element of the	An evaluation: (i) of whether the financial and	Paul McGrady/Rod Urquhart/Jackie	December 2014 (by County Council in line

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		Benefits Service	proposal and the Welsh Language service provision	commercial benefits of the partnership agreement have been realised; and (ii) that the service is delivering the level of service expected which conforms to the Council's relevant policies in lines with the Heads of Terms Agreement	Walley	with Cabinet's recommendation – allocated to the Committee by the SCVCG January 2015)
24 November						

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered

Citizens Panel (mid 2015)	To outline the proposed composition of the Panel and the recruitment and appointment process for appointing its members	The formation of a fair and equitable Panel which will form part of the governance arrangements for the Social Service and Health Programme Board and ensure that citizens and service-users views are heard and acted upon	Nicola Stubbins	November 2014
Update following conclusion of inquiry undertaken by the National Crime Agency in to historic abuse in North Wales Children's' Care Homes	To update the Committee of the outcome of the National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation in to the abuse of children in the care of the former Clwyd County Council, and to determine whether any procedures require revision.	Determination of whether any of the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures need to be revised in light of the NCA's findings	Nicola Stubbins	November 2012

For future years

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information (April 2015)	Cat's Paw Theatre Tour in High Schools	To provide an evaluation of the Theatre project in educating secondary school children in relation to exploring safe relationships	Siân Taylor	September 2014

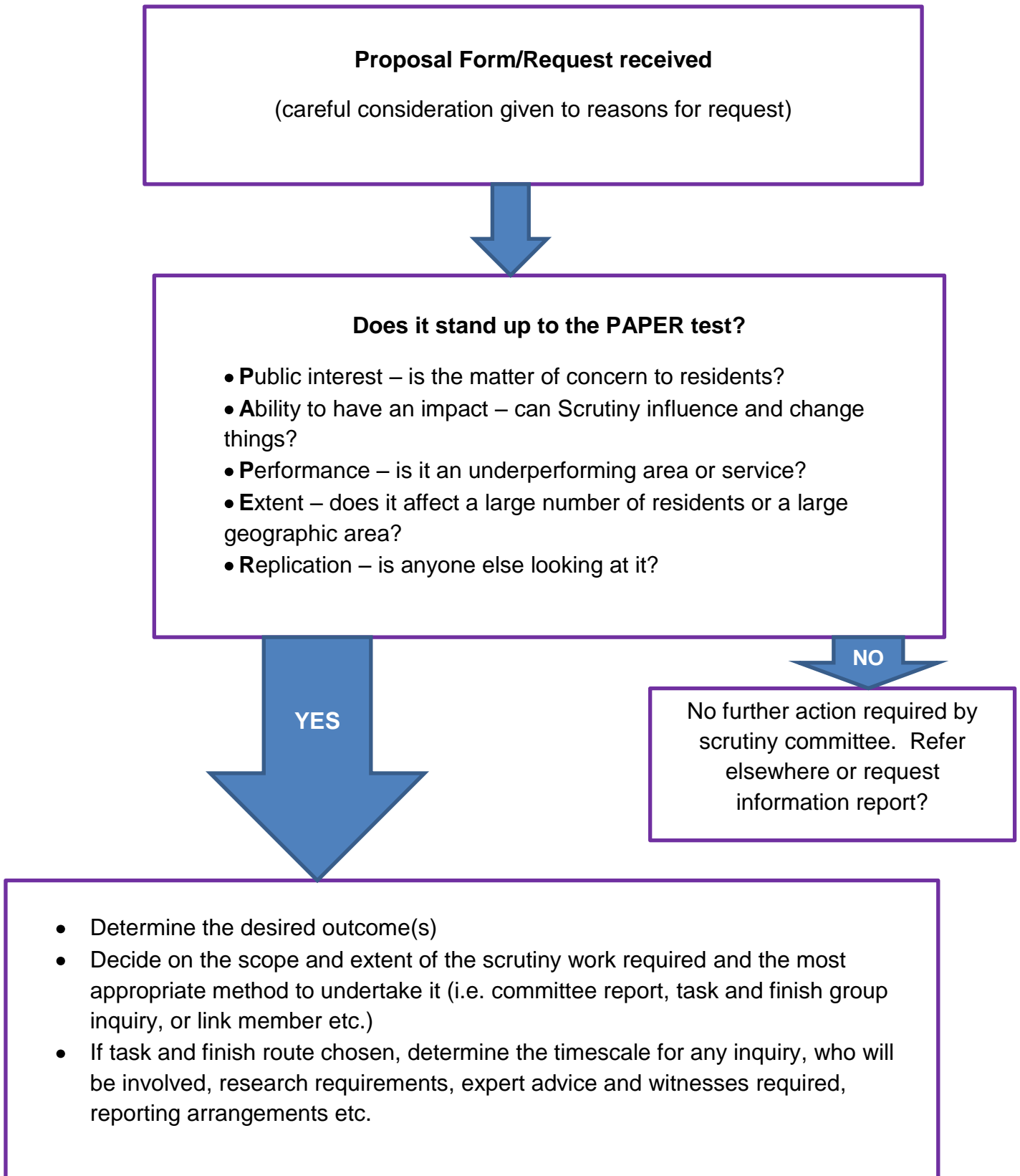
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
25 June	11 June	30 July	16 July	17 September	3 September

Partnerships Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

Member Proposal Form for Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	
NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
TIMESCALE FOR CONSIDERATION	
TOPIC	
What needs to be scrutinised (and why)?	
Is the matter one of concern to residents/local businesses?	YES/NO
Can Scrutiny influence and change things? (if 'yes' please state how you think scrutiny can influence or change things)	YES/NO
Does the matter relate to an underperforming service or area?	YES/NO
Does the matter affect a large number of residents or a large geographical area of the County (if 'yes' please give an indication of the size of the affected group or area)	YES/NO
Is the matter linked to the Council's Corporate priorities (if 'yes' please state which priority/priorities)	YES/NO
To your knowledge is anyone else looking at this matter? (If 'yes', please say who is looking at it)	YES/NO
If the topic is accepted for scrutiny who would you want to invite to attend e.g. Lead Member, officers, external experts, service-users?	
Name of Councillor/Co-opted Member	
Date	

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny



Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Appendix 3

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
2 June	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Ruthin Primary Proposals	To consider the formal consultation reports following the publication of proposals for the amalgamation of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the closure of Ysgol Rhewl and to consider whether to publish the relevant statutory notices.	Yes	Councillor Eryl Williams / Jackie Walley
	3	Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group	To report the key findings and recommendations of the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group	Yes	Cllr David Smith / Angela Loftus / Sue Lewis
	4	Business Rates Write Offs	To seek approval for uncollectible Business Rates Debts to be written off	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Rod Urquhart
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
30 June	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Final Outturn Report	To consider the final revenue outturn position for 2014/15	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	3	Corporate Plan Performance Report 2014/15 Q4	To consider progress against the Corporate Plan	Tbc	Cllr Barbara Smith / Liz Grieve
	4	Town & Area Plans	To consider the allocation of funding for priority projects	Yes	Cllr Hugh Evans / Tom Booty
	5	Eisteddfod yr Urdd	To recommend support for the return of the National Urdd Eisteddfod.	N/A	Cllr Huw Jones / Jamie Groves / Gareth Watson
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
28 July	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	The Future of In-house Care Services	To consider the results of the consultation with existing users of in-house care services	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	3	Car Park Charges	To give members the opportunity to decide which car park charging regime they would like to see implemented across the county.	Tbc	Councillor David Smith / Steve Parker / Mike Jones
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
29 September	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Corporate Plan Performance Report 2015/16 Q1	To consider progress against the Corporate Plan	Tbc	Cllr Barbara Smith / Liz Grieve
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
27 October	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
24 November	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
15 December	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Paul McGrady
	2	Corporate Plan Performance Report 2015/16 Q2	To consider progress against the Corporate Plan	Tbc	Cllr Barbara Smith / Liz Grieve
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

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Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>April</i>	14 April	<i>May</i>	11 May	<i>June</i>	16 June

Updated 30/04/15 - KEJ
Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
19 March 2015	3. Urgent Matters as Agreed by the Chair	<p>RESOLVED – that representatives from Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and the Rhyl Coastal Partnership be invited to a future meeting to discuss their role in supporting communities to access services and funding when non-statutory Council services were withdrawn.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to BCUHB's Chief Executive seeking clarity on the types of surgery that would be performed at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in future.</p>	<p>Representatives will be attending the meeting on 14 May 2015 for this purpose – see agenda</p> <p>Letter sent to Professor Purt on 25 March 2015. Professor Purt replied on 30 April. Copies of both letters have been included in the Information Brief document to Committee members.</p>
	5. Co-ordination of Community Funding Streams	<p>RESOLVED – that:-</p> <p>(a) subject to the above observations, to receive the information;</p> <p>(b) to note the Member's role within the community to identify projects and raise awareness of funding sources available to community groups with a view to maximising their benefits to the communities and support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities and its Corporate Plan;</p> <p>(c) to recommend that representations be made to the Gwynt y Môr Community Funding Advisory Group that an Elected Member should in future serve on the</p>	<p>Representations were made with respect to (c) at the Advisory Group's last meeting where it was agreed that Sara Jones and Mark Dixon should sit on the Board for the time being. RWE mentioned the possibility of having 'rolling representatives' in time in</p>

		<p><i>relevant body that will oversee the award of grant funding; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) that the Committee's future meeting with representatives from Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) include a discussion on the organisation's role in assisting and supporting community groups to access advice on external community funding streams.</i></p>	<p>order to gain the viewpoints of a variety of individuals and benefit from their expertise.</p> <p>(d) see item 3 above</p>
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Service:	Communities	Partnerships	Performance
Economic & Business Development – Rebecca Maxwell			
Children & Family Services – Leighton Rees	Cllr Win Mullen-James	Cllr. Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones	Cllr. Arwel Roberts
Community Support Services – Phil Gilroy	Cllr Bob Murray	Cllr. Ann Davies	Cllr. David Simmons
Legal, HR & Democratic Services – Gary Williams	Cllr. James Davies	Cllr. Meirick Lloyd Davies	Cllr. Dewi Owens
Business Improvement & Modernisation – Alan Smith	Cllr. Cheryl Williams	Cllr. Richard Davies	Cllr. Dewi Owens
Education Services – Karen Evans	Cllr Huw Hilditch-Roberts	Cllr. Joan Butterfield	Cllr Arwel Roberts
Customers and Education Support – Jackie Walley	Cllr. Carys Guy-Davies	Cllr. Pat Jones	Cllr. Richard Davies
Communication, Marketing & Leisure – Jamie Groves	Cllr Joseph Welch	Cllr. Dewi Owens	Cllr. Geraint Lloyd Williams
Finance & Assets – Paul McGrady	Cllr. Peter Evans Cllr. Huw Hilditch-Roberts (sub)	Cllr. Dewi Owens	Cllr. Colin Hughes
Highways & Environmental Services – Steve Parker	Cllr. Rhys Hughes (sub: Cllr. Cefyn Williams)	Cllr. Merfyn Parry	Cllr. Meirick Lloyd Davies (sub: Cllr. Arwel Roberts)
Planning & Public Protection – Graham Boase	Cllr. Win Mullen-James (sub: Cllr. Cefyn Williams)	Cllr. Raymond Bartley	Cllr. Meirick LI Davies

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