

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 12 December 2018

Direct Dial: 01824712568

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2018** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS

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

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 November 2018 (copy enclosed).

5 SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE (SUDS) APPROVAL BODY (SAB) (Pages 13 - 24)

To consider a report by Councillor Brian Jones, Lead Member for Highways, Planning and Sustainable Travel (copy enclosed) regarding the legislative requirement for the Council to undertake the role of a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB) and seeking Cabinet approval to delegate powers to officers to establish and operate the SAB.

6 SUPPORTING PEOPLE / HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION COMMISSIONING PLAN 2019 - 22 (Pages 25 - 66)

To consider a report by Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence (copy enclosed) presenting the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019 – 22 for approval prior to submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government.

7 NORTH WALES DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORK PROGRAMME (Pages 67 - 126)

To consider a report by Councillor Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance (copy enclosed) updating Cabinet on the digital work carried out to date by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and seeking approval of authorisations for the work going forward.

8 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 127 - 140)

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

9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 141 - 144)

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

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

10 PROPOSED NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE DESIGN AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DEPOT) REQUIREMENTS (Pages 145 - 224)

To consider a confidential report by Councillor Brian Jones, Lead Member for Highways, Planning and Sustainable Travel (copy enclosed) detailing the outcome of the modelling carried out to identify the best new operating model for waste and recycling services and seeking members' determination on the suitability of the proposed new service design.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Hugh Evans
Bobby Feeley
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Richard Mainon

Tony Thomas
Julian Thompson-Hill
Brian Jones
Mark Young

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

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

Denbighshire County Council

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

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

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

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CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance; Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence; Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Lead Member for Education, Children and Young People; Brian Jones, Lead Member for Highways, Planning and Sustainable Travel; Richard Mainon, Lead Member for Developing Community Infrastructure; Tony Thomas, Lead Member for Housing, Regulation and the Environment; Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, and Mark Young, Lead Member for Corporate Standards

Observers: Councillors Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Meirick Davies, Alan James, Arwel Roberts, Peter Scott, Glenn Swingler, Rhys Thomas and Emrys Wynne

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (JG); Corporate Directors: Economy and Public Realm (GB) and Communities (NS); Head of Finance/S.151 Officer (RW); Solicitor (HR); Strategic Planning Team Manager (NK); Commercial Development Manager (DM) and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following members declared a personal interest –

Councillor Meirick Davies – Agenda Item 5 – Chair of North Wales Fire Authority
Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill – Agenda Item 5 – Director of Data Cymru
Councillor Tony Thomas – Agenda Item 8 – Rhyl Town & County Councillor
Councillor Brian Jones – Agenda Item 8 – Member of Business Group/Rhyl Town & County Councillor

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Cabinet meeting held on 15 October 2018 and the Cabinet meeting held on 30 October 2018 were submitted.

Matters Arising –

Special Cabinet (15 October 2018) – Councillor Brian Jones noted the end of the meeting had been recorded as 6.10 p.m. and felt it would be prudent to use twenty-four hour clock in future to avoid any confusion.

Cabinet (30 October 2018) – Page 16, Minute Item 4 Matters Arising – Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision – Councillor Peter Scott conveyed the views of businesses located on St. Asaph Business Park who had objected to the proposal for locating the Gypsy and Traveller Site at Green-gates Farm East, St. Asaph and referred to evidence of the disruption, damage and security issues previously experienced at that location. He also highlighted the detrimental impact of the proposal in terms of retaining existing businesses and in attracting future business to the Business Park. Councillor Scott urged Cabinet to use any influence they had over the pre-planning consultation so as to ensure that the future of St. Asaph Business Park would not be jeopardised. The Leader advised that Cabinet had been well represented by the Lead Member, Councillor Tony Thomas in public meetings and the business sector with regard to the proposal and all concerns would be taken into account. Councillor Thomas confirmed he had met with representatives from St. Asaph Business Park and had taken their views on board – the pre planning consultation phase was currently ongoing with a deadline of 25 November 2018.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 15 October 2018 and 30 October 2018 be received and confirmed as a correct record.*

5 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2018 - 19

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report updating members on the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 as at the end of quarter 2 of 2018 – 19.

The report included three main elements –

- Executive Summary – detailed achievements and key exceptions with two narratives for each priority: Performance Status and Programme Progress
- Full quarterly report – generated from Verto Performance Management System and provided an evidence based assessment of the current position
- Summary of the projects being managed under each Programme Board – Communities and Environment and Young People and Housing.

Performance was as expected at such an early stage given the lead times to deliver improvements. Two priorities had been assessed as ‘priority for improvement’ – Resilient Communities and Young People which required a greater involvement of external partners and were not directly under the Council’s control. The remaining three priorities continued to be at an acceptable level – Housing, Connected Communities and Environment. Progress had been assessed as good across all priorities and details of the projects managed by both Programme Boards had been highlighted showing their various stages. One project had been rejected and closed because the Board did not consider it would deliver its aims which demonstrated a robustness in the assessment process.

The Strategic Planning Team Manager guided members through the priority areas contained within the report and highlighted a number of areas of good practice and elaborated upon project developments in key areas. Councillor Thompson-Hill added that, as part of the monitoring process, regular reports were submitted to Scrutiny Committee to consider whether any areas warranted further investigation.

During consideration of the report members discussed the following –

- in terms of the project to bring 500 empty homes back into use, 500 had been considered a deliverable but challenging target bearing in mind the fluctuation in the level of empty homes – it was noted that progress was on target
- the Leader highlighted the importance of an ambitious Corporate Plan and he was pleased that the Council had retained its ambition and momentum on behalf of residents and the commitment to deliver despite the financial climate – having set the right priorities good progress was being made in delivering them
- the involvement of Cabinet members in the Programme Boards established to focus on priorities and delivering projects was noted together with the key summary of projects to effect improvement which had been included as an appendix to the report – there was some debate as to the merits of further strengthening links with non-Cabinet members in addition to the regular monitoring by Scrutiny Committee and Annual Improvement Report to Council. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss with the Lead Member whether further dissemination or sharing of information would add value to the current process
- Councillor Mark Young highlighted the importance of ensuring ongoing maintenance of existing flood defence systems and assurances were provided that this element was considered as business as usual and there was a programme of maintenance works – the Corporate Plan aimed to enhance the current provision rather than dealing with day to day maintenance issues. With regard to flood defence schemes and studies work was ongoing with partners in that regard. In response to a question from Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones regarding the independent report into the flooding at Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl, Councillor Brian Jones confirmed that a letter to residents was imminent
- in response to questions raised regarding the Llantysilio Mountain fire, the Leader advised that a report would be submitted to Communities Scrutiny Committee in February 2019 in order to consider the impact and lessons learnt following the incident and further detail would be available at that time
- Councillor Richard Mainon elaborated upon the reasoning behind the rejection and closure of the Digital Access Points project given that the project would not deliver on making a significant difference and justify the cost – it was considered that the financial resources would be better directed to a real solution on a more permanent basis – the Strategic Planning Team Manager agreed to circulate the closure report to members for information.

RESOLVED that Cabinet receives the report and notes the progress in delivering the Corporate Plan as at the end of quarter 2 of 2018/19.

6 FINANCE REPORT

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

- the net revenue budget for 2018/19 was £194.418m (£189.252m in 2017/18)
- an overspend of £1.292m was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- detailed agreed savings and efficiencies worth £4.6m including those which had already been achieved with the assumption that all service efficiencies/savings would be delivered – any exceptions would be reported to Cabinet if required
- highlighted current risks and variances relating to individual service areas, and
- provided a general update on the Housing Revenue Account, Housing Capital Plan and the Capital Plan (including the Corporate Plan element).

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill highlighted the usual risk areas but confirmed there had been little movement in the figures since the report to the last meeting. The Chief Executive added that the challenges around School Transport and Children's Services were not unique to Denbighshire and had been driven by increased demand. Assurances were provided that officers had scrutinised those pressures in detail and considered them to be genuine pressures which would need to be dealt with alongside the poor financial settlement for 2019/20.

The following matters were raised during debate –

- Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts referred to the pressures on school transport which amounted to nearly £600k but in context he advised that Powys County Council spent approximately £68k per day (£12.5m a year) on school transport costs. He provided assurances regarding prudence when applying the eligibility criteria for school transport and clarified the discretionary elements in the policy. He did not advocate a review of the non-statutory elements as he believed it would result in a significant impact on learners
- the Council had made best efforts over the last few years to restructure services with a focus on resilience in order to reduce budgets whilst not impacting on service users but concerns were raised that it may not be possible to afford that protection in the future. In response to questions regarding the potential for additional monies, specifically for social care, Councillor Thompson-Hill advised that an additional £30m had been included in the draft Welsh Government budget for social care in the health budget line but it had yet to be determined how that funding would be allocated; local authorities were lobbying for some of that funding. With regard to allocation of the consequential from the UK Autumn Budget it was not yet known whether it would result in any additional funding for local government. Detail of the final settlement was due on 19 December 2018. Members reiterated the difficulties in future financial planning given the uncertainties over budgets and late notification of the final settlement. It was noted that the Welsh Local Government Association continued to lobby Welsh Government on that point
- Councillor Mark Young made reference to the recent Welsh Government announcement of £15m earmarked for teachers professional development and Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts confirmed he had raised the issue with Education Secretary Kirsty Williams and his view that, given that losing teaching posts was a real possibility, local authorities should be permitted to distribute

education funding based on need which would prove more beneficial for schools rather than spend being specifically earmarked. The Education Secretary had responded that teacher unions were happy with the allocation for training

- in response to questions regarding the maintenance contract for the Pont y Ddraig bridge issues were clarified around the service and repair costs and it was explained that a renegotiation of the maintenance contract was required in order to anticipate future costs and a lifetime repair cost. The additional cost had already been factored into existing estimates.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the budgets set for 2018/19 and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

7 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Forward Work Programme was presented for consideration.

RESOLVED that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

8 GRANT AWARD FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES ON WEST PARADE AND SUSSEX STREET IN RHYL

Councillors Hugh Evans and Julian Thompson-Hill presented the confidential joint report seeking Cabinet approval to accept an offer of grant funding from Welsh Government for the acquisition of properties on West Parade and Sussex Street in Rhyl.

Cabinet had approved the purchase of the buildings in April 2018 subject to the acquisition costs being externally funded and there being no associated revenue costs to the Council. Welsh Government had now confirmed an initial grant funding offer of £2.5m to allow the Council to progress with the purchases and an in principle commitment of an additional £2.5m to assist with redevelopment of the sites. The Leader highlighted the proposed redevelopment of the site as a key project to contribute to the ongoing regeneration of Rhyl, bringing partially derelict properties back into productive use, providing job opportunities and business growth, and stimulating further private sector investment in the town. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill highlighted the differences to the original proposition considered by Cabinet in April 2018 and reasoning behind the intention to acquire all the property in one lot as opposed to the previous approach of two lots. He also elaborated on the detail of the grant funding offer and financial implications together with risks arising from the proposal.

Cabinet noted that the proposal had the support of Rhyl Member Area Group and the Asset Management Group, and the Strategic Investment Group had also

recommended approval to proceed with the proposal. The merits of the proposal from a regeneration perspective was also acknowledged. During a detailed debate the Lead Members and officers responded to further questions regarding the identified risks, the impact on financial resources, the availability of grant funding and legal agreements/action required to proceed. Having taken into account the benefits of the proposal and recognising the risks in order to proceed it was –

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *approves the acceptance of an offer of grant funding from Welsh Government for the acquisition of properties on West Parade and Sussex Street in Rhyl comprising the former Savoy Hotel and the Queen's Market, Theatre and Hotel conditional upon the proposed acquisition including any associated preliminary revenue costs being externally funded, and*
- (b) *confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2 to the report) as part of its consideration.*

The meeting concluded at 11.22 hrs.

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	18 th December 2018
Lead Member / Officer:	Cllr Brian Jones / Tony Ward
Ward Report Author:	Wayne Hope
Title:	Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB)

1. What is the report about?

This report is about the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which sets a start date of the 7th January 2019 upon which Denbighshire County Council will be required to undertake the role of a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The role of the Council in establishing and operating the SAB is in response to new legislation and is not covered by existing provisions within the Denbighshire County Council Constitution. The report is, therefore, seeking Cabinet approval to delegate powers to a Chief Officer, the Head of Highways and Environmental Services, to establish and operate the SAB.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Cabinet notes the commencement of Schedule 3 'Sustainable Drainage' of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 made by the Welsh Government on the 1st May 2018 and the legislative requirement for the Council to provide a new service from 7th January 2019.

3.2 That Cabinet approves the delegation of powers to the Head of Highways and Environmental Services to establish and operate the SAB.

4. Report details

4.1 The management of the surface water drainage for new development has historically been undertaken through the planning process whereby statutory and non-statutory consultees such as Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and the Flood Risk Management Team within the Council provide feedback to planning applications. This approach has long been considered problematic with issues arising in relation to inconsistent design standards, construction quality and maintenance regimes.

4.2 Conventional drainage systems often aim to convey water away from a development as quickly as possible through piped systems, which often causes excessive flows in watercourses downstream exacerbating flooding elsewhere. The SuDS approach aims to deal with rainwater using techniques such as infiltration, and above ground retention that mimic natural runoff from a site and provide opportunities to incorporate amenity, biodiversity

and pollution reduction elements into the design.

4.3 The 2008 Pitt Review, which was commissioned by UK Government following the 2007 floods, highlighted surface water management from developments as a factor contributing to wider flood risk problems within the UK. Subsequently, Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 made provisions for the establishment of a SuDs Approval Body (SAB) to address this issue.

4.4 The Welsh Government's Order commencing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for Wales was made on 1st May 2018. The legislation, along with the regulations necessary for its implementation, will come into effect on 7th January 2019. This was intended to give sufficient time to local authorities to establish the SAB approval mechanism and to give developers time to become aware of the changes and prepare for mandatory SuDS Standards and the requirement for SAB approval before beginning construction. However, the Welsh Government has been slow to issue the supporting mandatory standards, guidance and related legislation which has had a significant impact on the ability of local authorities in Wales to make arrangements in advance of 7th January 2018.

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

The SAB function will contribute towards reducing the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire. This will assist the Council in delivering its aims to ensure that the environment is both attractive and protected, and also supports community well-being and economic prosperity

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

6.1 The Welsh Government has implemented the new legislation on the premise that the activity will be self-funding, due to the Council being able to charge developers a fee for the SAB process. The North Wales Flood Risk Management Group, of which the Council is a member, has carried out a piece of work to provide an estimate of annual costs, based on a prediction of the number of development proposals that will require SAB approval, which itself is based on records of planning applications over the past four years. The predicted annual costs are around £166,000, compared with the predicted income of around £168,500, which would result in a net income of £2,500. However, because the predicted costs are based on the employment of three new members of staff, two full-time and one part time, the Council would have to bear these costs in the event that the number of development proposals is less than expected and income from fees reduced as a consequence.

6.2 There is no capacity within the flood risk management team to take on the new SAB role. This situation is mirrored in Flintshire County Council (FCC) and Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC). Consequently, the Flood Risk Manager has had discussions with his counterparts in FCC and WCBC regarding the establishment of a collaborative regional SAB, which would mitigate the impact of the possible peaks and troughs in development activity in each authority's area. In addition, the Welsh Government has been approached with a request for financial support regarding recruitment costs and initial operating costs of the SAB.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

The Welsh Governments intention by implementing 'Schedule 3 - Sustainable Drainage' of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) is to reduce the likelihood of surface water flooding problems occurring as a consequence of new developments, which in turn plays a significant role in supporting the Well-being goals.

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

Internal discussions have taken place with the Head of Highways and Environmental Services, the Head of Planning, officers in Planning and Highways Development Control, the Lead Member for Highways, Planning and Sustainable Travel and with Legal Services. Discussions have also taken place with the WLGA and amongst the six north Wales authorities.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The cost of establishing and operating the SAB function is assumed by government to be self-funded. This assumption however is based on estimates of future fees from planning applications. Councils will have to employ staff to provide the function and therefore are doing so at risk if the funding is based on future revenues. Employment obligations also accrue for which the employing body will eventually be liable. The exploration of a regional approach for this function should help to smooth activity and should also help to regulate cash-flow. If the regional approach is progressed however, it must be based on an equitable arrangement that minimises risks to the host body and partners. The report is seeking approval to delegate powers to establish the SAB. The cost implications of doing so should be calculated in consultation with Finance and reported back to Cabinet if significantly different from the estimates quoted in this report.

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

The main risk associated with the Council taking on the new role of SuDS Approval Body is that the costs of carrying out the function, primarily staff costs, will exceed the fees received through applications. This would occur if the number of planning applications requiring SuDS approval is less than anticipated. The risk can be reduced by careful monitoring of the SAB costs and income during the first two to three years of operation.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local Government Act (1972)
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

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Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB) - Report to Cabinet.

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	563
Brief description:	Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 sets a start date of the 7th January 2019 upon which Denbighshire County Council will be required to undertake the role of a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB).
Date Completed:	27/11/2018 10:20:20 Version: 1
Completed by:	Emma Horan
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Residents of Denbighshire who might be impacted by new development proposals where drainage and flood risk is a consideration.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 29 / 30.

Implications of the score

Long term - SuDS systems will be deigned for the lifetime of the development, i.e., 50 years minimum.

Prevention - SuDS approaches to drainage deal with the risk of flooding to prevent it occurring in the first place.

Collaboration - SuDS approval process involves statutory consultation with partner agencies and internal departments.

Involvement - The planning process, which runs in parallel to the SuDS approval process, will involve consultation with the public.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive

Positive

Positive

Neutral

Positive

Neutral

Neutral



Main conclusions

The Welsh Governments intention by implementing 'Schedule 3 - Sustainable Drainage' of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) is to reduce the likelihood of surface water flooding problems occurring as a consequence of new developments, which in turn plays a significant role in supporting the Well-being goals.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The regulation of surface water management for new developments will enable the Council to ensure that flood risk is managed in a way that supports the prosperity of Denbighshire.
Further actions required	Positives can be maximised through early engagement with developers.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Sustainable drainage involves working in a more natural, low carbon way to manage surface water flood risk.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Effective drainage systems on new developments reduces the likelihood of disruption to the highway network as the consequence of a flood.
Economic development	Sustainable drainage should help to promote more achievable and sustainable development in Denbighshire.
Quality skills for the long term	New approaches and methods of working are likely to be developed by local consultants and contractors.
Quality jobs for the long term	Skills developed by local consultants and contractors should lead to quality long term jobs.
Childcare	Neutral impact.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	No known negative impact
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	No known negative impact
Economic development	No known negative impact
Quality skills for the long term	No known negative impact
Quality jobs for the long term	No known negative impact
Childcare	No known negative impact

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Reducing the flood risk associated with surface water runoff from new developments will make communities in Denbighshire more resilient.

Further actions required	Positives can be maximised through early engagement with developers.
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Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	National SuDs Guidance encourages the improvement of habitats and biodiversity.
Biodiversity in the built environment	National SuDs Guidance encourages the improvement of habitats and biodiversity.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Neutral impact.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Neutral impact.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	The SuDS standards encourage the reuse of surface water and the introduction of features that mimic nature, e.g., swales and ponds.
Flood risk management	The SAB role and SuDS standards stem from the Flood and Water Management Act.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	No known negative impact
Biodiversity in the built environment	No known negative impact
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	No known negative impact
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	No known negative impact
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	No known negative impact
Flood risk management	No known negative impact

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	SuDs in new developments are likely to contribute towards more attractive environments.
Further actions required	Not known at this time.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Following SuDS principles should help to create attractive environments for residents of new developments to live in.
Access to good quality, healthy food	Neutral.
People's emotional and mental well-being	Neutral.
Access to healthcare	Neutral
Participation in leisure opportunities	Neutral

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	No known negative impact
Access to good quality, healthy food	No known negative impact
People's emotional and mental well-being	No known negative impact
Access to healthcare	No known negative impact
Participation in leisure opportunities	No known negative impact

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The impact of SuDS legislation is unlikely to have any particular impact on matters relating to the Equality Act.
Further actions required	Not relevant.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Neutral
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	Neutral
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Neutral
People in poverty	Neutral

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	No known negative impact
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	No known negative impact
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	No known negative impact
People in poverty	No known negative impact

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive	Page 22
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Justification for impact	Flood risk management through the use of SuDS helps to support attractive, safe and viable communities.
Further actions required	Not known.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Managing flood risk through the use of SuDS helps to protect new and existing communities.
Community participation and resilience	SuDS approval and adoption will support the Council's implementation of the LDP and run in parallel with the planning process.
The attractiveness of the area	This objective is supported by the SuDS guidance.
Connected communities	Neutral.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	No known negative impact
Community participation and resilience	No known negative impact
The attractiveness of the area	No known negative impact
Connected communities	No known negative impact

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Negligible impact on language, culture and heritage.
Further actions required	Not relevant.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Neutral
Promoting the Welsh language	Neutral
Culture and heritage	Neutral

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	No known negative impact
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Promoting the Welsh language	No known negative impact
Culture and heritage	No known negative impact

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Impact of SuDS implementation unlikely to have an impact on supply chains, human rights and broader service provision.
Further actions required	Not relevant.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Neutral
Human rights	Neutral
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Neutral

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	No known negative impact
Human rights	No known negative impact
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	No known negative impact

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	14 th December 2018
Lead Member / Officer:	Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Wellbeing and Independence Phil Gilroy, Head of Community Support Services
Report Author:	Liana Duffy, Commissioning Officer (Homelessness Prevention)
Title:	Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22

1. What is the report about?

The draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, which outlines how we propose over the next 3 years to develop and remodel support projects in Denbighshire which support people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on the approval of the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government in January 2019.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. For Cabinet to approve the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government in January 2019.

3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

4.1. The draft Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22 (Appendix 1) follows on from the last Commissioning Plan for 2018/19. We are required by Welsh Government to submit a 3 yearly Commissioning Plan/annual updates to the Regional Collaborative Committee in January of each year. The Plan gives an overview of our priorities and plans for 2019-22, primarily relating to Supporting People commissioned service development - why we're doing what we're doing, and what this means for the people it affects. The Commissioning Plan is a key part of us delivering against the Homelessness Strategy.

4.2. The Plan will also include a full annual spend plan for the Supporting People Grant; however it is not possible to produce a spend plan until our budget is confirmed by Welsh Government. While we do not anticipate any cuts in 2019/20, as in previous years however, we will contingency plan for cuts of 5%, including by negotiating efficiency savings, and re-configuration of existing services. We will always to seek to mitigate any cuts as far as

possible through careful planning and negotiation with service providers and other stakeholders, locally and regionally.

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

The Plan contributes to supporting Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2017-22 in the following areas:

- Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs
- The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience
- Younger people want to live and work here and have the skills to do so

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

6.1. The ongoing and future actions required will have significant implications for the Supporting People Grant (currently ring-fenced from Welsh Government), as well as the statutory homelessness budget (part of central Community Support Services) - both of which are being merged into the new Housing Support Grant from April 2019, along with Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

6.2. As with any such Commissioning Plan, significant resource investment will be required. This will be managed within the existing allocated budgets; however there will be also be a requirement for the Homelessness Prevention Team to work and invest collaboratively with both internal and external partners. Any such plans will be developed and managed via relevant channels, including the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group. It's also vital that we achieve buy-in at all levels, including corporately.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Wellbeing Impact Assessment for the draft Plan was completed 11/09/2018 via the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group. It scored the Plan 28 points out of 30 in terms of its sustainability, and identified that it made a positive contribution to all of the 7 wellbeing goals (with strategies identified to address any unintended negative consequences). No amendments to the WIA were required following the Plan's consultation period and Partnerships Scrutiny feedback.

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

The priorities and actions set out in the Commissioning Plan have been informed by a range of information we gather throughout the year, including the views of citizens, with our Citizen Involvement Officer working closely with projects to make sure people have their voices heard. 2018 was also the first year that our annual homelessness prevention event (which links closely with and feeds into our service planning) was co-produced with people with lived experience. At each stage of the Plan's development, the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group have been consulted and given sign-off. The Plan was also subject to a formal consultation period (21/09/2018 – 02/11/2018), and was taken to Partnerships Scrutiny in November 2018 (see Appendix 3).

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Cost implications will become clearer as actions within the Plan develop and should be contained within existing resources. Whilst Supporting People grant funding levels are thought to be fixed overall in the short term, changes to policy or distribution may have an impact in future. The council's general approach is to pass reductions in grant funding through to the service area being provided.

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

10.1. Despite recent budget announcements from Welsh Government, stating that Supporting People funding will not be reduced at a national level, Welsh Government may still continue with the redistribution formula of the SP Grant. This would mean a grant reduction for Denbighshire in future.

10.2. We must also await confirmation of the arrangements for the recently confirmed merged housing support grant, and contribute to its development wherever possible, to ensure that front-line homelessness prevention services are protected. Guidance from Welsh Government is at present inconclusive.

10.3. Ongoing planning is taking place in Denbighshire to mitigate any future grant reduction, to ensure the Action Plan and Supporting People commissioning remain financially viable and within the resources available.

11. Power to make the Decision

To determine the content of any plan, strategy or other policy document requires approval by the Lead Cabinet Member, in accordance with Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2291 (W,179) Regulation 4 (3)(c) + (d)

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Denbighshire Supporting People/ Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22

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Status	Draft for Cabinet

1. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness means being without a safe, secure place to live.

This includes things like living in unsuitable/unsafe or temporary accommodation, 'sofa-surfing', accessing emergency beds/night shelters, and sleeping rough.

For many, it can mean having to face and deal with a number of difficult and traumatic experiences.

Homelessness or risk of homelessness can happen, and continue, for many different reasons, including evictions (not necessarily because of any fault of the tenant), relationship/family breakdown, being unable to cope because of experiencing traumas or other support needs, and people just not having enough money to keep their home, perhaps because of a job loss or changes to benefits.

Homelessness can affect anyone, including families, single people, and young and old – though it will often go hand in hand with poverty, and it is likely to have the greatest impact on people with more limited support networks, and people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

*"Homeless people are not socially inadequate, they are just people without homes"
(Citizen)*



Supporting People is a Welsh Government Programme, funding support projects for people 16+ who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In Denbighshire we have a range of projects¹, including fixed-site supported housing and floating support (where a support worker is based out in the community), supporting over 1,000 people at any one time.²

Denbighshire Supporting People is aligned with statutory homelessness, as the Denbighshire Homelessness Prevention Team.

We aim to prevent homelessness wherever possible, taking person-centred approaches and working with the community and our partners to identify and tackle its causes, and empower people to live as independently as possible.

This Plan gives an overview of our priorities and plans for 2019-22 - why we're doing what we're doing, and what this means for the people it affects.

¹ For full details of these projects, please see our directory of services on the Denbighshire County Council website.

² Excluding alarm services, of which there are 1,192 units

Our Vision

An end to homelessness in Denbighshire

Our Mission Statement

We will work together to deliver quality support, empowering people to live independently and prevent homelessness

Our Key Principles

- Everyone deserves a safe place to live
- Early intervention and prevention of crisis point wherever possible
- Co-production and meaningful involvement – people with lived experience at the heart of all we do
 - Psychologically informed ethos and approaches
 - Focus on person-centred outcomes – not process
- Transparency and equality of access to the right support
- Continued learning and development – developing and promoting best practice to end homelessness

Support is always person-centered, but can include help with things like:

- Achieving safety, security and better quality of life
- Developing independent living skills
- Taking control of finances, e.g. support with budgeting, addressing arrears, accessing money advice
- Accessing other helpful support and opportunities, including employment / training / education / volunteering

***"I don't think I could have done
Without the support. I feel like there is a
light at the end of the tunnel now."***

(Citizen)

***"The support I received has
helped to give me the confidence
and the strength to deal with life."***

(Citizen)

We play a vital role in the delivery of key support legislation:

- **The Housing (Wales) Act 2014**, and **Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** have brought about real changes to the ways people are supported. Early intervention and prevention, and empowerment of people to take control of their own lives are central to both Acts.
- **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** means that plans must be sustainable and increase wellbeing. This also means a prevention focus, looking at short and long-term needs, and partnership working.
- **The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** highlights the importance of early intervention to prevent victims of this kind of violence and abuse becoming homeless in the first place, as well as the importance of supporting survivors to stay in their own homes wherever possible.
- **The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016** means some new rights and responsibilities for tenants and landlords - so it's important that people can access good advice and support where needed.

We also support other national and local plans and agendas, including:

National and regional plans/strategies, including Crisis' 'Everybody In: How to end homelessness in Great Britain'; the Supporting People Regional Strategic Plan; the Ten Year Homelessness Plan for Wales 2009-2019; the North Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy; the Together for Mental Health in North Wales Strategy, and the WG Rough Sleeper Action Plan

Denbighshire plans/strategies, including the Denbighshire Homelessness Strategy; the Housing Strategy, the Corporate Plan; the Wellbeing Plan; the Supporting Independence in Denbighshire agenda, and the Care and Support at Home Strategic Plan.

Equality and diversity, including Denbighshire's Strategic Equality Plan and the Welsh Language Standards; we also support the 2025 movement, with its aim of ending avoidable health inequalities in North Wales by the year 2025.

Crisis' Definition of Homelessness Ended³



1. No one sleeping rough.



2. No one forced to live in transient or dangerous accommodation such as tents, squats and non-residential buildings.



3. No one living in emergency accommodation such as shelters and hostels without a plan for rapid rehousing into affordable, secure and decent accommodation.



4. No one homeless because of leaving a state institution such as prison or the care system.



5. Everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help they need to prevent it happening.

³ 'Everybody In: How to end homelessness in Great Britain':

https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/238959/everybody_in_how_to_end_homelessness_in_great_britain_2018.pdf

2. PEOPLE'S STORIES

The 'Jones family' had already experienced facing homelessness when their landlord had decided to sell the property. With support they'd found a new home, but with the introduction of a new benefit cap in 2016, this home became completely unaffordable – with Housing Benefit dropping from £535 to £91 a month. The risk of rapid rent arrears and homelessness became very real. Existing mental health support needs worsened, and the whole family's wellbeing was suffering.

With a Supporting People project's help, working in partnership with key agencies, the family were able to explore their options and make the decisions which were right for them. Part of this was a successful claim for PIP, and this also meant that one of the parents, having been put in touch with the Opus project, found secure employment - not only boosting the family's income, but greatly increasing their confidence and self-esteem. With much increased security and wellbeing, including better mental health support in place, the family are now in a much better place; however they remain acutely aware, in a time of austerity and welfare reform, that circumstances can quickly change - and with this in mind they continue to look at ways to secure their financial future as much as is in their control.

When 'Amy' discovered that her mother was very ill, she decided she would move in with her, to help her out and allow Amy and her children to spend some quality time with her. Having made the move, and looking to get things in order at her new address, Amy discovered that, because of welfare benefit rules, her living with her mother was going to have a significant impact on her mother's income. At the risk of facing poverty, the family reluctantly agreed that Amy and her children would have to move back out of her mother's home.

Following initial questions around intentionality of homelessness, with the help of Shelter Cymru Amy secured help from Statutory Homelessness, and was offered temporary accommodation. In uncertain and stressful circumstances, including sometimes being accommodated far away from her children's schools, the Homelessness Prevention Team will continue to try to find somewhere suitable for Amy now, and support her to achieve safety and security for her and her children in the long term.

Availability of suitable, affordable accommodation is a barrier not just for Amy, but for many in similar circumstances.

3. OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The DCC Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021

The vision of the Strategy is simple: **To end Homelessness in Denbighshire.** Doing this through **early intervention, prevention,** and providing **quality accommodation and support** is central to our priorities. We worked closely with our partners to develop the Denbighshire Homelessness Strategy, and accompanying action plan, which sets out all of Denbighshire's priorities and plans for tackling and ending homelessness. This Commissioning Plan focusses on the commissioned service development aspects of implementing the Strategy⁴.

Tackling Poverty

We know that **homelessness and poverty will often go hand in hand,** and that each bring their own stresses and traumas. With new challenges brought by welfare reform, it is vital that we focus on supporting people out of poverty in **new and creative** ways. We must work closely alongside specialist **employment support** and **money advice services,** and explore opportunities through groups including the Tackling Poverty Strategic and Operational Groups.

The sustainability of housing related support

We face a number of current and future challenges in keeping our support affordable and effective, including **public spending cuts, welfare reform** and **uncertainty around how the new Housing Support Grant will work in practice.** We must work together to be creative and resourceful, and ensure our approach is **needs-led** for both the **short and long-term.** Alongside Cymorth Cymru and our other partners in the sector, we must also have a **strong voice in campaigning** for policy reform and developments, to make sure support continues wherever needed.

Joint-Commissioning/ Collaboration

With imminent changes to Supporting People funding, with the introduction of the new Housing Support Grant from April 2019, we must carefully plan to ensure we **maximise the opportunities more flexible funding may bring,** while making sure that **vital homelessness prevention support is protected.** We'll also continue to explore opportunities for pilot regional projects via the **Regional Collaborative Committee,** supporting the implementation of the **Regional Strategic Plan.**

Co-production & Citizen Involvement

People with lived experience must have meaningful opportunities to shape support delivery and development. Guided by our Citizen Involvement Policy, we'll continue to work to offer informal and formal opportunities to ensure that co-production and involvement is at the heart of all we do. This will include creating better informal and formal arrangements for citizens to be involved in service planning, e.g. via the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group.

⁴ For the full Denbighshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-21, please see the Denbighshire Homelessness Prevention website.

4. SHAPING OUR SERVICES

We look at lots of information to identify needs and demand, and develop our support. This includes:

The views of people with lived experience – With our Citizen Involvement Officer working closely with projects to make sure that people have meaningful opportunities to feedback and shape support.

The views of our other partners – Including project staff, and other people we work with.

Formal consultation – Including as part of service reviews and decommissioning decisions, and consultation on each Commissioning Plan.

Information from our Single Pathway Team – Who coordinate all support referrals, ensuring equality of access to the right support.

Project monitoring and reviews – All of our projects are regularly monitored and reviewed, to identify any areas for improvement, and learn from good practice.

Other information - Including Outcomes and PMR data, Statutory Homelessness figures, the Population Assessment, and other studies and reports.

The Annual Event

Every year we put on an annual Homelessness Prevention event - an opportunity for people with lived experience, our projects and other partners to gather together to talk about what matters to them, and contribute to what this Plan looks like. In 2018 the event was co-produced for the first time, and named 'Homes and Hopes'.



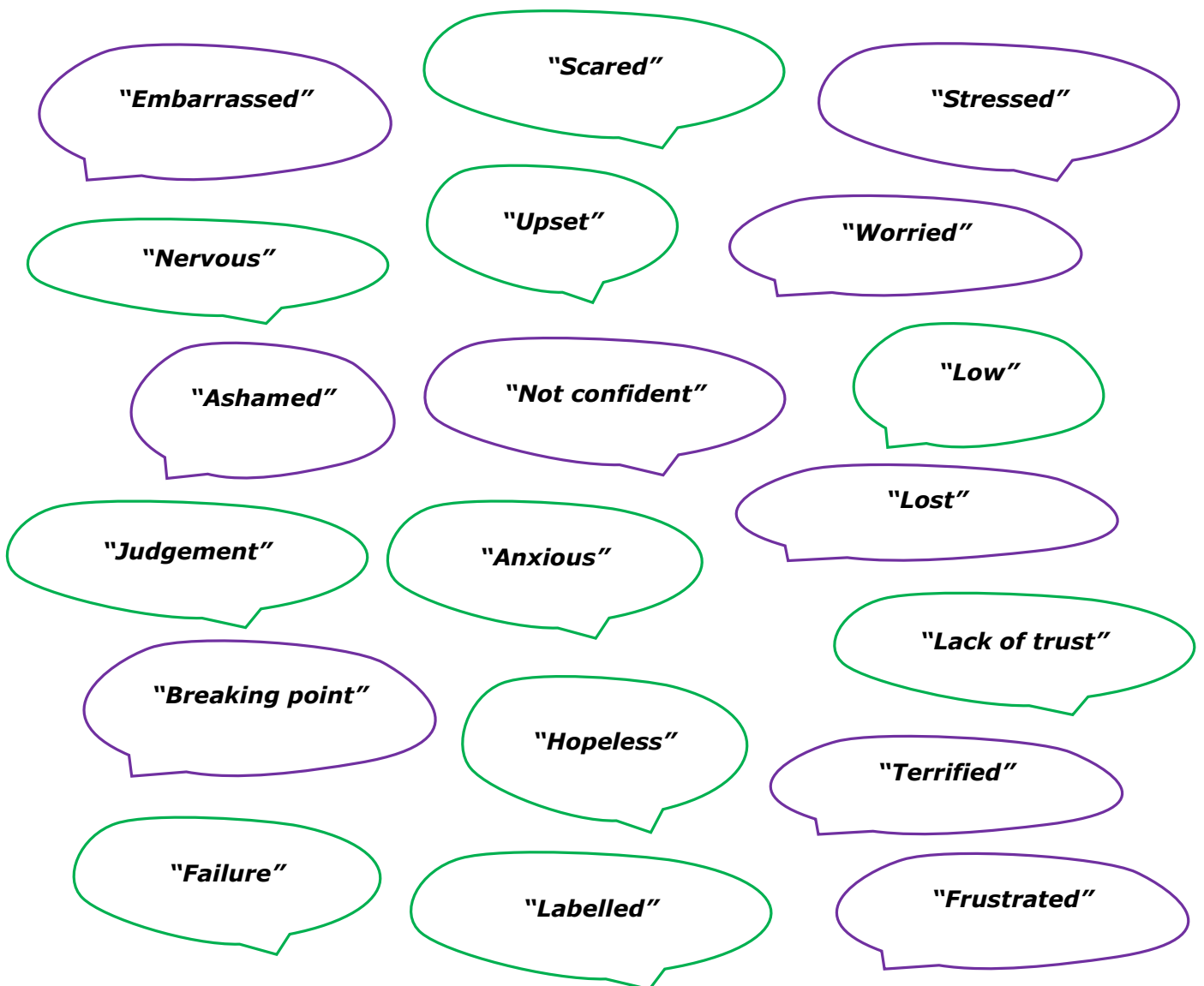
We also look at potential unmet need, including:

- **Changing our needs mapping process** – replacing the previous 'Needs Mapping' form with a more comprehensive and dynamic approach to investigating need and demand.
- **Piloting of an annual Unmet Need survey in 2017**
- **Reviewing supported housing needs** – with a case study approach, investigating individual needs and circumstances of people in supported housing, to ensure we're offering the right range of services to provide needs-led support.

5. MORE PEOPLE'S STORIES

In 2018 our Citizen Involvement Officer carried out a piece of work to help us better understand people's experiences throughout their journey, from the point that they first approach Denbighshire Homelessness Prevention, through to living in temporary accommodation and planning for move-on – how they felt, what was working, and what needed to change.

These are some of the key words people used to describe how they felt when they had to initially present as homeless.



We know that experiencing homelessness can be extremely traumatic.

To best support people, including ensuring our services are approachable and that people seek help before crisis point, we must work to understanding people's traumas, and focus on people's strengths.

6. OUR PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. General Support Needs and Demand

(including generic services for people with a range of needs)

What we know

- **Demand for support is high.** Our Pathway Team has had to keep an unprecedented waiting list for support over the last year.

- There is highest demand for **'generic', multi-disciplinary support.**

- There are **numerous barriers to securing accommodation**, including a lack of affordable and/or adequate standard accommodation, discrimination against people in receipt of benefits, and because of other characteristics (e.g. age, having children), and landlords requiring guarantors.

- We're seeing **increasing complex needs/multiple disadvantage.**

- People are really **struggling to manage their money.**

- We need **better communication and coordination between services.** Too many people slip through the net. Improving awareness and communication between services and citizens is vital.

- Some of our **emergency temporary accommodation is not fit for purpose**, and people are also **staying in temporary accommodation for too long** - because of a lack of suitable move-on accommodation, including supported housing (where appropriate).

- 'Traditional' floating support doesn't work for everyone, and/or at each stage of a person's journey. We've seen a need for **urgent crisis support**, as well as services that can offer more **flexible, ad-hoc support** (which isn't necessarily time-limited). People also want **peer support**, and to be able to **build their own support networks.**

- People who are **LGBTQ+ are disproportionately affected** by homelessness (particularly younger people who may have recently told their family), and risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse, and discrimination.

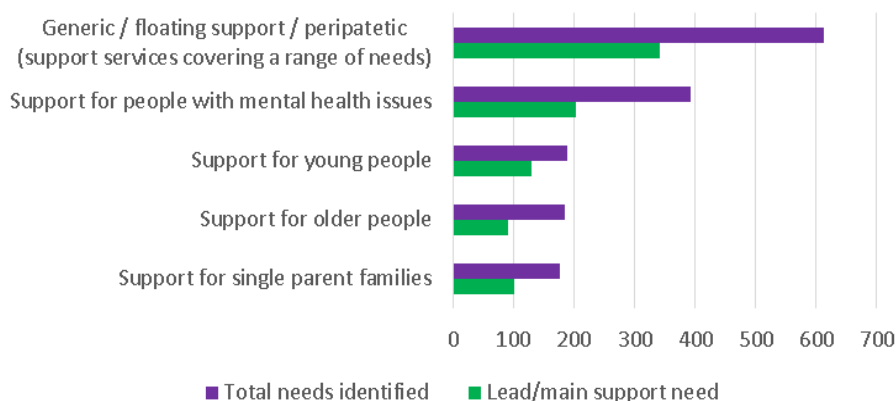
*"All the paperwork – it can feel like you're signing your life away."
(Citizen)*

- Evidence shows us the massive successes people can achieve when support services work in a **psychologically informed**, and **person-centred outcomes focussed way**. Many services are currently **too process driven** – as support commissioners we've had to recognise our role in creating process driven environments.

- **Activities to improve wellbeing**, helping people to stay **motivated, feel valued**, and have **hope**, are highly valued and highly effective elements of support.

*It gives you something to do, I've always been interested in growing plants and stuff like that when I was a kid... basically it helps you fit in with society again.
(Citizen)*

Top 5 support needs of people accessing support (2017/18 Outcomes submissions)



*"The problems are probably the same but on a larger scale, e.g. lack of finances, substance misuse problems... We have had to adapt to taking people with more complex needs, who have poor finances."
(Support provider)*

What we'll do

- i. We'll continue to develop risk-based reviewing and greater flexibility in contracts, **shifting the focus from process to outcomes**, to ensure support is maximised and proportionate, and available where needed most. This will also include promoting **activities to increase confidence and wellbeing** as a key element of support. We will also consider opportunities to develop **payment by results**.
- ii. We'll develop services that are complementary to more 'traditional' floating support, for example **flexible services** that people can dip in and out of, **short-term crisis support**, and opportunities for **peer** and **community support**.
- iii. We'll work to ensure that **supported housing is available where it is needed most** – that priority is given to people who are homeless, in the greatest need. We'll learn from work undertaken in 2018 to map people's journeys through supported housing, and consider how we can achieve **greater consistency in assessing need and priority**, e.g. through exploring opportunities such as the 'Mainstay' system.
- iv. We'll learn from work undertaken in 2018/19 to review and complete an **options appraisal for our use of emergency temporary accommodation**, to inform future temporary accommodation commissioning and development of move-on options.
- v. We'll work with our partners in the private and social rented sectors to **support move-on into quality accommodation**. We'll learn from pilots in 2018/19 with DCC Housing Enforcement and Crest Cooperative around ensuring the quality of accommodation, as well as helping us to **better understand the barriers to move-on** into quality accommodation. We'll also continue to roll-out **Renting Ready** training.
- vi. We'll take a progressive stance, ensuring that our support is always available and designed to best meet the needs of people with protected characteristics. We will continue to work with the Ending Youth Homelessness Group to ensure we are **offering the right support to people who are LGBTQ+**. We will also **review our assessment paperwork** to ensure we're asking the right questions, in the right way, and we'll ensure **all staff have access to up to date training**.
- vii. We'll continue to embed **psychologically informed** ways of working, supporting staff to work in a **trauma informed** way, including recognising and understanding the impact of **adverse childhood experiences**, focussing on relationships and person-centred outcomes (not paperwork, processes etc.), and maximising **people's own strengths and resources**. Developing psychologically informed environments is a journey, which we know requires dedication and investment – there must be **buy-in at all levels**.

What are Psychologically Informed Environments (PIEs)?

PIEs involve helping people to understand where behaviours come from, allowing people to work more creatively and effectively. This means thinking not only about what our physical environments look like, but how we communicate, respond to challenging situations, and shape our support.

There are 5 key elements to consider when developing PIEs:

- **Relationships** (quality relationships, not processes, are at the heart of PIEs)
- **Developing a psychological framework** (e.g. trauma informed, CBT, eclectic)
- **The physical environment** (e.g. colours, light – non-institutional & welcoming)
- **Staff training and support**
- **Evidence-based practice**

- viii. We'll work to improve **coordination and knowledge of other key support services**, re-launching the **Denbighshire Homelessness Forum**, and exploring opportunities for **hub/one-stop-shop** style day services.
- ix. We'll also explore opportunities to develop a **MEAM** (Making Every Adult Matter) approach to coordinating support for people with complex needs.
- x. We'll develop better ways to commission **'off-the-shelf' projects**, to make sure that any underspend identified can be used most **creatively and effectively**.

"Getting the confidence to confront your own demons and your own past... It's scary to think about doing it... if [project worker] hadn't been there and helped me, pushed me towards it, I wouldn't have bothered, wouldn't have done it. I hope if I confront my past, then my future will be a lot better.... Just trying to concentrate on that, and hope that in the future, I can get a nice flat, get a job, I can live a better life."

The difference a PIE makes

"She came to the GP with me... but the most important thing about this is not that she came, but she thought about it beforehand. She knew I'd struggle to sit in the waiting room, so she didn't just sit with me, she brought a crossword book to distract me. We did crosswords together whilst I was waiting, and because of that I made it, and was seen by the GP."

Young person, describing what it can feel like in a project where approaches, including paperwork/recording, aren't yet psychologically informed:

"It feels like you're in prison... I feel like a 'Sim', from the game"

We're working closely with this project to develop it into a PIE.

2. Welfare Reform

What we know

- Changes to welfare benefits in recent years including the '**bedroom tax**', the **cap on family allowance**, and the **shared room rate for under 35s** have all impacted on people's ability to find/maintain an affordable home.
- The introduction of **Universal Credit** has had a huge impact nationally. We know there are pros and cons to UC, and while campaigns have achieved some successes in addressing some problems, challenges remain.
- We've seen some real successes in a Supporting People funded **early intervention pilot** based at Rhyl Job Centre, offering advice and assistance around UC, to **prevent crisis point**.

What we'll do

- i. We'll learn from the Job Centre pilot to inform future commissioning, and look at how we can **reach more people earlier on to prevent crisis point**.
- ii. We'll **support our projects** to make sure they're geared up to help people understand and manage new benefit arrangements, and are able to **prevent any difficulties from escalating**. An important part of this is **training** – we offered UC training to all project staff in 2018, and we'll keep an eye on the need for refresher training.

3. Education, Employment, Training & Volunteering

What we know

- Most people want to be able to develop and be active in their community. When people experience homelessness and/or related support needs, especially **poverty** and **complex trauma** – coupled with a tough job market - this can be far **more difficult to achieve**.
- **Outcomes** in this area achieved by people accessing Supporting People services are at the **lowest levels**, compared with other Outcomes areas.
- It can be **difficult for people in supported housing** where enhanced Housing Benefit is claimed (the majority of cases) to work full time, because of **Housing Benefit rules**.
- It's vital that education, employment and training is **accessible for everyone** - not least because it can **open the door to affordable, quality accommodation**.
- This is a **high priority area for DCC** corporately.

*"You feel like you want to work, but you're being held back."
(Citizen)*

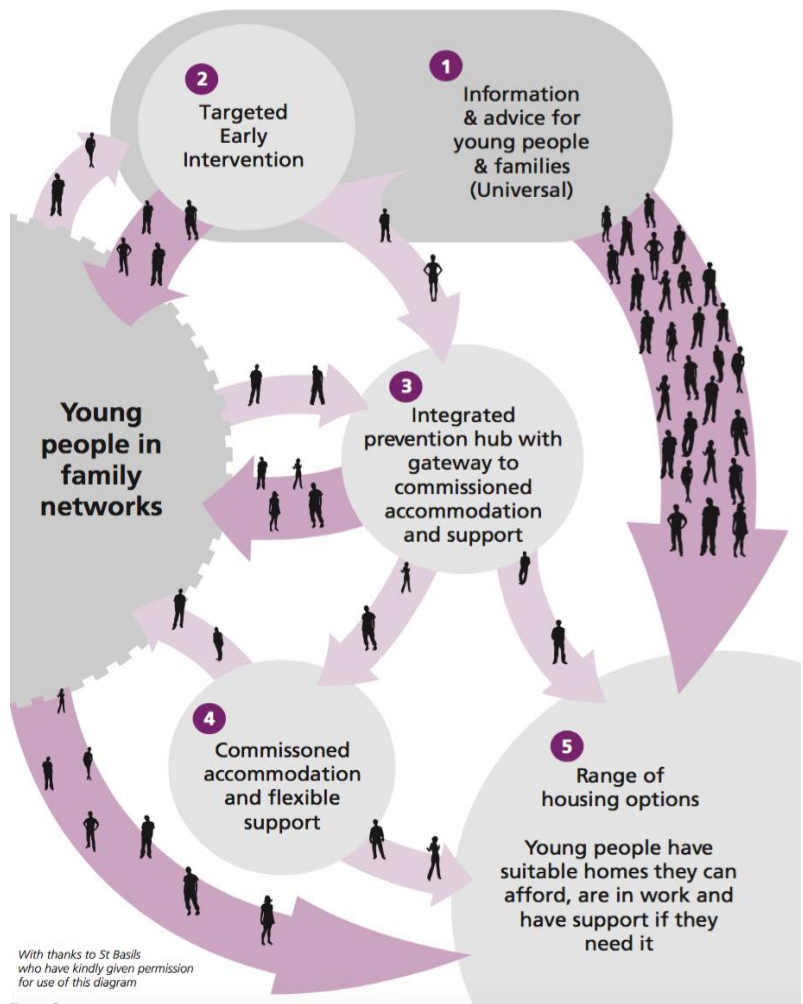
What we'll do

- i. We will **work with our projects** to review options to better allow and encourage people to take up employment when in supported housing. **Nobody in any of our project should be discouraged from taking up employment, or excluded from the support they need if they do find work**.
- ii. We'll **work closely with employment support partners** including Working Denbighshire, to **develop opportunities and address barriers**.
- iii. We'll support the development of **DCC work experience placements**.
- iv. We'll support the **sharing of volunteer opportunities** available via our provider organisations – looking at opportunities for collaboration.

4. Young People (16-25)

What we know

- Young people are amongst the most **disadvantaged** in our society when it comes to **affordable housing options** and general **welfare benefit entitlement**.
- Young people are presenting with **increasing complex needs** and **multiple disadvantage**.
- Many young people can **only afford to share with others**. This can have its pros and cons.
- DCC have committed to further developing a **Young Person's Positive Pathway model** (see diagram →), which has been strategically adopted by Welsh Government. The **Positive Pathway Project**, a partnership between Children's Services, Homelessness Prevention and Youth Justice, has achieved some real successes over the last year, offering interventions at the point of presentation to DCC Homelessness Prevention - taking a **strengths-based approach** and diverting young people from the need for formal services.



- **Prevention of youth homelessness is a huge priority.** Interventions such as family mediation to allow a young person to remain at home wherever possible can achieve the best outcomes for all involved.

What we'll do

- In partnership with Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, we'll continue to **develop the remodelled Dyfodol project**, ensuring it offers the most appropriate and psychologically informed support offer for young people with a range of needs.
- With a full staff team in place from 2018, we'll continue to **embed and develop the Positive Pathway project**. This will include development of the Young People's Pathway shared house.
- We'll explore what opportunities there might be with Children and Communities Grant partners to develop better, more **joined up early intervention**.
- We'll make sure **young people continue to be involved** in all of our Positive Pathway model developments, including being informed by the **DVD** made by TAPE and young people in our supported housing in 2017.

"Living in supported accommodation, it's quite hard because I miss my family. I miss my dog as well... [On my first day] I didn't really speak to anybody, as I didn't really know what do to, how people were. But it turned out everyone was quite sound, and I started speaking after a couple of days."

(Young person, one of the stars of the 2017 Young People's Supported Housing DVD)

5. Domestic Abuse

What we know

- Survivors experiencing **multiple disadvantage**, particularly those with substance use issues, are **not always able to access refuge** services.
- There are very **limited refuge spaces for men** in Denbighshire.
- While there's a lot of evidence highlighting the need for **support for children** of parents experiencing/fleeing domestic abuse, this support is **very limited** in Denbighshire.
- Many survivors have **mental health related support needs**. Symptoms of PTSD can often be mis-diagnosed/missed.
- Courses such as the **Freedom Programme** and **Recovery Toolkit** can achieve extremely positive outcomes, particularly around confidence, coping mechanisms and independence – as well as offering an important forum for peer support.
- Victims are **not always able to be supported to remain in their own homes** when they would like to. This can come down to a lack of resources and joined up working to adequately ensure their safety.
- There's a **lack of awareness** of domestic abuse support services.
- Funding arrangements are changing. There is a big focus **on regional commissioning**.

"I would truly recommend the programme to anyone who was wanting to progress with their future and wellbeing".

(Survivor who completed the Recovery Programme in 2018)

What we'll do

- We'll look at options to develop existing provision so that it is **accessible and appropriate for people who may currently be excluded** (especially survivors with multiple disadvantage and men). This will include consideration of developing further **self-contained refuge units** – both dispersed and semi-communal, to meet a range of support needs and allow greater choice.
- We'll support **partnership working between mental health and domestic abuse** services, including looking into training needs.
- We'll explore what opportunities there might be, particularly with Children and Communities Grant partners, to **develop much needed support for children**.
- We'll support the further rolling out of the **Freedom Programme** and **Recovery Toolkit**.
- We'll **promote awareness** of available support, including the Live Fear Free helpline.
- We'll support regional working, and the strengthening of links between VAWDASV forums and local Homelessness Prevention planning – to **ensure joined up approaches** to service development. This must also include developing better provision for allowing survivors to remain in their home when they wish.
- We'll also make sure we and all project staff are trained up in line with the **National Training Framework**.

TRAI S TEULUOL
RHOWCH WYBOD AMDANO - RHOWCH STOP ARNO
DOMESTIC ABUSE
SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT, STOP IT

Llinell Gymorth Byw Heb Ofn / Live Fear Free Helpline:
0808 80 10 800



6. Mental Health

What we know

- Approximately a **third of all people accessing our projects** identify that they have mental health support needs. Support needs tend to increase for people in the most chaotic circumstances, for example, rough sleepers. We're also seeing generally increasing **complex/high level mental health needs and crises**.
- Suitable accommodation can be **critical in promoting recovery**. But people with mental health issues may face **additional barriers** to finding/maintaining accommodation, e.g. if unable to share, and because of **stigma**. Mental health issues are also strongly linked to **social inequalities**. People living in **poverty** are more exposed to a number of risks that can seriously impact on mental health, including poor housing, homelessness and debt.
- The impacts of many mental health issues, including experiencing suicidal thoughts, PTSD, personality disorder and dual-diagnosis, are **not always well understood** in homelessness prevention (and other) services, including in relation to the impacts for engagement with support, and assessing needs.
- There are **barriers to accessing mental health services**, which are **exacerbated** by experiencing homelessness/chaotic circumstances, and stigma.
- **Partnership working and communication is vital**. Communication from the earliest possible stage (e.g. if a person is being discharged with nowhere to stay) gives the best chance for planning the best support/accommodation. **This doesn't always happen in reality**.
- **Greater integration and flexibility** is needed in housing related support services to best support people at various stages of their journey, e.g. people leaving secure units with higher level needs, and people who may dip in and out of services.
- With funding secured from Welsh Government we've developed two **successful, psychologically informed mental health temporary accommodation flats**. Delivered in partnership with Health, the service offer works to prevent delayed discharge, and hospital readmissions.

*"I want to be assessed by the Mental Health Team, but need to sort out a GP first... [When homeless] they don't want to know. You end up coming out of there feeling worse."
(Citizen)*

What we'll do

- i. We'll develop **closer working relationships** with Community Mental Health Teams, to share learning and improve day to day communication, to ensure we're **better able to respond when people are in crisis**, and best able to support people with a variety of mental health issues. This will include exploring options for possible co-location.
- ii. We'll support the 2025 movement, with its aim of ending avoidable health inequalities in North Wales by 2025. We'll also promote a **strength-based approach** to supporting people with mental health issues, working to **address stigmas** and promote **compassionate mental health**.
- iii. We'll review options for (re-)developing a **hospital-based homelessness post**, considering what opportunities there may be for regional commissioning.
- iv. We'll also work to **raise awareness amongst ward staff** around homelessness prevention – the need to ask the right questions and share information at the right time.
- v. We'll evaluate options to develop more **integrated support** (particularly with Health). Alongside this we'll consider remodel opportunities to ensure projects are **accessible to those in greatest need**, e.g. looking at the balance of primary/undiagnosed and secondary mental health support – but ensuring that flexibility doesn't compromise the ability to meet particular needs.
- vi. Building on the success of the **dedicated mental health flats**, we'll look to **further develop this provision**, exploring funding opportunities and working in continued partnership with Health.
- vii. We'll take a close look at **training needs**, particularly to make sure we're able to **ask the right questions**, e.g. in relation to suicide, and understand how to **assess risk and respond**. As part of this we'll also need to look at our assessment paperwork.
- viii. We'll support the delivery of the North Wales **Together for Mental Health Strategy**, including via the Local Implementation Team.



7. Families

What we know

- Families represent a relatively **high proportion of people accessing our support projects**. Single parent families support is in the top 5 lead/main needs identified.
- According to our PMR (Performance Monitoring Returns) the number of households with dependent children accessing our projects has **risen by around 27%** in 2017/18.
- Some families have been hit massively by the **benefit cap** introduced in late 2016. The new benefit rules mean that some families will lose all entitlement to Housing Benefit, with some others receiving a negligible amount. This has left many families simply **unable to afford their homes** – facing a real risk of **debt** and **poverty**, and having the difficult task of sourcing alternative, affordable accommodation.
- Families often have to **spend too long in temporary accommodation**, which isn't always fit for purpose. This can be because of a **lack of suitable housing** for families. This includes a **lack of supported housing**, especially larger families.
- Taking a **holistic view** of family support, including coordination of support services, is vital to **prevent problems** from occurring and re-occurring, including in relation to **ACEs** (adverse childhood experiences).

What we'll do

- i. We'll continue to develop **better supported housing options** for larger families.
- ii. We'll also ensure that **all of our floating support is accessible** to people with dependent children – to meet increasing demand, and ensure that there is equality of access for families.
- iii. We'll learn from work in 2018/19 to review and complete an **options appraisal for our use of emergency temporary accommodation**, to inform future temporary accommodation commissioning and development of move-on options for families.
- iv. We'll promote partnership working with specialist advice services such as Citizens Advice and the Benefits Advice Shop – to ensure that families affected by the benefit cap can **access the right advice and guidance to prevent crisis point**.
- v. We'll explore what options there may be, particularly with Children and Communities Grant partners, to develop **greater coordination between family support services**, to enable a more holistic and needs-led approach.
- vi. We'll ensure that all projects have had quality **training around ACEs**.

ACES Include:

- **Physical, emotional & sexual abuse**
- **Physical & emotional neglect**
- **Being exposed to violence & substance abuse**
- **Parents going through divorce**
- **Relatives with mental health issues**
- **Incarcerated relatives**



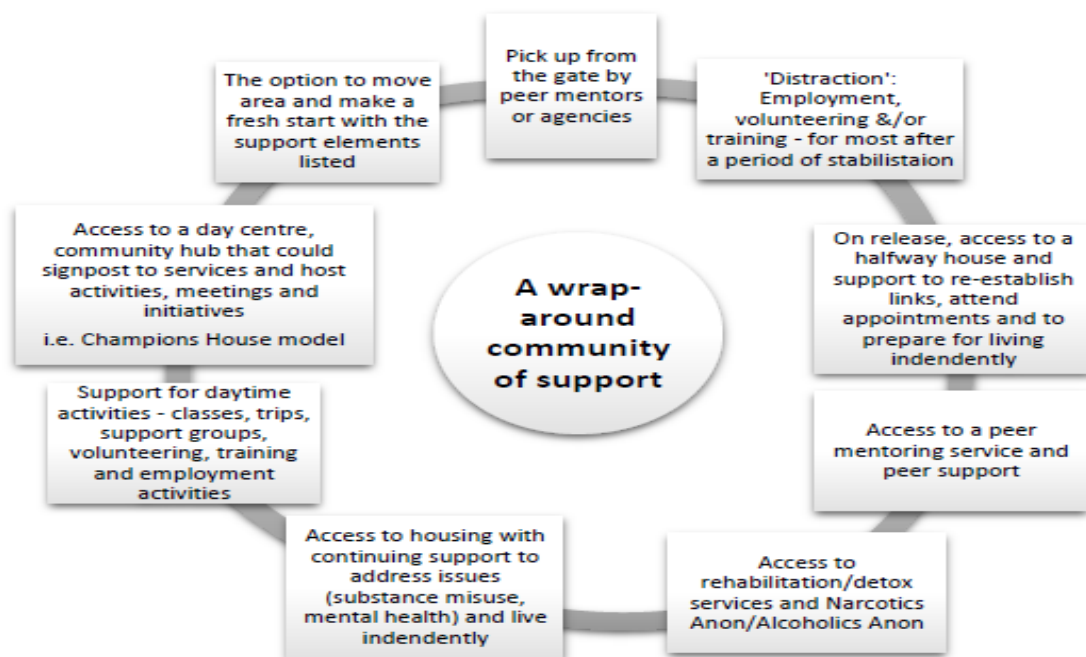
Risks include:

- **Homelessness**
- **Missed work**
- **Alcohol/substance abuse & smoking**
- **Criminal justice involvement**
- **Mental health problems & suicide attempts**
- **Various health issues, including diabetes, cancer, STDs, stroke, heart disease, COPD, broken bones & obesity**

8. Prison Leavers & People With a History of Offending

What we know

- The importance of suitable accommodation and support in helping to **reduce the likelihood of re-offending** is well established. A **National Pathway** for prison leavers is in place, which has supported more effective resettlement - but there remain **challenges**, often linked to a lack of coordination and information sharing between key services.
- Approximately **13%** of people referred for Supporting People support in 2017/18 had a history of offending. This is an **increase of around 5%** against the previous year.
- People leaving prison are **no longer automatic 'priority need'**, therefore are less likely to be offered accommodation via statutory Homelessness. When they are, they are **most likely to be offered B&B type accommodation**, at least in the short term. Supported housing is not always immediately available for people leaving prison, which may be because of a lack of suitable spaces, or because of a lack of planning.
- People leaving prison can have a variety of needs, but are particularly likely to have **mental health and/or substance misuse support needs**, and are also likely to have experienced **unsettled life circumstances** before entering prison.
- Research commissioned by the Regional Collaborative Committee in 2017 found that people leaving prison felt they needed this **wrap-around community of support**:



What we'll do

- i. Following the recruitment of a **dedicated prison resettlement Homelessness Prevention Officer** in 2018, we'll work to create better opportunities to prevent homelessness for people leaving prison. This must include **supporting better, joined up planning**, so that **supported housing is a viable option for people on release**.
- ii. We'll also continue to attend the **North Wales Prisoner Resettlement Group**, supporting the ongoing development and embedding of the National Pathway.
- iii. We'll review **training needs**, and promote **strengths-based** risk assessments and support plans, as part of our development of PIEs. We must also support particularly close **partnership working** with substance use and mental health support services, as well as promoting employment and other wellbeing support.

9. Rough sleeping

What we know

- Many rough sleepers face a combination of problems, in addition to homelessness, which can often include mental health issues, substance use problems and challenging behaviour. These issues can be **complex and mutually reinforcing**, often having their roots in **entrenched disadvantage**, and leaving people **socially and economically excluded**.
- While we have seen a rise in rough sleeping nationally, demand for our emergency beds project (Ty Golau) has **remained high**, though quite steady. The profile of people accessing has however slightly changed – **more young people** are using the emergency beds, and we are seeing **increasing complex needs/multiple disadvantage**.
- **Traditional support services do not work for all rough sleepers**, given often chaotic circumstances and more complex needs. Rough sleepers can often find themselves **furthest away from the support** they need most, and rates of re-presentation to services amongst rough sleepers are high. Responses to rough sleeping must therefore be **creative** and **assertive**.
- **Prevention of rough sleeping** wherever possible is a key priority. Where a person has had to sleep rough for whatever reason, **rapid intervention** to provide them with a safe place to sleep offers the best chance to prevent further rough sleeping and trauma.
- **Housing First** is founded on the principle that **housing is a basic human right**. It means secure accommodation is provided as soon as it's available (rather than after a period of support, e.g. in supported housing) – then holistic wrap-around support is put in place. Evidence shows that Housing First works, and - following the feasibility study completed in 2018 - that **Housing First can work in Denbighshire and Conwy**. Working with key partners including Health will however, be vital to the success of the project.

"[What's needed is] somebody there linking you in and saying 'look, this guy really needs this help... is there any way we can cut the red tape?'"
(Citizen)



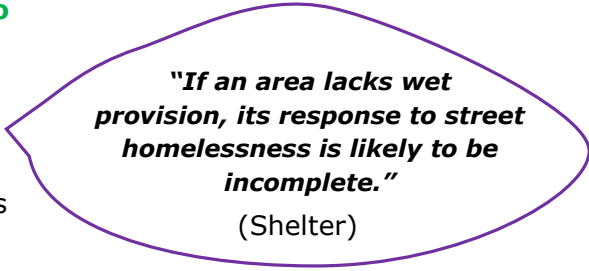
What we'll do

- We'll **commission a Housing First pilot**, in collaboration with Conwy County Borough Council, and in partnership with key partners such as Health. We are committed to developing at least an initial 5 units of Housing First accommodation and support in Denbighshire by the end of 2019.
- We'll **enhance existing services** to ensure they're best placed to respond to need, including considering the possibility of a 'sit up' service, and coordinating responses to StreetLink rough sleeper reports. We'll also promote the use of StreetLink.
- We'll continue to fund the Ty Golau **personal budget**, offering creative and bespoke ways to support move on and recovery from rough sleeping.
- We'll work to develop a '**No First Night Out**' approach, including targeted intensive support where people are at risk of spending a first night on the streets.
- We'll continue to contribute to work to **review day services** - to ensure a best practice, consistent approach to ending rough sleeping.

10. Drug and alcohol use

What we know

- Not everyone who has problems with alcohol or drugs becomes homeless, and not every homeless person has problems with drug or alcohol; however, **homeless people disproportionately experience drug/alcohol use related support needs**.
- Drug or alcohol problems can sometimes play a causal role in a person becoming homeless – but at the same time, people will use drugs or alcohol to **help them try to cope with the traumas of homelessness**.
- Approximately **15%** of people accessing Supporting People services identify that they have alcohol or other substance use related support need.
- Support needs tend to increase for people in the most **chaotic circumstances**, for example, rough sleepers. **'Street drinking'** (of which those who participate may or may not be homeless) has also been an issue in Rhyl in particular for some years. For these individuals, support referral patterns can point to a **'revolving door'**.
- People with drug or alcohol issues can become **excluded from the support services** they need, because of behaviours and difficulties in engaging with traditional support. Exclusion from services can also be a particular issue for people with **co-occurring mental health issues**, who can end up feeling stuck in the middle of mental health and substance use services. Without the right support, it can be **even more difficult for people to deal with their homelessness situation**.
- Evidence shows us that properly managed **safe drinking environments** can have a significant positive impact on an individual's drinking/drug use and other support needs (including homelessness), as well as levels of anti-social behaviour and crime.
- **'Cuckooing' can have a devastating impact on a person's safety and ability to keep their home**. Victims of cuckooing do not necessarily have their own drug/alcohol related support needs, but we know that transient drug dealers, running their drug trading routes known as 'county lines', will target vulnerable people – taking over their homes, threatening their safety, and potentially forcing them out.



"If an area lacks wet provision, its response to street homelessness is likely to be incomplete."
(Shelter)

What we'll do

- i. We'll ensure that **nobody is excluded from our support because of drug or alcohol issues**. This will include the continuing shifting of focus **to person-centred outcomes** (rather than process), and ensuring that our services can offer **flexible, multi-disciplinary support** to people with a variety of support needs (e.g. co-occurring mental health and substance use). We will also work with our projects to review drug/alcohol use policies, to ensure that risk measures are proportionate and **not exclusionary**. Promotion of an **underpinning harm reduction** approach will be key here.
- ii. We'll continue to offer support in tackling street drinking issues, working closely with the Police and other partners to ensure that Denbighshire's response is not limited to criminal justice - that we **respond to the root causes and support needs** of individuals experiencing these chaotic, and often traumatic lifestyles and circumstances.
- iii. We'll continue to **push for consideration for local safe drinking environments**. We will build on our existing evidence base and explore options for development, working closely with the Area Planning Board and the local community.
- iv. We'll **raise awareness of cuckooing and its impacts**, ensuring that both staff and the people we support can recognise the signs and try to prevent problems from escalating.

11. Learning disabilities & difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and acquired brain injury

What we know

- Going through services, with all of the paperwork, meetings etc. can be difficult to understand. When a person has impaired cognitive ability for whatever reason, it can be **even more difficult to understand and navigate the various services and expectations**. There are for example some **unique challenges** that individuals may face in relation to communication, relationships, and physical environment. There are also a lot of adults who struggle to read. And **sometimes people do not feel they have their voices heard**.
- Some people may also be unable to find suitable employment because of their support needs. When a person needs to claim benefits, they may face an **additional barrier** to securing suitable accommodation, when **landlords are unwilling to accept benefits**.

What we'll do

- i. We'll ensure that our processes, paperwork etc. are **accessible for everyone**. This will include co-producing new homelessness assessment paperwork in 2018 – which will be integrated, proportionate, and psychologically informed.
- ii. We'll consider what opportunities there may be for advocacy type support - **support for all people who may struggle to understand during the homelessness assessment process**, to ensure that people are communicated with in the best way so that they understand what will happen, and always have their voices heard.
- iii. We'll continue to commission and learn from the Complex Disabilities **Tenancy Enabler** service, recognising that specialist knowledge and approaches can be required to effectively support individuals in some of the unique challenges they may face.
- iv. Supporting People funding to the DCC Community Living service will continue to reduce every year, as agreed in 2013. This will not impact upon the support people receive.

12. Older People

What we know

- Older people can sometimes need some **practical help and support to regain or improve independence**, and ultimately **remain in their own homes**. Residential care is important, but not for everyone - it can be totally disproportionate for some older people's needs.
- The Supported Independent Living Service now works closely alongside the DCC Reablement service, to offer a **proportionate and streamlined service** to people who may have a range of care/support needs to enable them to stay in their own home.
- Older people are especially **vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation** – which can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing, and a person's ability to look after themselves and their home.

What we'll do

- i. We'll **invest further into Reablement**, recognising the importance of taking a holistic and streamlined approach to enabling older people to remain in their own homes.
- ii. In our move to more person-centred outcomes-focussed and psychologically informed ways of working, we will encourage **greater creativity and flexibility of approaches** to combat loneliness and prevent its associated impacts on health and independence.

7. MORE PEOPLE'S STORIES

It was a chance meeting in the library when I first met my Support Worker. I was asking if they had a list of landlords, but they didn't. I hadn't been sure where to turn. He overheard and asked me about my situation.

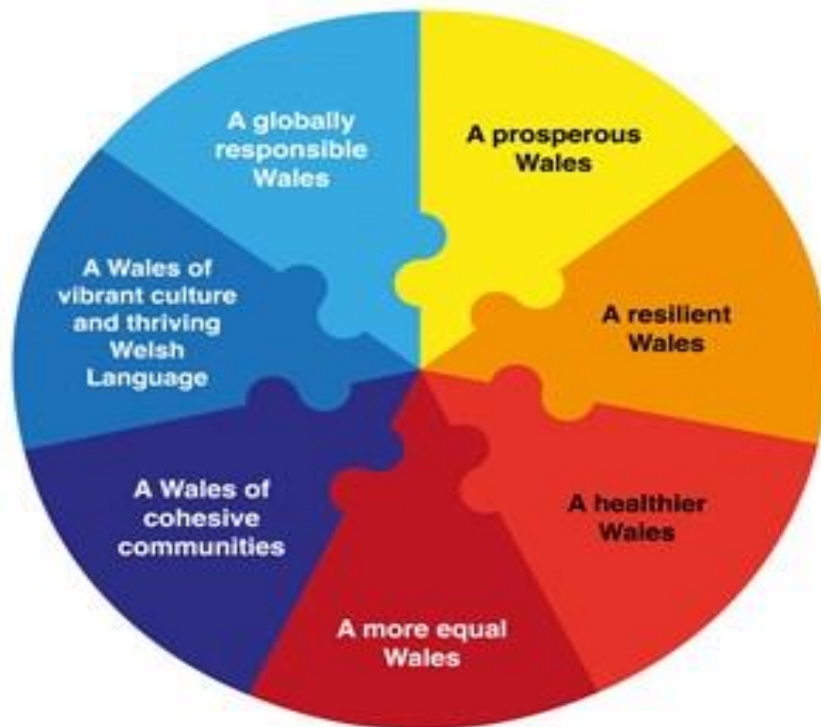
I was renting a property that was in a bad way. And it made me feel in a bad way. The kitchen ceiling was falling in. My landlord wasn't fixing anything, he just tried to intimidate me instead. I didn't feel safe. And now he was saying he was going to evict me. I had a breakdown.

My chance meeting lead to me being able to access some support around my housing situation - as it happens, from the same person I happened upon in the library. He supported me to go to Shelter Cymru for advice, where I found out that my landlord didn't have the proper registration. My Support Worker helped me to find a new place. I was even able to find somewhere where I could live close to my mum again, which was important to me. I had a bit of a battle to get my deposit back from my last place, but I got it eventually, with the help of Shelter Cymru and my Support Worker.

I'm still getting support, just to help me with getting settled, and with adjusting to Universal Credit. My Support Worker is helping me with understanding where to go and what to do if I have any problems in future. It's made a massive difference. The place where I live now is a lot better and a lot safer. I'm not embarrassed to have friends over anymore. It's been hard work. If it wasn't for that chance meeting and the support after that, I wouldn't be where I am now.

8. WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Wellbeing Impact Assessment is a tool we use to help us evaluate the impact of a new idea, policy, report or project. It helps us to consider ways to strengthen the contribution we can make to the wellbeing of future generations, looking at the 7 wellbeing goals identified in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:



A Wellbeing Impact Assessment for the draft Homelessness Prevention/Supporting People Commissioning Plan 2019-22 was completed 11/09/2018. It scored the Plan 28 points out of 30 in terms of its sustainability, and identified that it made a positive contribution to all of the 7 wellbeing goals (with strategies identified to address any unintended negative consequences). No amendments to the Assessment were required following the close of the Plan's consultation in November 2018.

9. SPEND PLAN

To be inserted once confirmed by Welsh Government

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Homelessness Prevention/Supporting People Commissioning Plan 2019-22

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	495
Brief description:	A three year plan, outlining our priorities and intentions for commissioning and development of homelessness prevention support services in Denbighshire.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Citizens and staff involved in homelessness prevention support in Denbighshire.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 28 / 30.

Implications of the score

Our inability to plan for the much longer term has brought our score down - this is owing to the fact that we are funded on an annual basis, and the uncertainty around future funding regimes. We can only try to mitigate this by planning as sustainably as possible, understanding population trends and needs, as well as taking a strengths-based approach, helping people to build their own support networks.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

- A prosperous Denbighshire
- A resilient Denbighshire
- A healthier Denbighshire
- A more equal Denbighshire
- A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
- A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Denbighshire

- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive



Main conclusions

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Plan takes a long-term, holistic view of tackling homelessness and providing quality accommodation and support.
Further actions required	In terms of the possibility of redundancies, as with any contract which goes out to tender, TUPE regulations will be adhered to. We will also continue to engage with affected providers and the wider market, through consultation on any significant remodels, and further Meet the Buyer events. We will always fundamentally ensure that any remodels are needs-led. In terms of more provision being based in the North, we are working to develop more supported housing options in the South (within existing contracts), and all of our floating support can work with people across the county. We are also working to ensure more flexible service delivery across the board, which will include statutory homelessness being more mobile, and consideration of options for hub/one-stop-shop type services.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The Plan sets out how we need to develop more multi-disciplinary support, shifting the focus from process to outcomes, which may include consideration of further merging of contracts. Having less contracts would result in greater efficiencies, which we could reasonably expect would have a positive impact on reducing energy/fuel consumption.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	The Plan details that we'll work to improve coordination and knowledge of other key support services, re-launching the Denbighshire Homelessness Forum, and exploring opportunities for hub/one-stop-shop style day services.
Economic development	Education, employment, volunteering and training are key areas for development outlined in the Plan. We will continue to work with projects to identify and challenge barriers in this area, working closely with employment support services, e.g. Communities for Work, Opus etc. Offering larger (merged) contracts should also offer more sustainability, as well as increase opportunities for community benefits.
Quality skills for the long term	As above, education, training, employment and volunteering are continuing key priorities, which includes the promotion and development of work experience placements. Offering larger (merged) contracts should also offer more sustainability, as well as increase opportunities for community benefits.
Quality jobs for the long term	As above, education, training, employment and volunteering are continuing key priorities, which includes the promotion and development of work experience placements. Offering larger (merged) contracts should also offer more sustainability, as well as increase opportunities for community benefits.
Childcare	We will continue to ensure that our support is available to all, including people with children - the nature of our support does not necessitate childcare. In supporting people to achieve outcomes in education, employment, volunteering and training, we will be working closely with our Tackling Poverty Partners to ensure that child care schemes can be utilised.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	The majority of homelessness prevention support provision is based in the North.
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	With merging any contracts there is the possibility of redundancies.
Childcare	

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Plan focuses on the importance of partnerships with agencies such as DCC Housing Enforcement and other Housing colleagues.
Further actions required	In relation to the possibility of losing current supported housing properties, we will consider this carefully in any tender processes, and ensure that best use is made of existing properties wherever possible. We will liaise with Housing Strategy where needed to investigate opportunities for sustainable development, and be informed by the Local Development Plan. Any property development will be undertaken in line with relevant planning regulations.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The Plan sets out how we need to develop more multi-disciplinary support, shifting the focus from process to outcomes, which may include consideration of further merging of contracts. Having less contracts would result in greater efficiencies, which we could reasonably expect would have a positive impact on reducing energy/fuel consumption.
Biodiversity in the built environment	The Plan sets out how we will continue to work closely with DCC Housing Enforcement (including learning from a pilot SP services support project in 2018/19) to ensure that all accommodation identified via homelessness prevention support services is safe and of a good standard.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	DCC Homelessness Prevention prioritizes online promotion (rather than leaflets etc.) wherever possible. The Plan itself will be available online.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	The Plan will support and work alongside DCC's other corporate priorities, and as such, Homelessness Prevention staff are committed to agile working - supporting more flexible service offers.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	As above, will be working closely with DCC Housing Enforcement to ensure that accommodation is safe and of a good standard. Homelessness prevention support would also be key in responding to any flood crisis, supporting displaced households.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	With possible future remodeling of contracts, it may be that certain properties (for supported housing) cannot be retained, therefore our commissioned providers may need to develop new accommodation (to be clear, the cost of accommodation development would sit with the provider, DCC Homelessness Prevention commissions the support element only). Our priority around building psychologically informed environments may also require some physical development, e.g. building improvements, decorating etc.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	People's physical and emotional health are key outcome areas for homelessness prevention support. The Plan has a distinct focus on the need for us to develop our services to be more psychologically informed, as well as more multi-disciplinary - homelessness prevention support that is trauma informed and holistic.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Further development of psychologically informed environments is a key priority set out in the Plan. These focus on helping people to understand where behaviours come from, allowing people to work more creatively and effectively - involving thinking not only about what our physical environments look like, but how we communicate; respond to challenging situations, and assess and meet need. The Plan is influenced by and helps to support the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We will also continue to contribute to the 2025 movement, established to end avoidable health inequalities in North Wales. We also continue to work to develop opportunities to better support people with substance use support needs, e.g. developing safe drinking environments.
Access to good quality, healthy food	All homelessness prevention support helps people with things such as menu planning, cooking well on a budget etc. We will also continue to work closely with our Tackling Poverty partners to address poverty in Denbighshire, including food poverty.

People's emotional and mental well-being	All homelessness prevention support works to help people to improve their emotional and mental wellbeing. The Plan sets out how we will work to build better working and info sharing arrangements with the CMHT and ward staff, supporting better knowledge and support approaches, and better enabling early intervention and prevention of homelessness. We will also be exploring options for more integrated mental health support; considering training and joint working opportunities, as well as supporting the delivery of the North Wales Together for Mental Health Strategy, and the 2025 movement.
Access to healthcare	Citizens leading a healthy and active lifestyle is one of the outcomes SP projects are required to report on (as part of the National Outcomes Framework). Citizens are frequently supported by SP services to access healthcare, e.g. their GP. Additionally, as above, we have outlined a number of plans to support people with mental health issues to better access the support they need.
Participation in leisure opportunities	As outlined in the Plan, • Activities to improve wellbeing, helping people to stay motivated, feel valued, and have hope, are highly valued and highly effective elements of support. We'll continue to develop risk-based reviewing and greater flexibility in contracts, shifting the focus from process to outcomes, to ensure support is maximised and proportionate, and available where needed most. This will include promoting activities to increase confidence and wellbeing as a key element of support.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Our homelessness prevention support services fundamentally work to tackle homelessness - which goes hand in hand with poverty. With our shift towards person-centred outcomes, not process, and developing services that are more multi-disciplinary, our impact should be one of breaking down more barriers to support/independence, and allowing more people to access the right help so that they can improve their situations.

Further actions required	We must be clear that multi-disciplinary support is not about treating everyone the same - it must acknowledge and embrace diversity, and ensure that support offers are always entirely person-centred, regardless of characteristics/individual support needs. To achieve this we must ensure that any service remodels are done in close consultation with citizens and projects, to identify and address any unintended negative consequences. We must also ensure that staff have access to the right training. We will also ensure that more specialist support approaches, where needed, can remain specialist (e.g. the Tenancy Enabler service).
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Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Our Plan is influenced by the Strategic Equality Plan. Links between poverty (and homelessness) and certain protected characteristics are well established; as a Tackling Poverty partner, we have a clear focus on tackling homelessness and its underlying causes. Our outlined continued move to more multi-disciplinary support, shifting the focus from process to outcomes, will continue to remove barriers to access which can currently be created by specific eligibility criteria.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	We know that many people who experience homelessness/risk of homelessness suffer discrimination and disadvantage. The Plan has a focus on highlighting and mitigating the impacts of things like welfare reform, and the barriers people may face to accessing support/accommodation, e.g. people with mental health issues, rough sleepers, people with substance use issues, and people leaving prison. We will be developing a Housing First offer, based on the principle that housing is a basic human right, and working to remove the barriers/fall points that people who are furthest away from traditional support services may experience. We will also be working to ensure that a harm reduction approach is embedded across our services - that no one is excluded from our services because of substance use issues. We will also continue to support the delivery of the 2025 movement.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Our projects work in areas of high deprivation, including West Rhyl. Supporting people to improve their economic, health and educational outcomes is part of the core business of homelessness prevention support, as captured in the Plan. This includes working in partnership with employment support services such as Opus and AdTrac, and supporting the development of work experience opportunities.
People in poverty	As above.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	There is the risk, if remodels aren't undertaken properly, that more bespoke approaches could be lost if support need-specific (e.g. substance use support) services become multi-disciplinary. We must acknowledge that individuals with particular characteristics/specific support needs may require a more bespoke approach.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Access to safe and suitable accommodation, as well as resilience & empowerment, are 2 of the key strands of the approach to achieving the vision of the Plan (and the Homelessness Strategy) - to end homelessness in Denbighshire.
Further actions required	In relation to the possibility of losing current supported housing properties, we will consider this carefully in developing specifications and in any tender processes, ensuring as far as possible that best use is made of existing properties. We will liaise with Housing Strategy where needed to investigate opportunities for sustainable development, and be informed by the Local Development Plan. We will liaise with DCC Housing/Planning regarding the possible impacts on B&B's, there may be potential opportunities for regeneration.

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Safe communities and individuals</p>	<p>All of our projects support the safety of individuals and others (this is a specific area captured in the SP outcomes framework). We know that homelessness/risk of homelessness may often go hand in hand with increased vulnerability. The Plan outlines how we will continue to work closely with DCC Housing Enforcement, including commissioning a pilot project with them in 2018/19, to ensure that all accommodation sourced via all homelessness prevention support is safe and of a good standard. We are also better developing our response to supporting people leaving prison, including a dedicated Criminal Justice Homelessness Prevention Officer, to work closely alongside prisons, Police and Probation service. We will also continue to contribute to the North Wales Prisoner Resettlement Group. We also continue to develop a Young People's Positive Pathway model, ensuring that all young people are safeguarded and offered the right support at the right time to prevent homelessness/being unsuitably housed. Alongside this we will continue to promote trauma informed ways of working, including identifying, understanding and mitigating the impacts of adverse childhood experiences. We also continue to work towards a fully risk-based approach to our project reviewing - this involves project risks being identified and measured, which informs when and how we review. For example, where projects are assessed as lower risk, a lighter-touch review may take place - and as a general rule, higher risk projects would be reviewed first.</p>
<p>Community participation and resilience</p>	<p>Co-production with and involvement of people with lived experience is our central strategic priority. Citizens will be involved in a much more meaningful way in homelessness prevention service planning going forward. We are also co-producing this year's annual homelessness prevention event, which is a key part of the development of the Commissioning Plan.</p>
<p>The attractiveness of the area</p>	<p>One of our key priorities is developing psychologically informed environments - and element of this is improving the physical environments of support projects, e.g. building improvements, decorating etc. Another key priority is developing better temporary accommodation options, including looking to end the use of unsuitable B&B type accommodation - this should have a positive impact in terms of development, tourism etc. The Plan, alongside the Denbighshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-21, will also support the Denbighshire Housing Strategy and Development Plan.</p>
<p>Connected communities</p>	<p>We will be developing better opportunities for peer/community support. We'll also be working to improve coordination and knowledge of other key support services, by re-launching the Denbighshire Homelessness Forum, and exploring opportunities for hub/one-stop-shop style day services.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>Safe communities and individuals</p>	
<p>Community participation and resilience</p>	
<p>The attractiveness of the area</p>	<p>With the move towards more multi-disciplinary support potentially resulting in further service remodels, it may be that certain properties (for supported housing) cannot be retained, therefore new developments may be necessitated. It is therefore possible that some buildings could become dis-used. Also, reducing/ending the use of unsuitable B&B temporary accommodation may impact negatively on some local businesses, which could have the potential to lead to some deterioration.</p>

Connected communities	
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A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Plan outlines how we will continue to work to ensure that our support is available to people with all support needs, characteristics etc. With person-centred approaches, and a focus on wellbeing, our support offers should always support people to communicate in the way they're most comfortable, as part of what matters to them.
Further actions required	All jobs are advertised at the very least as Welsh desirable. All commissioned projects are expected to have a Welsh language policy. We have shared materials such as the 'Welsh on the Wall' poster with commissioned projects. We will liaise with the DCC Welsh Language Officer and Welsh Language Champions as needed.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Homelessness Prevention has adopted the 'active offer' and Denbighshire Welsh Language Standards - it is expected that all of our commissioned services will offer support in Welsh or English. The Plan, as well as all public information, will be available in both Welsh and English.
Promoting the Welsh language	As above.
Culture and heritage	We will be promoting activities in the community to increase confidence and wellbeing as a key element of support.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Not all support staff are able to speak fluent Welsh. There could therefore be a high level of demand for Welsh speaking staff.
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Ending homelessness, the fundamental aim of the Plan, naturally sits within the upholding of human rights - everyone has a fundamental human right to housing, which ensures access to a safe, secure, habitable, and affordable home with freedom from forced eviction. Ending homelessness, and the focus on prevention, means that the burden on other statutory services will be reduced.
Further actions required	In relation to the possibility of smaller suppliers being excluded, if any contracts are merged we will be encouraging consortium bids where possible, we will offer further 'Meet the Buyer' events, and will also ensure compliance with TUPE. We will liaise with DCC Housing/Planning regarding the possible impacts on B&B's, there may be potential opportunities for regeneration.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Having remodeled, potentially larger contracts would mean increased opportunities for contracts to incorporate significant community benefits.
Human rights	The provision of quality accommodation and support naturally sits within the upholding of human rights - everyone has a fundamental human right to housing, which ensures access to a safe, secure, habitable, and affordable home, with freedom from forced eviction. This will be supported by our close working and pilot project with DCC Housing Enforcement – which will also make sure that all landlords worked with are registered with Rent Smart Wales, ensuring that people are trained in their rights and responsibilities when renting out a property to tenants. Our development of a Housing First offer is also founded on the principle of housing being a basic human right.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Partnership working is fundamental to the Plan, and the focus on prevention means that the burden on statutory services (e.g. Health and criminal justice) in particular will be reduced. The Plan also outlines our intentions to explore opportunities for partnership commissioning (particularly in the context of flexible funding), and regional collaboration (e.g. Housing First). We will also continue to contribute to meeting the priorities of the Regional Development Plan. This will include supporting the development of regional working and projects, as identified by the group throughout the year.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	It is possible that offering larger contracts may exclude some smaller suppliers from the market. Reducing the use of B&B's as temporary accommodation could have a negative impact on some local businesses.

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Appendix 3 – Partnership Scrutiny Comments & Recommendations

Members suggested that future reports and Commissioning Plans should include actual numbers in addition to percentage figures when referring to individuals/families/households supported by the Service and its partners, as this would assist the Committee to gauge the extent of the problems and to see the extent of the homelessness problem in the county and whether any trend was developing. They also requested that both English and Welsh versions of the Commissioning Plan were proof-read in order to eliminate basic spelling and grammar errors and that an information report be provide to them on Prison Leavers and the Homelessness Service.

In congratulating the Service on its work and the support it provided for vulnerable families and individuals, members emphasised the need to progress the objectives of the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) work and the importance for the Council to commence its plans to build more social housing in the county.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee –

RESOLVED, *subject to the above observations and the provision of the requested information –*

- (a) to support the delivery of the Homelessness Prevention Action Plan, to ensure that everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs;*
- (b) that it was assured that plans were being developed for mitigating any risks associated with future changes to Supporting People funding;*
- (c) that its comments and recommendations be included in the report on the Commissioning Plan scheduled to be presented to Cabinet at its December meeting, and*
- (d) that an Information Report be prepared for circulation to members on Prison Leavers and the Homelessness Services.*

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Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	18 December 2018
Lead Member / Officer:	Cllr Hugh Evans / Graham Boase
Report Author:	Stuart Whitfield DCC
Title:	North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy and Local Full Fibre Network Programme

1. What is the report about?

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) have an ambitious Vision to improve the economy across North Wales. That Vision has previously been approved by Cabinet. The Board is supported by an Executive Group comprising senior Officers from across the region. Individuals within the Executive Group are responsible for leading on individual Projects to help deliver the Vision. Steve Bayley of Wrexham CBC (Head of Housing and Economy) is the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the regional Digital work, with support from Denbighshire's Economic and Business Development Team.

This report explains the opportunities and implications of the regional digital work for Denbighshire County Council.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide an update on the digital work carried out to date by NWEAB, in particular the Digital Connectivity Strategy for the region along with one of the important projects to help deliver the Strategy, namely the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) project. The LFFN is a programme being operated by the UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Decisions are required in terms of the Council formally adopting the regional Digital Connectivity Strategy and the Council's role in delivering the regional LFFN project.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet

- adopts the North Wales Connectivity Strategy
- approves Denbighshire County Council 's role as Lead Body on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for the LFFN Project agrees that the Council enters into a suitable Inter Authority Agreement with the other partner bodies in respect of the LFFN Project
- authorises the Corporate Director Economy and Public Realm in consultation with the s151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Leader to agree the final terms of the Inter Authority Agreement.

4. Report details

At their March meeting the NWEAB approved a Digital Connectivity Strategy for the region, which is attached as Appendix 1. Cabinet are asked to formally adopt the Strategy.

In order to support the delivery of the Strategy, the NWEAB also agreed at the March meeting to develop and submit a regional bid to the UK Government's LFFN Programme Challenge Fund¹. The Fund is only for investment in digital connectivity delivered by the public sector. It was proposed and agreed that DCC would be the lead authority for the purposes of the LFFN bid with Steve Bayley of Wrexham CBC continuing to provide the overall SRO role.

North Wales' LFFN bid has now been approved in principle by UK Government. The LFFN proposal currently stands at approximately £9 million investment in the region. The investment will be directed to improving connectivity across the public sector in the region, resulting in wider enhancement of networks serving communities.

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

The NWEAB's Digital Strategy and the LFFN project directly contributes to DCC's Corporate Priorities:

Connected Communities

- Make superfast broadband and mobile networks available to everyone.
- County-wide superfast broadband and mobile networks, including 4G and 5G.

A place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so

- Develop greater employment opportunities for younger people
- Employment that appeals to young people and matches their skills.

Delivery of full fibre broadband on the proposed scale will result in more of the region's businesses accessing affordable, high quality connectivity, typically only available in larger urban centres. This will facilitate not only the growth of digital industries which support highly skilled, well paid jobs but also most other sectors which are increasingly dependent on higher standards of connectivity. These include tourism, manufacturing and retail. Extensive consultation with businesses with the support of the North Wales and Mersey Dee Business Council, on behalf of the NWEAB, has identified digital connectivity of this type as a consistent priority.

Around a third of the public sector sites to be upgraded are associated with health and around 100 of these are GP surgeries, sometimes in very rural communities. Both UK and Welsh Governments have identified a need for greater adoption of digital technology in healthcare. The current lack of full fibre connectivity to these sites is restricting the innovation and efficiencies being achieved elsewhere in better connected regions, with routine tasks such as transferring patient records relying upon inefficient and slow technologies (e.g. fax).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-full-fibre-networks-programme>

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

Additional Resources needed (staffing or financial)

ICT

Revenue and capital costs have been provided. DCC's Chief Digital Officer has provided a list of corporate sites for inclusion in the upgrade plan. On completion of installs there would be a potential revenue saving of 80k following on from a capital investment of 70k. Significant bandwidth improvements would be made with a knock on effect of improving Denbighshire's physical digital infrastructure. There will however still be areas of the County which are not reached by this intervention and the County Council will work with partners and communities to facilitate local interventions.

Legal

DCC legal costs will need to be met in drafting the appropriate legal documents in respect of an Inter Authority Agreement .

Biodiversity

No affects

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

The project is focused on improving immediate and long term connectivity requirements across the public sector in north Wales and on improving connectivity for SMEs . In this respect the Well-being Assessment illustrates direct positive impacts across six of the seven goals and no negative impacts in any.

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

Consultation has been undertaken throughout the course of 2018 led by DCC's Economic and Business Development team, involving officers within DCC (Economic and Business Development, ICT, Customers, Communications and Marketing), and;

- each of the other North Wales Local Authorities (ICT and Economic Development)
- Welsh Government (ICT Infrastructure Division)
- UK Government (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)
- North Wales Economic Ambition Board
- Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board (NHS)
- National Wales Informatics Service (NHS)
- North Wales and Mersey Dee Business Council
- Federation of Small Businesses

The outcome of this consultation has included the North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy (Appendix 1), a Digital Connectivity Action Plan for the NWEAB Growth

Bid and the proposed North Wales Local Full Fibre Network Programme application.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Costs to the council associated with hosting the project should be recovered from the source funding or from contributions from the region. The formal inter authority agreement should ensure that risks around employment or wider project delivery are shared equally amongst partners.

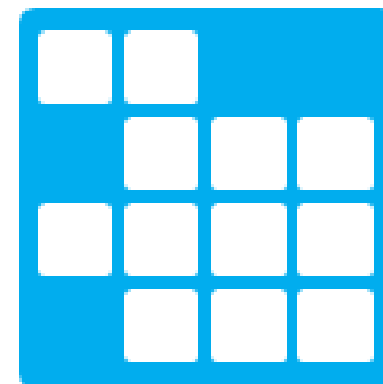
10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no risks foreseen in the Council adopting the North Wales Connectivity Strategy. The Strategy should be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains relevant.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local Government Act 2000 s.2 the power to enter into arrangements, that facilitate and are conducive to environmental, economic and social well-being.

The Local Government Wales Measure 2009 s.12 (2) in respect of collaboration duties.



North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy
Strategaeth Cysylltedd Digidol Gogledd Cymru

Regional Strategy

North Wales
18th March 2018

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1. Introduction

Improved digital connectivity is identified as the most important factor in the ongoing economic and social transformation of North Wales. The *North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy* details the rationale and the interventions for the development of digital connectivity to match this transformation to 2030 and beyond.

The digital strategy supports the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales*¹, with development funded through the North Wales Growth Bid and other sources of funding.

The *North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy* is a regional collaboration of six local authorities and the private sector (through the North Wales and Mersey Dee Business Council). The regional strategy has been developed to complement local and national strategies to establish a 'joined-up' approach to ensure the maximum economic benefit will result.

The regional strategy concentrates on the vision for economic growth, the key sectors and the consequential spatial distribution of the actions required to make a difference. In addition, it targets the key strategic sites which have been agreed in the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales*.

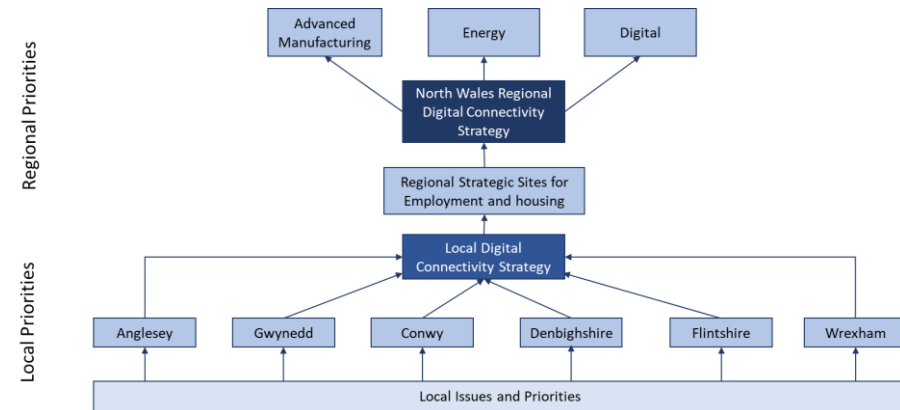


Fig.1 Context of regional and local digital connectivity strategies

The local strategies are broader; each local authority area benefits from and contributes to the regional priorities and seeks to address specific local issues in terms of local sector priorities and local priority sites.

Local and regional strategies benefit from, and seek to support and extend national strategies from Welsh and UK governments. These include the ongoing *Superfast Cymru*² programme as well as the Welsh Government *Mobile Action Plan*³ and *UK Digital Strategy 2017*⁴.

Fig.1 illustrates the context of the activities and illustrates how the local strategies both address local issues and priorities but are also key to the delivery of the regional strategy.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Digital Priorities

The *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales* identifies a number of key economic sectors and key sites that are central to the growth of the economy in North Wales. In addition, there are sectors and locations that are important locally. Key sectors identified in this report are:

- Energy Cluster
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Digital Cluster
- Construction
- Tourism and hospitality
- Health and Social Care

2.2 Requirements by Sector

Although all businesses have different specific requirements based on their size and operation, different sectors tend to have different characteristic needs that can guide interventions:

- **Energy Cluster** – The Energy Cluster supply chain needs to exchange large data files. Even relatively small companies may require high bandwidth, but are mostly focused in key locations. Ensuring full fibre connections for affordable services at these locations is required.
- **Advanced Manufacturing** – Like the Energy Cluster, Advanced Manufacturing needs to exchange large files throughout the supply chain, and between building facilities within companies. Small companies may need large bandwidth, and large companies may have locations where leased lines are not affordable.

- **Digital Cluster** – As with the other high growth sectors, the potential for high bandwidth file exchange is critical. However, the sector is more geographically dispersed – requiring high bandwidth services throughout the region.
- **Construction** – The need for effective document control means that main offices need good bandwidth capabilities, but there is also a need to communicate with remote sites. Improved availability of superfast and 4G throughout the region will benefit the sector.
- **Tourism and hospitality** – Tourism locations need to meet the aggregated connectivity expectations of several users at once. Increasing bandwidth expectations of individual users is leading to significant bandwidth requirements.
- **Health and Social Care** – the digital transformation of the sector, and the need for connected mobile workers means that superfast broadband for all is a key social requirement.

Sector	Digital Requirement
Energy Cluster	Full fibre at key locations
Manufacturing	Full fibre at key locations
Digital Cluster	Ultrafast and superfast widely available
Construction	Ultrafast and superfast widely available
Tourism & hospitality	Ultrafast and superfast widely available
Health & Social Care	Superfast available to all properties

2.3 Current Availability

The *Superfast Cymru* project has delivered significant improvement in superfast broadband across the region since 2013, and the *FibreSpeed*⁵ network gives potential core strength in the north. However, the current digital connectivity in North Wales remains poorer than Wales as a whole and significantly lags the rest of the UK.

There are 'white' (un-connected) properties throughout the region. Limited reach of the FTTC access infrastructure causes most of the weakness in superfast deployment. Poor underlying core infrastructure means there is poor access to higher value services throughout the region.

Mobile connectivity also is significantly poorer than in the rest of the UK, with poor coverage and inadequate capacity.

<p>Strengths</p> <p>Shared leadership throughout the region gives the potential for greater overall benefit through greater capacity.</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Poor existing core and access infrastructures, and low population density present commercial barriers.</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>FibreSpeed, Network Rail Telecom and public sector connections present key opportunities to improve connectivity.</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>Established 'digital divide' presents a long term threat of economic and social decline.</p>

2.4 Intervention Strategy

A number of initial key interventions have been identified to begin to deliver improved connectivity at local and regional level:

- **Full fibre passive infrastructure** – improved duct network to facilitate end-user access to full fibre gigabit services.
- **Affordable gigabit services** – development of high bandwidth contended FTTP services to meet business needs.
- **Improved backhaul** – development of the FibreSpeed, Network Rail Telecom and Public Sector connectivity routes to improve core connectivity.
- **SME Demand stimulation** – voucher based schemes to promote demand and support all initiatives.
- **Rural Broadband Deployment** – to support the *Next Generation Access Broadband Wales* project and improve deployment of superfast and ultrafast broadband in remote rural areas.
- **Social Housing Broadband** – digital connectivity to improve service efficiency and social outcomes.
- **Public Sector Anchor Tenant** – explore options to use fibre at schools and other public buildings to extend backhaul connections throughout the region.
- **Policy Support** – review and improvement of planning and similar policies to reduce policy barriers.
- **Market Intelligence** – establish effective communication channels for key market data to service providers.
- **5G Demonstrators** – development of 5G use-case demonstrators.

3. Digital Priorities

The North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy has been developed to establish local strategies for each of the six counties in North Wales, and an over-arching strategy for the region. In this way, the regional strategy will address some of the key similarities and differences between the six counties, and how they contribute to the region. Locally, the six counties will benefit from the influence of the regional strategy, and maintain their local priorities.

3.1 Growth Vision

Central to the Digital Connectivity Strategy development is the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales* and the Growth Bid, currently in development. The *Growth Vision* is a single joined-up vision for economic and employment growth for the region with a strong private sector involvement and a collaborative approach with surrounding areas. As well as the economic ambitions, the vision plans to address the social, environmental and cultural well-being of North Wales; to support and retain young people in the local economies; address worklessness and inactivity; and to support and enable private sector investment. A portfolio of strategic projects has been identified to address Infrastructure, skills and employment and support for business growth. Digital infrastructure has been identified as a key aspect of the infrastructure needed for growth and effective digital infrastructure and its widespread use will help to build on areas of strength as well as ameliorate some of the

disadvantages suffered by the more rural and remote parts of the region.

3.1.1 Key Industry Sectors

The key industry sectors identified in the Growth Vision are:

- **Energy Cluster** – with a number of key locations throughout the region, energy presents a key strategic strength.
- **Advanced Manufacturing** – manufacturing is a key sector for the economy and employment of the region. particularly in Flintshire and Wrexham.
- **Digital Cluster** – the developing digital cluster has the potential for economic growth across the region.

Underpinning this, the *North Wales Regional Skills and Employment Plan* ⁶ identifies three priority sectors (energy, manufacturing and construction), and four growth sectors (creative and digital, health and social care, tourism and hospitality, food and drink).

The digital connectivity priorities presented by these sectors are different. While the three key industry sectors very high bandwidth in a few locations, the growth sectors require less bandwidth, but in locations throughout the region.

3.1.3 Strategic Sites and Premises

The *Growth Vision* identifies a number of key sites and premises (see Fig.3 on page 8). These sites primarily support the three key industry sectors, and present focus locations for economic growth for the region. These strategic sites for development are:

- Northern Gateway, Deeside
- Warren Hall, Broughton
- Wrexham Technology Park
- Wrexham Industrial Estate
- Wrexham Business Quarter
- St Asaph Business Park
- Bodelwyddan
- Abergele South East
- Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor
- Parc Cefni expansion, Llangefni
- Parc Cybi, Holyhead
- Holyhead Port
- Ferodo Site, Caernarfon
- Centre for Energy Generation at Trawsfynydd
- Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr
- Menai Science Park

It is expected that all of these sites will see improved connectivity as a result of this strategy because they are the sites where significant growth is expected. Other important sites which support significant employment are expected to benefit similarly.

Mapping of the strategic sites across the region shows the majority are in the north, and close to the FibreSpeed network. This gives the potential for strong development of digital connectivity to these sites. However, the Centre for Energy Generation at Trawsfynydd, and the Snowdonia Aerospace Centre at Llanbedr present much greater problems for digital connectivity.

3.1.4 Infrastructure Plan to enable Growth – Digital

Three strategic projects to strengthen the regional digital infrastructure are identified in the *Growth Vision*:

- Promote and deliver projects that increase ultra-fast broadband and mobile coverage that enable our businesses to access new markets.
- Accelerate the roll-out of the connectivity infrastructure programme in the region.
- Support continued investment in the digital network and infrastructure, especially mobile connectivity, and promote activities to exploit the availability of superfast broadband. Monitor usage and promote the capacity provided.

These three projects require development to establish practical projects that can be delivered to provide specific benefits throughout the region.

3.1.5 Digital Options

Current digital connectivity is provided through a number of different technologies, and with different capabilities. These present a number of different digital options that have different characteristics and benefits:

- **Leased lines** – provide the most advanced (and most expensive) digital connectivity. Used at key locations by the largest organisations, they provide symmetrical, un-contended (not shared) connections in a range of bandwidths.
- **Gigabit FTTP** – offering very high bandwidth contended services delivered over full fibre technology, they provide an affordable solution to meet the most advanced data requirements. Availability of these new services is poor.
- **Ultrafast** – similar capabilities to gigabit services, but slightly lower bandwidths allow delivery over different technologies, and hence greater availability.
- **Superfast** – typically delivered over FTTC (mix of fibre and copper) infrastructure, superfast services present a step change in broadband capability. They form the base level for a modern connected community.
- **Broadband** – original broadband services were delivered over copper lines from the exchange. They may be all that is available in ‘white’ areas (where Superfast broadband is not yet available). Speeds vary from 0.5Mbps. Ofcom currently specifies 10Mbps as ‘decent broadband’.

- **Mobile Communications** – are constantly evolving. The 2G GSM networks are still important for voice services. 3G data networks are being superseded by 4G with better coverage and capacity. Soon 5G capabilities will complement 4G networks and Voice will move to VoLTE as 4G coverage extends as far as that of 2G networks.

All current digital connectivity utilises optical fibres for at least part of the connection route. Optical fibre connections provide the greatest flexibility of bandwidth and distance – and are consequently seen as the most ‘future-proof’ connections as the digital requirements of all businesses and users continue to grow.

To provide a simple comparison, the impact of different broadband types on the download times for a typical two hour movie is shown in Fig.2.

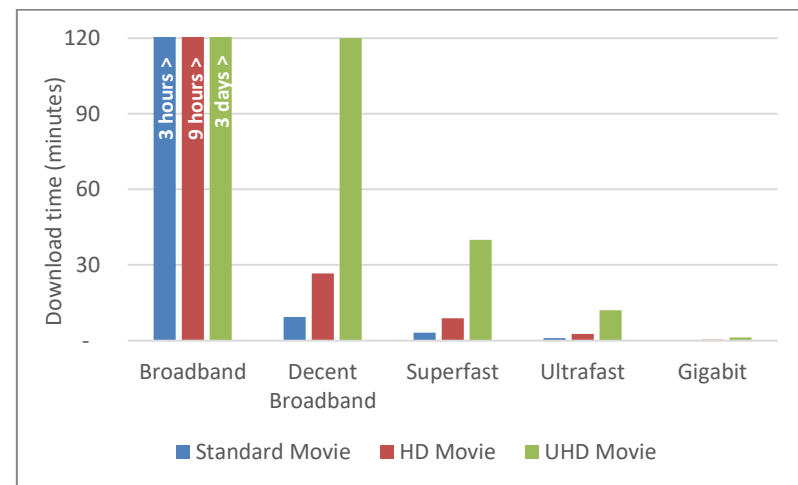


Fig.2 Film download times for broadband services

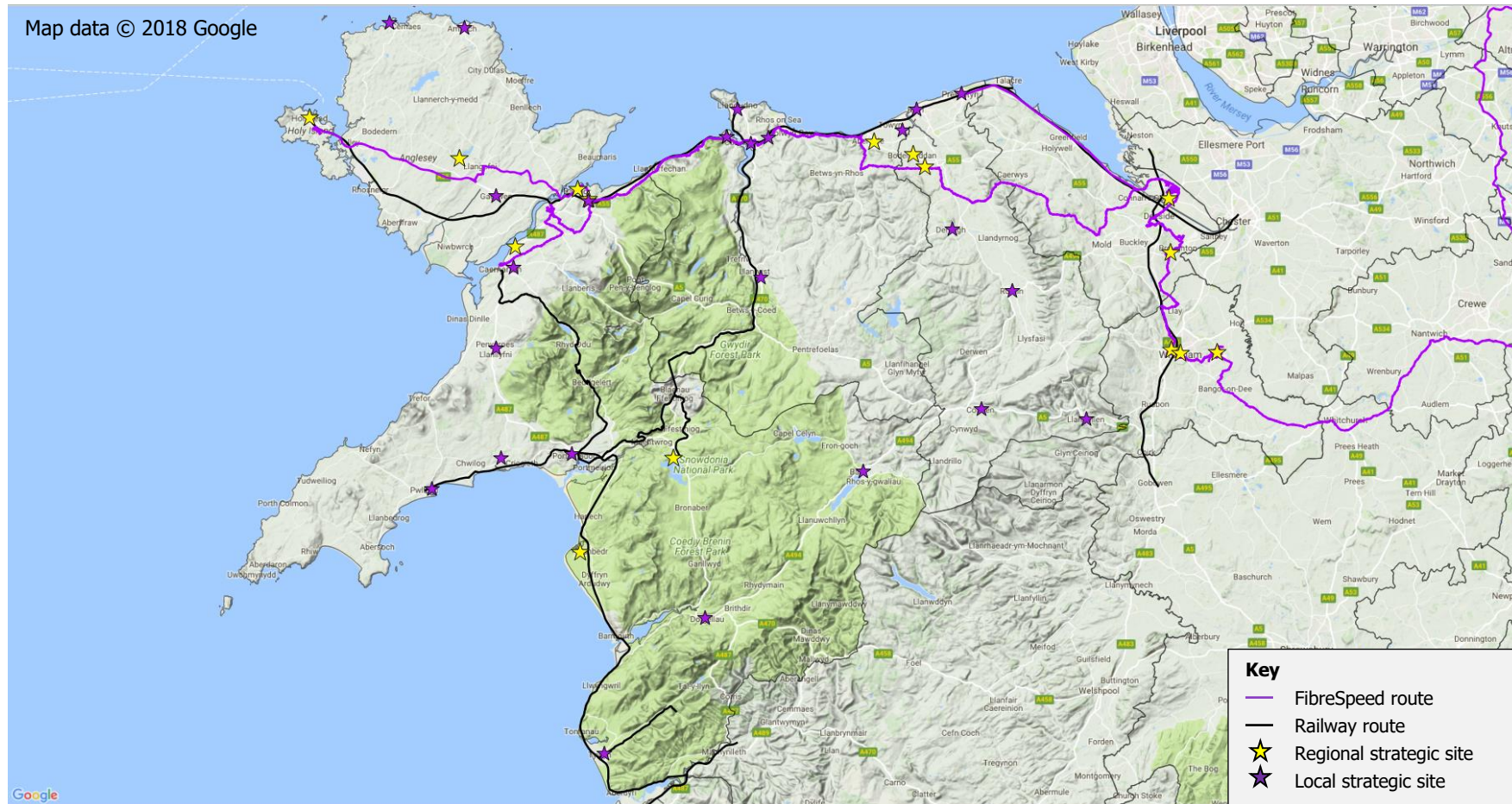


Fig.3 Mapping of Key Strategic Sites for North Wales with FibreSpeed and Rail routes

3.3 Other Strategic Drivers

The business sectors identified in the *Growth Vision* are not the only priorities for the individual counties. This is made clear in the Gross Value Add (GVA) by sector for the region. Manufacturing is a very important sector for North Wales as a whole, though the majority of the GVA impact is in Flintshire and Wrexham.

Other sectors – in particular the public sector, and tourism related businesses (including retail) are important to the region and have a wider economic impact throughout the six counties.

Addressing the specific requirements of the different business sectors will be important, particularly at local levels. Addressing the societal requirements of digital connectivity must also be considered.

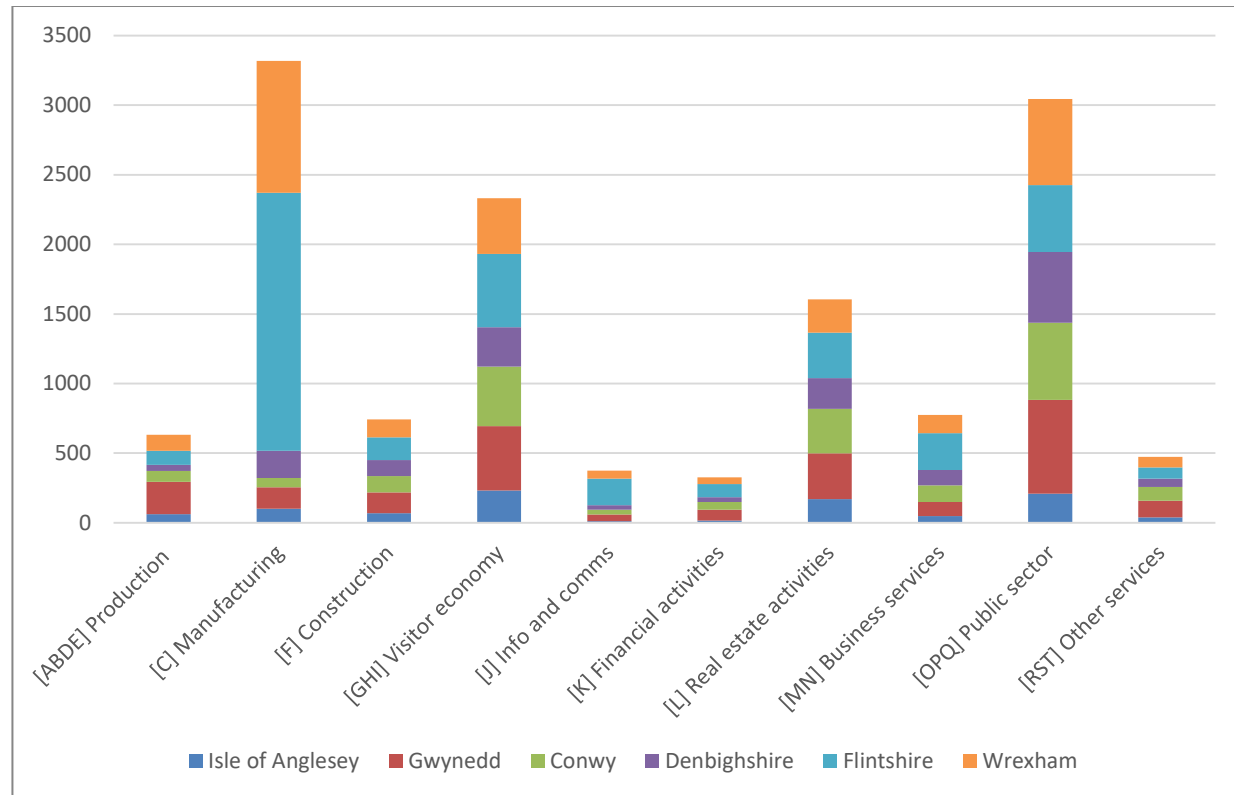


Fig.4 GVA by Sector 2016 (£ million)

Source: Office for National Statistics

4. Requirements by Sector

Digital connectivity requirements for different sectors are determined by the technical requirements and the geographic distribution of businesses.

4.1 Digital Requirements

Different industry sectors have different demands for their digital connectivity. Understanding the different requirements by sector, and the relative priorities of each sector is central to the *Digital Connectivity Strategy*.

Sector	Key Digital Connectivity Requirements	Intervention
Manufacturing and Energy	Large manufacturing facilities use high bandwidth leased lines – which are widely available. The need for high bandwidth connectivity is now well established in the more advanced manufacturing businesses – consequently ultrafast and full fibre are required to support growth in the sector, particularly in the supply chain.	Support for full fibre connectivity in key areas for the sector.
Digital	The digital sector is an early adopter of high bandwidth services. The sector is characterised by SMEs in geographically dispersed clusters with some larger businesses (with more employees and greater data requirements) in the main industrial centres.	Support for ultrafast connectivity to be as widely available as possible with full fibre for larger digital businesses.
Tourism and Hospitality	The tourism and associated sectors increasingly need to accommodate the 'always connected' expectations of their customers, as well as the ability to communicate with customers online, including booking online. Although the individual connectivity requirements and online booking of individuals are easily met with superfast broadband, the aggregated bandwidth demands of several users represents a greater challenge. Ultrafast broadband is becoming a necessary requirement for all tourism businesses.	Support for widespread ultrafast and superfast broadband connectivity for tourism business locations. Increased superfast and mobile connectivity throughout the region to improve visitor engagement.
Public sector, health and social care, real estate	The public sector, including health and social care sector has demands for digital transformation development and adoption. Developments can be expected to be undertaken in strategic locations with existing connectivity. Adoption of digitally transformed services, however, require superfast connectivity at the care service user's premise, and data and voice connectivity for a mobile workforce.	Support for superfast and ultrafast connectivity at end care service user premises (ubiquitous superfast broadband). Improved mobile and WiFi connectivity for mobile workers.

4.2 Key Business Requirements

Interviews were held with representative businesses from the key sectors across North Wales. These provide a valuable insight to the requirements of these sectors for all counties in North Wales.

4.2.1 General Mobile Improvement

In addition to the following specific business requirements, there was widespread agreement among all businesses that poor mobile coverage for voice calls along the main communications routes was a barrier to business efficiency.

If we have an engineer leaving here to a job in north west Wales, then once they are 10 minutes from here, they are regularly out of touch until they reach civilisation at the other end. (MWL Systems)

Any issues engineers have with mobile coverage on client sites can be resolved by Wi-Fi calling. (MWL Systems)

4.2.2 Manufacturing and Energy

Businesses in the strategic manufacturing and energy sectors are struggling because of poor affordable digital connectivity. Even relatively large businesses have a problem because they tend to use a number of smaller buildings, rather than one single manufacturing facility. There is a widespread and un-met need for ultrafast FTTP infrastructure and services that can provide affordable high capacity, high reliability connections.

Ultrafast would have a profound influence on the way we do business. (Reynolds International)

Every minute counts and when a lot of time is wasted because of slow or broken connectivity, then it is harming the bottom line. (Carbon Zero)

Our Quality Management System has 1000 policies. This has been supplemented with photographs to aid understanding. It is likely that video will become an integral part of the manual too over time. (Snowdonia Cheese)

We need to be connected to Poland and Morocco in real time for database sharing. Poland and Morocco outstrip us in terms of their data communications. (Fibrax)

4.2.3 Digital and Professional Services

Digital and service companies have benefited from the efficiency improvements possible with affordable superfast broadband, though there are concerns over reliability and scalability.

Small businesses are able to migrate to the cloud easier than large businesses and that makes their scaling up much more straightforward. (MWL Systems)

It's more about service reliability than absolute speed. I rarely find myself worrying about the speed. (Salisbury's)

4.2.4 Tourism and Hospitality

Tourism and related businesses span a wide range of business types and sizes, and they are closely inter-related. People visiting North Wales provide the principal target group for many other hospitality businesses. The connectivity requirements include the

requirements of the businesses themselves, and the ability for visitors to connect with them during their stay. Superfast and ultrafast connections are needed by businesses, with better overall connectivity in the region also important.

We use technology to build the customer relationship at three levels. We use our online presence to make people aware of us. We then use it to build trust and when the trust is there, to make a booking in the smoothest manner possible. Without that on-line presence we wouldn't be able to employ the people that we do. (RibRide - Adventure Boat Tours)

The majority of our customers book less than 48-hours before the activity... When they are sat in their holiday cottage and they cannot get online – that's when we are not getting them. (RibRide - Adventure Boat Tours)

People sat in B&Bs and hotels around need to be able to get on line and see what's going on – what can I do? (Surf Snowdonia)

4.2.5 Construction

The construction industry is undergoing a transformation through the development of Document Management Systems (DMS), and the need to communicate detailed construction drawings and documents within the business and with clients. Superfast (FTTC) connections are being used for main sites, and upgrade to FTTP would be beneficial – leased lines are too expensive. Communication with sites remains a problem. Satellite services are used currently, but are not well suited to DMS. 4G mobile and widespread superfast connections are needed.

Having better communications will have a huge impact on us as a company. For instance, accidentally using the wrong version of a drawing could cost the company millions. A modern DMS will reduce that risk – but it needs good communications at HQ and all sites to work effectively. (Jones Brothers Engineering)

4.2.6 Public Sector, Education

Public sector sites, including schools and colleges have varied connectivity requirements, and these are developing rapidly to meet the demands and opportunities of digital transformation. The provision of digital connectivity to public sector buildings could enable wider connectivity to surrounding businesses and communities.

PSBA has been brilliant for us. It took them a little while to understand our requirements, but they were very responsive. (Grwp Llandrillo Menai)

4.3 Spatial Requirements

There are some important differences between the different industry sectors in the way businesses are located that makes a significant difference in the development of interventions.

4.3.1 Manufacturing

There are some important differences between the different business sectors. Manufacturing businesses, for example are located in clusters – the great majority of the physical clusters adjacent to the FibreSpeed route, or along rail routes.

The manufacturing sector in North Wales is characterised by a relatively small number of typically large businesses. There are very few ‘white’ manufacturing businesses (with no current or planned superfast connectivity) as illustrated in Fig.5 by the lighter coloured squares.

The spatial variations in requirements are driven largely by the different geographies across the region. There is considerable clustering of businesses and properties along the coast, for example, and significant challenges posed by remote rural areas.

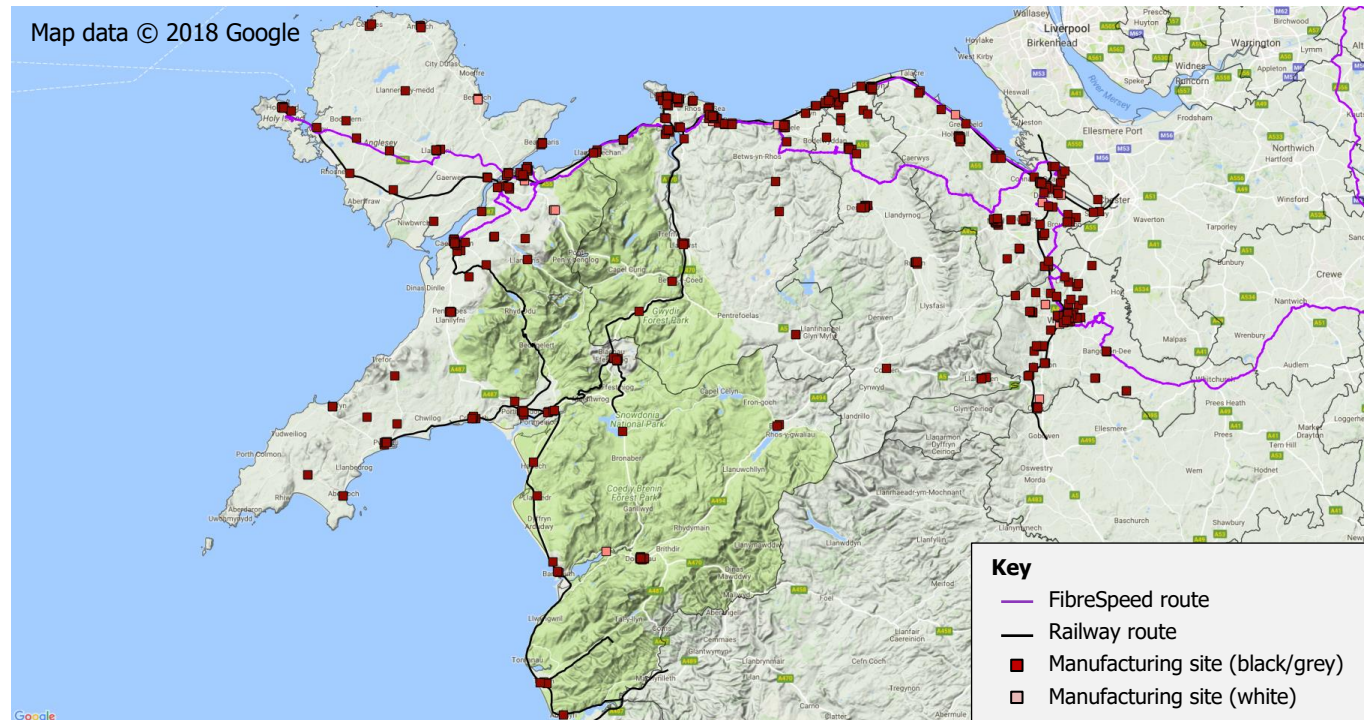


Fig.5 Mapping of Manufacturing Businesses in North Wales

4.3.2 Tourism

By contrast with manufacturing, tourism presents a far more complex picture.

There are many more tourism businesses, widely distributed across the region. The businesses are smaller, and there are many 'white' tourism businesses as illustrated by the light coloured squares in Fig.6.

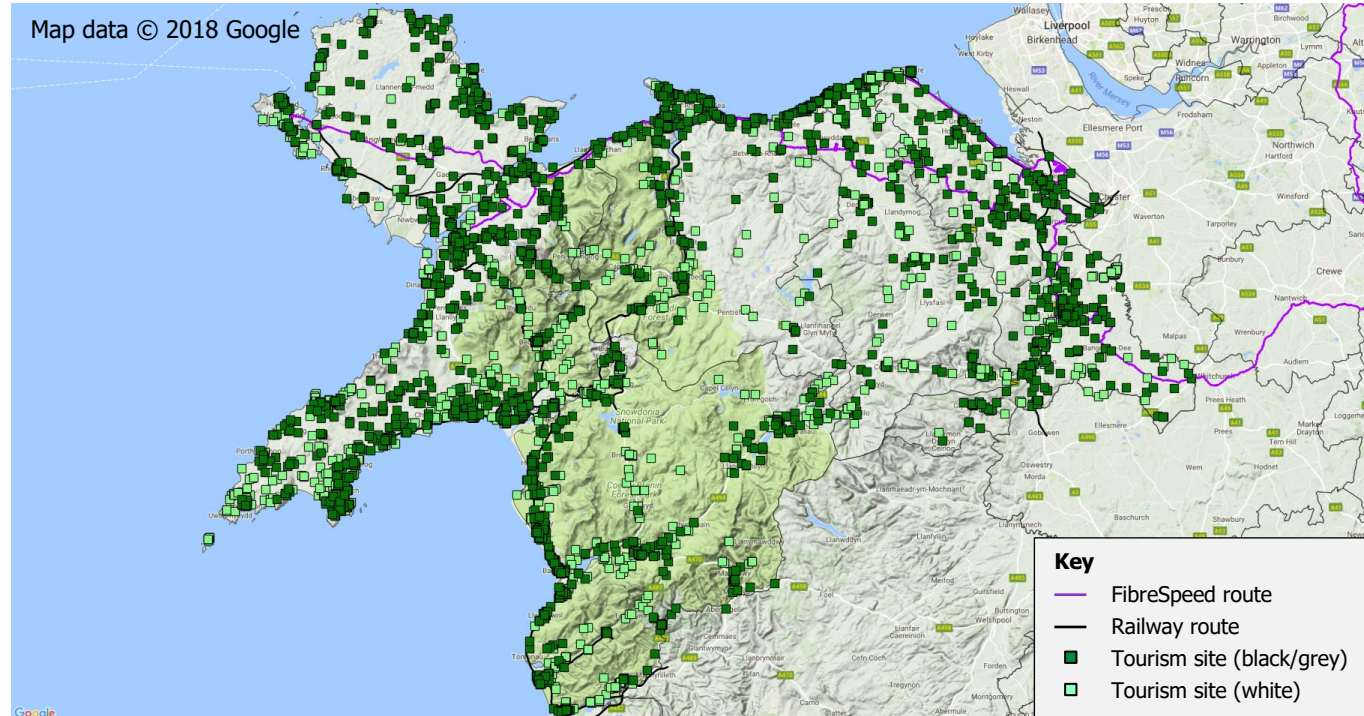


Fig.6 Mapping of Tourism Businesses in North Wales

4.3.3 Connected Community

Many sectors, including health and social care, and tourism require an effectively connected community – either to engage with customers, or as an internal element of digital transformation.

Ensuring widespread availability of superfast broadband throughout North Wales will be an essential enabler of this digital transformation. Mapping of the remaining 27,000 'white' residential properties shows there is a significant task remaining across the region to increase the deployment of superfast connectivity.

Ensuring a fully connected community, with access to superfast broadband for all is a key requirement across the region. However, this is a challenging requirement, and prioritisation of deployment may be required in the short term.

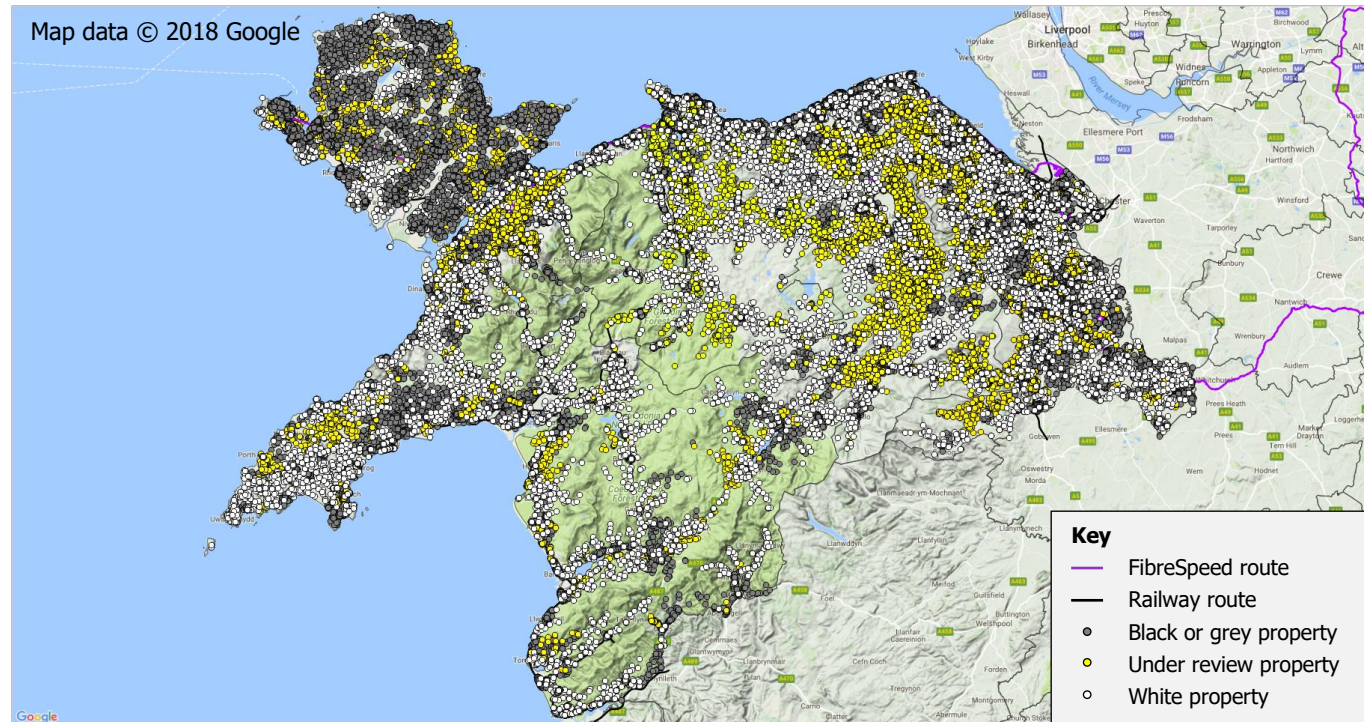


Fig.7 Mapping of 'white' residential properties in North Wales

Social housing, care homes, and other residences for vulnerable people have typically higher demand for health and social care services. Prioritising these properties may be an effective way of supporting the digital transformation of key public services.

5. Current Availability

The *Superfast Cymru* project in Wales, and similar projects across the UK mean that the position regarding fixed broadband availability is changing rapidly, making comparisons difficult. The most effective comparison for the UK is provided in the Ofcom *Connected Nations 2017*⁷ report and analysis. This is based on data for May/June 2017.

Current fixed broadband availability in North Wales lags behind the UK and Wales as a whole. Although there is unusually high availability of full fibre broadband in Anglesey and Gwynedd, there is generally poor availability of superfast broadband, and lower average speed than national comparisons.

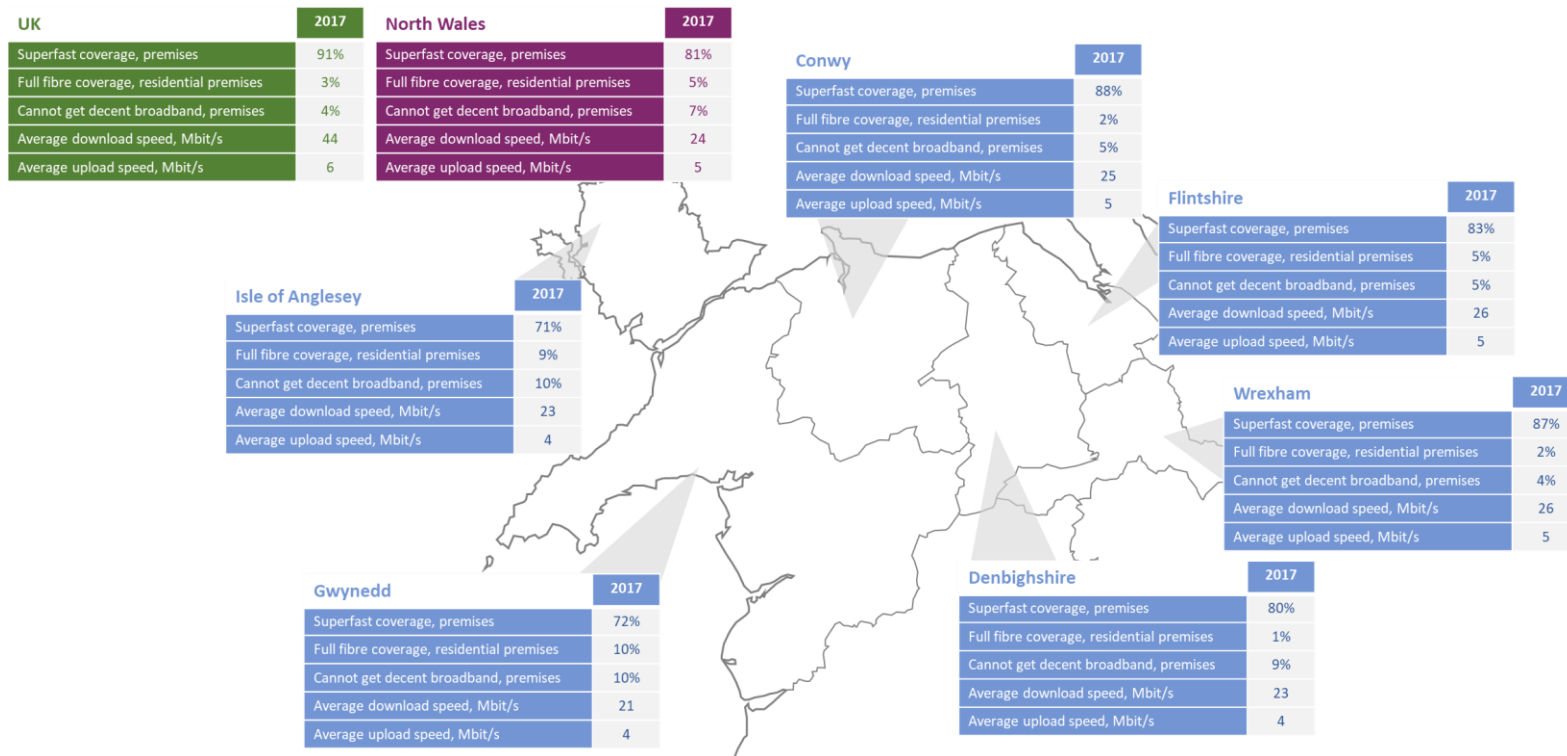


Fig.8 Fixed Broadband Availability in North Wales (Ofcom data)

5.1 BT Group Core Infrastructure

The great majority of superfast connectivity in North Wales is provided over the Openreach network. All exchanges are FTTC enabled, with FTTP also used in some locations.

The remaining white properties in the region can be assumed to be beyond the reach of FTTC access networks. To address this problem, improved access networks will be required, and they in turn will require backhaul connections. Backhaul is usually provided from a BT exchange enabled to provide EBD (Ethernet Backhaul Direct) services.

There are very few EBD enabled exchanges in North Wales. Although current developments to the core infrastructure is improving this position, particularly on Anglesey, the lack of backhaul availability continues to present a strategic problem for the development of improved connectivity.

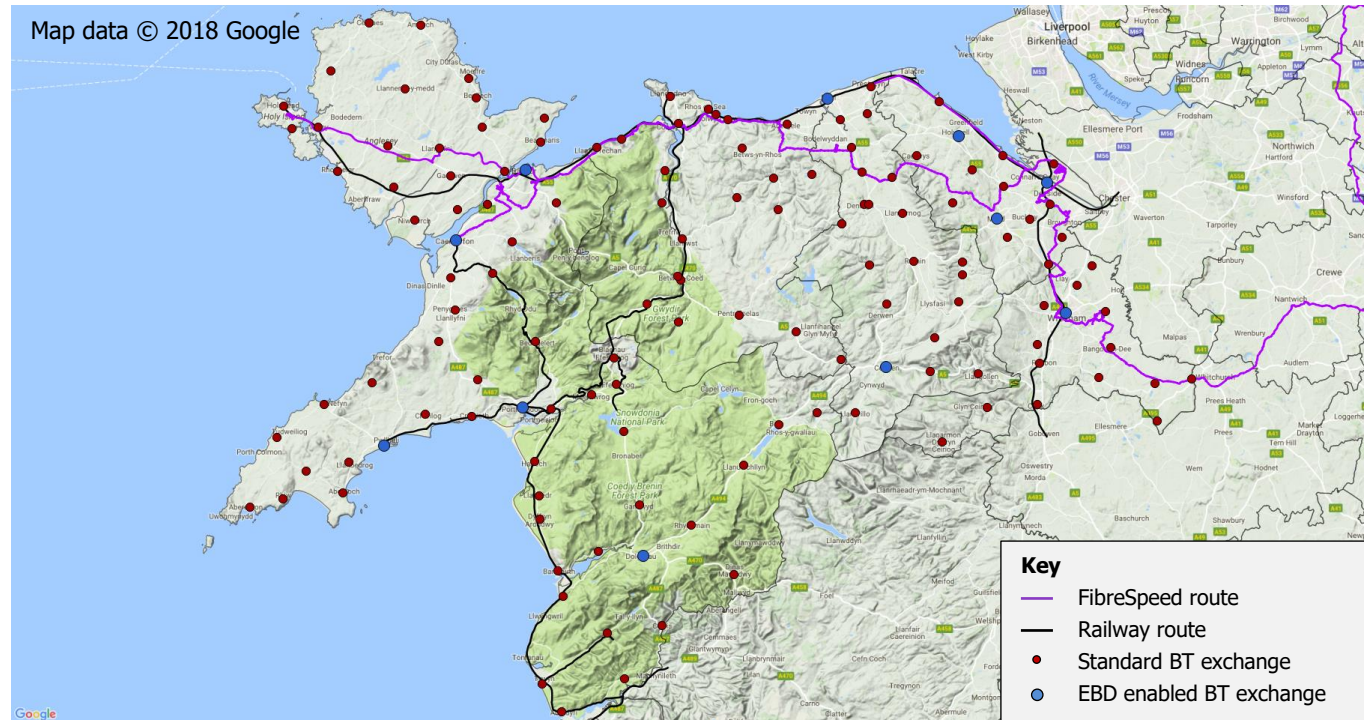


Fig.9 Mapping of BT exchanges in North Wales

5.1.1 BT Group

Openreach is currently a part of the BT Group, and responsible for the operation of the infrastructure delivering telephony and data services. Openreach services are used by communications providers to deliver services to end business and residential users.

5.2 Other Digital Infrastructure

There is relatively little digital infrastructure in North Wales beyond the BT infrastructure. The FibreSpeed network operated by Zayo Networks is the most significant, with some additional commercial footprint provided by Zayo Networks. The networks follow the path shown by the purple line in Fig.10.

The networks deliver wholesale capacity used by other service providers to deliver services to end users.

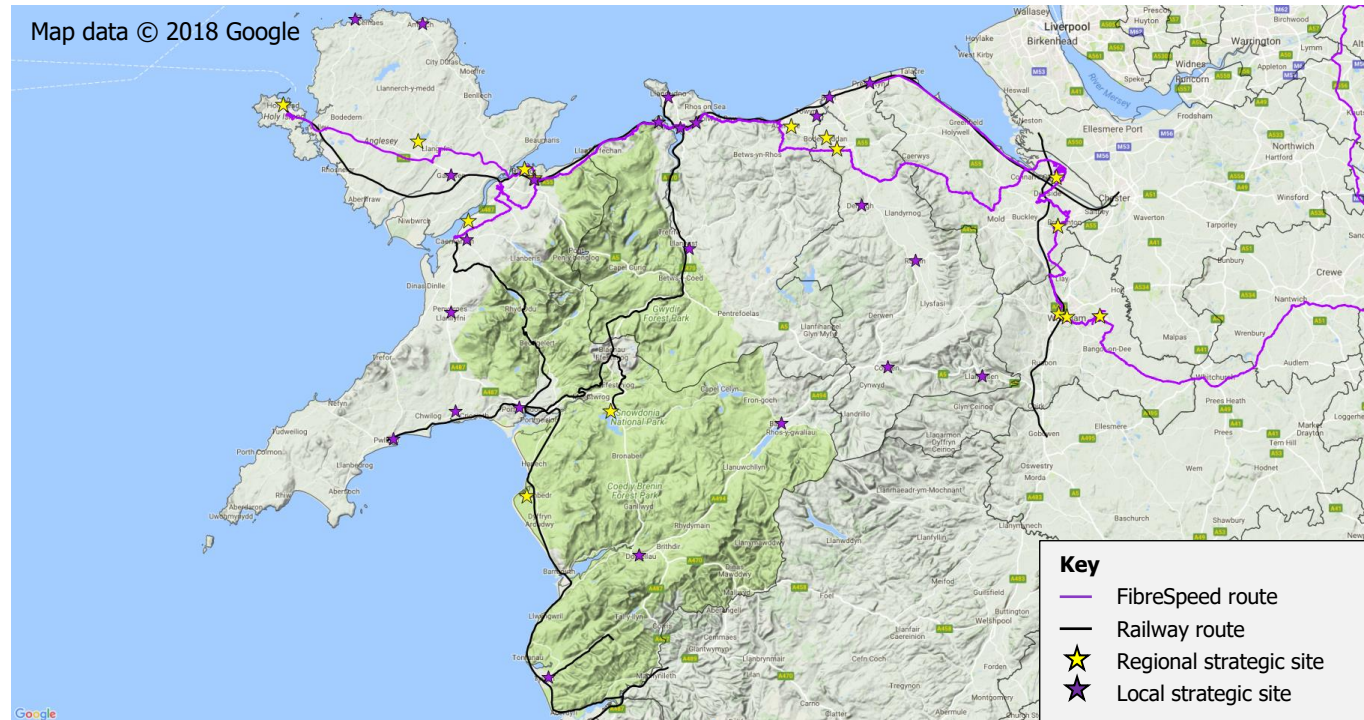


Fig.10 Mapping of Independent Core Digital Infrastructure in North Wales

The FibreSpeed and Zayo networks provide the potential for very high bandwidth connectivity, and pass very close to the majority of strategic sites in the region where high bandwidth connectivity is required to support economic growth. However, as the networks currently only provide high-cost leased line services, they are little used.

The FibreSpeed and Zayo networks also have no footprint beyond the coastal area in the north. Rail routes (black lines in Fig.10) however, do extend to more remote areas throughout the region. Some of these routes support Network Rail Telecom infrastructure that may be able provide commercial services, in accordance with the *Network Rail Telecom Strategic Plan*⁸.

5.3 Public Sector Connectivity

Areas of poor broadband connectivity exist across the region (Fig.7, page 15). Effective interventions will require the presence of high bandwidth connectivity to allow the build-out of broadband access to these un-served areas.

Although FibreSpeed has the potential to support backhaul connections for the north of the region, and the possible use of Network Rail Telecom may extend this further, many areas are still beyond the reach of backhaul connections.

However, all schools in North Wales will soon have fibre connectivity and are widely distributed (see Fig.11).

The majority of digital connections for schools in Wales are provided through the Public Sector Broadband Aggregation (PSBA) project. The location of schools in almost all communities throughout the region means this could have a significant impact on the ongoing availability of backhaul for local access networks.

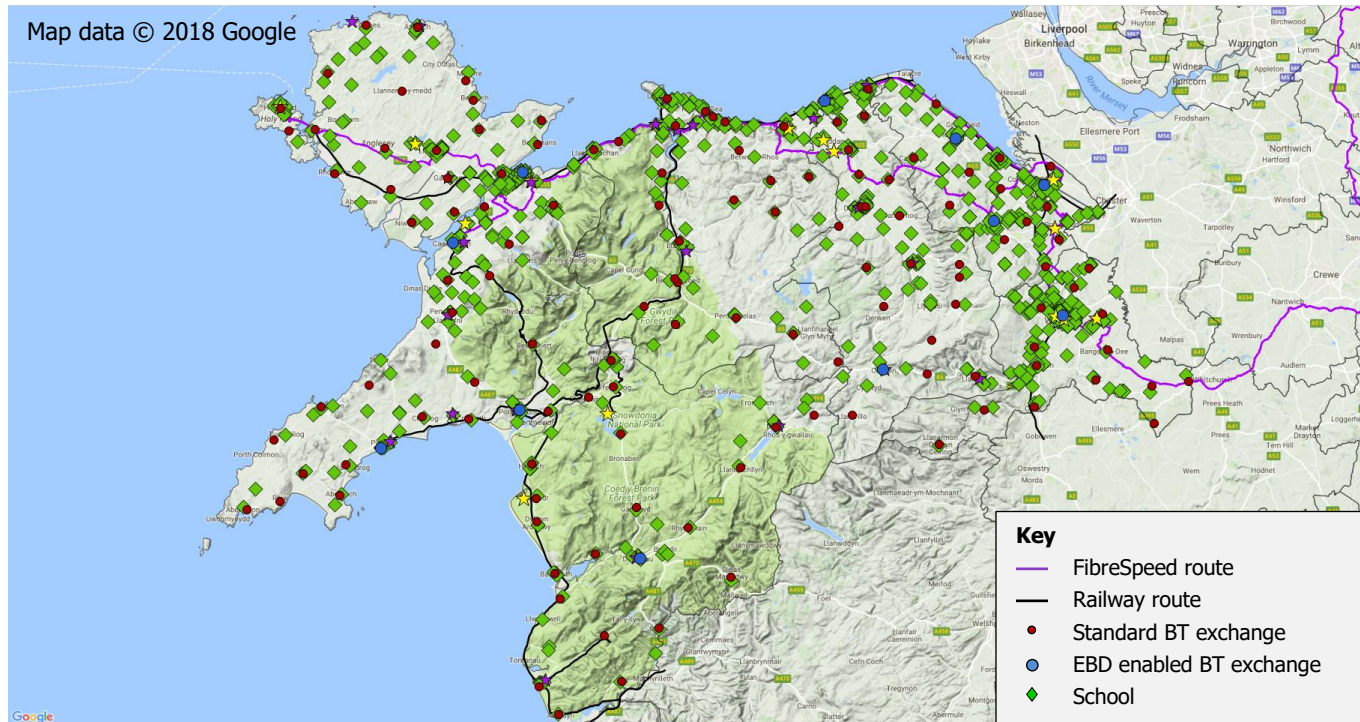


Fig.11 Mapping of schools in North Wales

Options will be investigated to allow the presence of digital connectivity at public sector buildings to support the provision of wider digital connectivity to nearby businesses and homes.

5.4 Mobile Connectivity

Data in the Ofcom *Connected Nations 2017* report shows that mobile connectivity in North Wales is also significantly poorer than the UK and Wales as a whole. Capability for both voice and data is poorer than the UK, particularly within premises.

5.4.1 Constant Evolution

Mobile connectivity is constantly evolving, with new technologies introduced regularly. This provides an opportunity to overcome previous weaknesses. For example, 4G coverage has already outstripped 3G, so that we no longer need to consider 3G deployment.

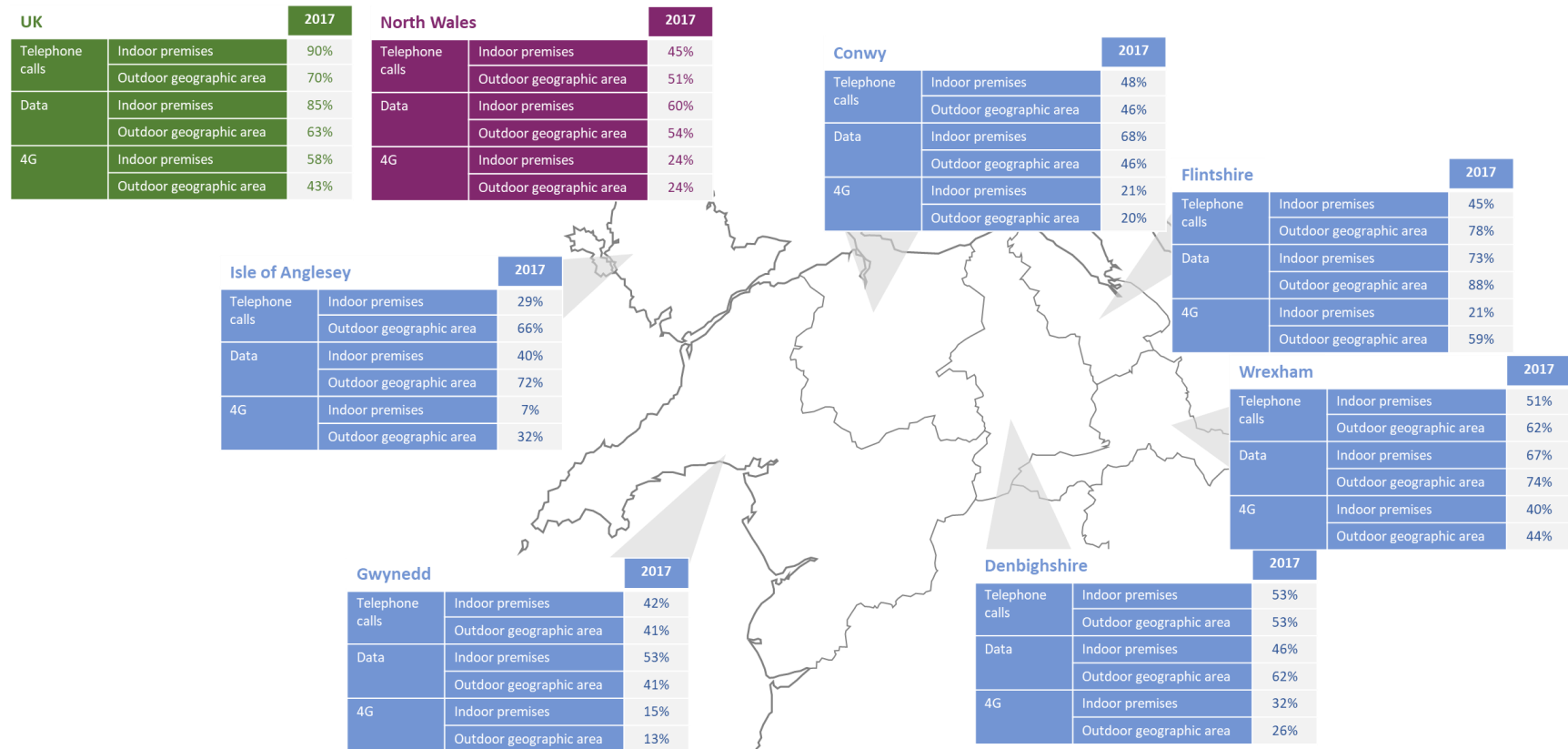


Fig.12 Mobile Connectivity in North Wales (Ofcom)

5.4.2 Connectivity Requirements

The different uses of mobile devices (for voice and data) presents two different connectivity requirements:

Remote access – the need to make calls and access data at remote locations (away from the home or office location). This presents a requirement for maximum overall coverage.

Mobile calling – the desire to make and receive voice calls while travelling. This presents a requirement for maximum coverage *along the road routes*, particularly the major road routes. However, coverage alone is not sufficient. There are capacity issues along the major routes, which are exacerbated in the summer when visitors greatly increase traffic on the major routes.

It is becoming clear that WiFi access to superfast or ultrafast connectivity is the preferred approach for remote access. This is clearly the case for data access, and also becoming the accepted preference for voice calls (with WiFi calling supported by all mobile operators). The key business requirement for mobile connectivity is to support mobile calling. The priority is for full connectivity (coverage and capacity) along major road routes.

5.4.3 Key Technologies

The deployment and evolution of mobile technologies means that it is important to focus on the most appropriate technologies for the region, rather than necessarily considering the sequential development of each technology.

- **2G** – still has the greatest coverage and availability within premises. It is still the most important coverage for mobile voice calls. Maintaining widespread coverage and adequate capacity remains important.
- **3G** – Introduced stronger data capabilities, but is no-longer strategically important following widespread deployment of 4G. We do not include 3G in this strategy.
- **4G** – Important for data and voice. Supporting maximum deployment of 4G services is the priority for mobile connectivity.
- **5G** – A new and evolving standard that promises a new level of connectivity supporting a vast range of new applications.

5.4.4 2G Deployment

2G coverage along the A55 is good with most of the length covered by all three networks. The other major routes have good coverage generally, but network availability deteriorates badly in the middle and the south of the region. Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire have the worst coverage problems.

In total, 50% of the land area of the region has coverage from all three 2G networks with 18% having no coverage.

5.4.5 4G Deployment

As 4G is much newer technology which is currently being rolled out, it is not surprising that coverage is much sparser than 2G. Only around 24% of the geographic area of North Wales has coverage from all four 4G networks. What coverage there is, is concentrated in the north of the region leaving the south and

central parts of the of the region with very poor coverage. The areas served by no operators are extensive with 26% of Denbighshire being without any 4G coverage.

Coverage of the A55 is reasonably good with very little with coverage from no operators. However, there are stretches in Flintshire, Conwy and mid-Anglesey where coverage is not available from all operators

The other A roads which reach southwards face considerable difficulty with little coverage by all four 4G networks.

5.4.6 5G Development

The evolving 5G networks represent a step change in mobile connectivity, and a convergence of mobile and fixed broadband networks. The resulting networks are expected to enable a huge range of new applications, including autonomous vehicles, real time health monitoring and advance manufacturing applications.

The expectation is that 5G will provide mobile access to very high bandwidth connectivity. However, the 5G wireless networks have very short range. There is little understanding of how they will be deployed and used in remote and rural areas, where significant gaps in coverage can be expected.

Current UK and Welsh government priorities are to develop and understand use-cases to guide the ongoing development and deployment of 5G networks. There is an opportunity for North Wales to contribute to the development of use-cases in key sectors, and across a range of deployment geographies.

5.4.7 Other Developments

The Internet-of-Things (IoT) presents a myriad of opportunities for organisations from security monitoring of remote farm assets to sophisticated augmented reality experiences at major tourist attractions and urban centres. It will be important for North Wales to remain informed on the development of supporting technologies, and access opportunities as they arise.

Continued engagement between private and public sector, and possible inclusion of universities on the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will support the ongoing monitoring of developments and opportunities.

6. Intervention Strategy

The following intervention strategy has been developed to address the remaining digital connectivity issues and help to deliver the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales*.

6.1 Key Comparisons

National interventions are based on a number of key policies and strategies that have developed over time to address different aspects of digital connectivity. The *North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy* is informed by a comparison of the current position in North Wales, and an understanding of current interventions elsewhere.

Best practice approaches to increase deployment of improved digital connectivity vary significantly from area to area. For example, interventions in urban areas and business parks will be very different from remote rural areas. Approaches aim to accommodate current and developing best practice.

6.1.1 Fixed Broadband Development

It appears clear that there is a need to develop regional and local support initiatives to increase the availability of superfast broadband in North Wales, and that this must be balanced against the need to support greater economic growth through the development of more advanced gigabit and ultrafast connectivity.

Early developments of the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) programme are identifying best practice approaches for

increasing deployment of gigabit capable full fibre networks; these are accommodated in the full fibre passive infrastructure and improved backhaul interventions.

The *Superfast Cymru* project has delivered a significant increase in the availability of superfast broadband across North Wales. However, low average broadband download speeds and large numbers of people unable to access a decent connection suggest there is greater underlying weakness in digital connectivity that risks a significant long term 'digital divide' holding back the economy and development of a vibrant connected community.

UK Government interventions are shaped by the *UK Digital Strategy 2017*. This provides a focus to the development of advanced full fibre and 5G services, but also underpins this with the Universal Service Obligation (USO) 'giving every individual, business and public premise across the country the right to request an affordable high speed broadband connection'. The USO is currently expected to provide a connection of 10Mbps or faster, though the method of delivery is not yet clear.

In Scotland, the desire to ensure the digital inclusion of all has led to *Reaching 100% - Superfast Broadband for All*⁹ giving a commitment to provide superfast broadband (30Mbps or faster) to every home and business in Scotland by 2021.

Ofcom 2017 data states that in England, 3% of homes cannot get a decent broadband connection (at least 10 Mbps). In Scotland it is 6%, Wales 5%, and North Wales 7%.

The Scottish Government has committed £600 million to the Reaching 100% project. The Welsh Government has recently published the procurement for the *Next Generation Access Broadband Wales* project, with £62 million funding committed and the possibility to increase to £200 million.

Interventions for remote rural areas are informed by community developments such as the B4RN group¹⁰ in Lancashire, and Community Broadband Scotland¹¹ projects – where direct community involvement has enabled improved broadband networks in remote rural areas.

6.1.2 Mobile Connectivity Development

The national comparison presents a worse picture for mobile communications. The geographic coverage for voice and data is significantly behind the UK average. Poor availability of voice and data services within buildings suggests a capacity weakness beyond the poor geographic coverage.

Direct intervention to improve mobile communications is much less common than for fixed broadband networks. However, the *UK Electronic Communications Code*¹² identifies a range of changes designed to improve the availability of fixed and mobile communications. These changes are supported in Wales by the *Mobile Action Plan* with a range of actions aimed at supporting the mobile operators in increasing their investment in infrastructure to improve service delivery.

Regional and local support for the *Mobile Action Plan* is required to ensure support for North Wales by the mobile operators.

6.2 Key Requirements

The following key requirements have been identified to meet the economic and societal needs of the region.

6.2.1 Full Fibre Manufacturing and Energy

The key regional economic sectors of manufacturing and energy require gigabit capable full fibre connections. In North Wales, these sectors are generally restricted to clusters in key locations throughout the county. Even relatively small businesses need high bandwidth, but may not be able to support leased line costs. Affordable, high bandwidth contended broadband services are required.

6.2.2 Ultrafast Tourism, Digital and Real Estate

The high growth digital sector, and the vital tourism and real estate sectors in North Wales require superfast, and ultrafast connectivity wherever possible. These sectors are distributed throughout the region, though they are clustered in a small number of key locations. The sectors have high demand for bandwidth – either due to aggregated demand of many users, or specific need for large file transfer.

6.2.3 Connected Travel

Poor mobile connections are a problem throughout North Wales – providing personal inconvenience and disrupting businesses. Effective mobile communications to support voice calls on all major transport routes is a minimum requirement.

6.2.4 Superfast Society

All businesses and communities require superfast broadband as a minimum – for example to support self-employment and home working, for the efficient delivery of health and social care, operation of local retail businesses, or simply for family entertainment. The remote rural and upland areas throughout the region have particular need for improvement.

6.3 Key Interventions

Key interventions are needed regionally to improve digital connectivity, in particular to support the key economic sectors, and to close the gap between North Wales and the rest of the UK.

6.3.1 National – Regional – Local Approach

The regional interventions required will have a range of different impacts and levels of complexity. This regional development is also undertaken in the context of wider national and more focused local activity:

- **National developments** – The *Superfast Cymru* project has already made a significant impact on the availability of superfast and ultrafast broadband. The second phase of the project will continue to improve superfast availability but is not expected to achieve 100% coverage. The development of networks and assets with national significance and scale will require Welsh Government leadership and coordination.
- **Regional developments** – The development of improved backhaul and affordable gigabit services, for example, will affect many areas across the North Wales region. Regional

developments will be commissioned by the Regional Growth Board, with lead authorities accountable for delivery for the region as a whole.

- **Local developments** – The coordination of all projects locally will be required to ensure maximum impact. This will include the local support of national and regional interventions as well as the development and deployment of local interventions to deliver requirements beyond the scope of national and regional programmes. Local developments will also be required to enable regional and national developments – for example development of local planning and policies to remove barriers to digital infrastructure deployments.

Together these layers of interventions will help to realise the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales*. Within each county, some will be more relevant for local conditions than others.

- **Full Fibre passive infrastructure** – Building a comprehensive access duct network, and ensuring backhaul provision to facilitate end-user access to advanced full fibre services provided at the identified key sites. With appropriate planning of duct infrastructure, this will support the key manufacturing and energy sectors.
- **Affordable gigabit services** – Businesses in North Wales need affordable high bandwidth services to ‘fill the gap’ between FTTC broadband and leased lines. Service providers should be encouraged to ensure suitable services are available over their networks.

- **Improved backhaul** – The development of the core infrastructure will benefit the development of all digital connectivity in North Wales. The development of the FibreSpeed network and other infrastructure assets present opportunities to improve core connectivity.
- **SME Demand stimulation** – Encouraging the use of higher bandwidth connectivity, particularly in key local business sectors (including hotel and leisure). Connectivity delivery initiatives can only be successful if demand is present – a range of targeted demand stimulation activities will be required to support all interventions. Voucher schemes for SMEs have proven successful in the past and provide a basis for demand stimulation.
- **Rural Broadband Deployment** – The availability of superfast and ultrafast connectivity to all businesses and communities in North Wales is important to the sustainability of the region. Engagement and interventions to extend the deployment of *Superfast Cymru*, *Next Generation Access Broadband Wales* and other national initiatives into rural areas are required. A range of approaches including gap funding, voucher schemes and direct community build may contribute to the extended coverage.
- **Social Housing Broadband** – Social housing presents areas of high need for a range of health and social care services, and typically areas of poor availability and use of digital connectivity. Direct provision of digital connectivity can improve service efficiency and social outcomes.
- **Public Sector Anchor Tenant** – The use of connectivity to public sector buildings can extend the core network. This effect can be maximised by ensuring appropriate connectivity to all public sector sites, particularly in areas of poor local connectivity.
- **Policy Support** – Direct intervention is not always possible or appropriate – for example to improve mobile coverage. However, reducing the barriers to investment that complex planning and similar policies can impose will support greater investment and deployment. A review and improvement of planning and similar policies can be undertaken to reduce policy barriers. A national review¹³ has been undertaken by Analysys Mason for the Broadband Stakeholders Group, and can guide development.
- **Market Intelligence** – Service providers (fixed and mobile) do not always know the local demand requirements. Where there are key factors that may affect demand, the information should be provided, and effective communication channels established to service providers.
- **5G Demonstrators** – The development of 5G services presents another important development. Demonstrations within the region will help stimulate further development and deployment.

6.4 Application and Funding

The different projects have different target groups, and different funding streams will be appropriate (darker shading is denotes greater relevance):

Project	Target Groups					
	Energy Cluster	Advanced Manufacturing	Digital Cluster	Construction	Tourism & hospitality	Health & Social Care
Full Fibre passive infrastructure	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	White
Affordable gigabit services	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White
Improved Backhaul	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
SME demand stimulation	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White
Rural broadband deployment	White	White	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Social Housing broadband	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue
Public Sector anchor tenant	White	White	Light Blue	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Policy support	White	White	White	Light Blue	Light Blue	White
Market intelligence	White	White	White	Light Blue	Light Blue	White
5G Demonstrators	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue

6.5 Delivery and Impact

The aim of the *North Wales Digital Connectivity Strategy* is to deliver economic and social development, particularly in key areas and sectors identified in the *Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales*. In targeting these sectors, interventions have been identified to support ambitious growth targets in key sectors, stimulate organic growth throughout the region and create new opportunities for business and learning throughout North Wales, irrespective of location.

To ensure an effective impact, targets have been identified to guide the scope and timescales for intervention. Progress against these targets will ensure that the digital needs of the high growth sectors are met, and deliver the stretching economic, social and cultural objectives of the *Growth Vision*.

Initiative	Target	Delivery
Full fibre passive infrastructure	80% of the premises on the strategic sites identified are passed by duct infrastructure.	End 2021
	100% of the duct Provided is accessed by at least one network provider	End 2021
Affordable gigabit services	Competitive provision of affordable full fibre broadband services from at least three operators.	End 2019
Improved backhaul	Removal of all backhaul constraints to all communities in the region.	End 2021
SME demand stimulation	20% adoption of Ultrafast broadband by tourism businesses. 5% adoption by businesses from other sectors.	End 2022
Rural Broadband Development	Superfast broadband available to 99% of premises.	End 2021
Social Housing broadband	99% of social housing and care homes connected to superfast or ultrafast broadband.	End 2021
Public Sector anchor tenant	Fibre access to all appropriate public-sector sites in the region.	End 2021
Policy Support	Policy review to identify possible obstacles to digital deployment	End 2019
	Removal of identified obstacles	End 2020
Market Intelligence	Establish a communications mechanism with fixed and mobile operators to communicate significant unmet need and likely changes in demand profile.	Mid 2019
5G Demonstrators	Establish North Wales participation in at least three separate major 5G initiatives at Wales or UK level	End 2020

7. Technical Background

Digital connectivity is provided through a range of technologies, with different technologies at different parts of the network.

The network is in three main parts:

- **National Backhaul** is required to bring internet access to the local BT exchange.
- **Local Backhaul** brings internet access to the specific project areas.
- **Access Network** provides the final distribution to individual properties within the project area.

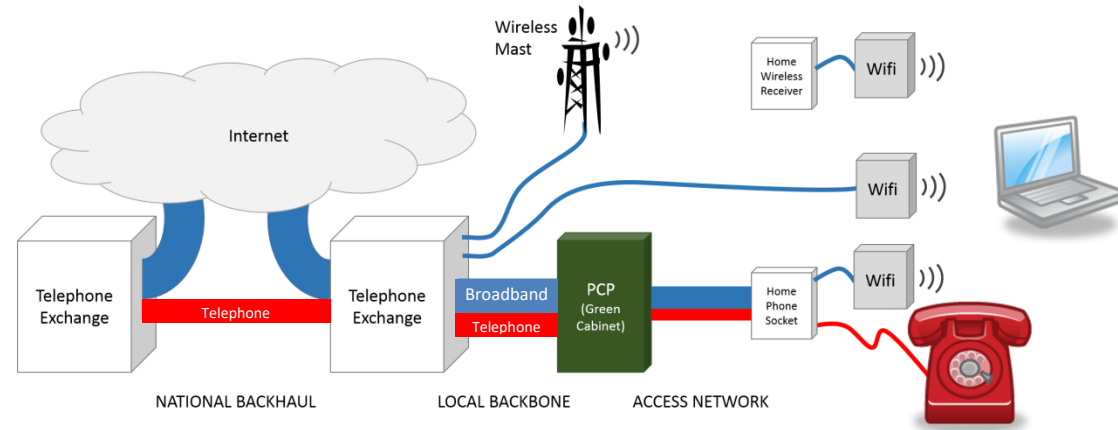


Fig.13 Schematic of the broadband network structure

Modern digital networks use optical fibres throughout much of their construction. The aim of the development of superfast and ultrafast networks is to maximise the use of fibre in as much of the network as possible.

For superfast and ultrafast networks, fibre must be used for the backhaul connection to the local area. There is an expectation that fibre will also be used for the local backbone – leaving only the 'last mile' access network connection.

The replacement of the access network connections to individual end users' properties represents the largest potential cost. Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) or Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) networks provide cost effective connections, but with performance limitations. Fibre to the Property (FTTP) networks provide the best performance and are considered the most 'future-proof' – but are significantly more expensive to deploy.

7.1 Glossary

4G	The fourth Generation of Mobile Technology, currently extensively deployed and rolling further out across the UK
5G	The fifth generation of Mobile Technology. The standards for this are still in definition but deployments are happening internationally ahead of full standards definition
Backhaul	The intermediate links between local access networks which connect the customer and the core backbone networks which distribute communications traffic more widely
Black / grey / white properties / sites	<p>Black/grey/white definitions relate to state aid definitions of availability of superfast broadband:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black: properties able to access Superfast Broadband from more than one service provider ▪ Grey: properties able to access Superfast Broadband from at least one service provider within next three years ▪ White: not in any current plans (next three years) for superfast broadband
Ethernet Backhaul Direct (EBD)	A service offered by BT at particular exchanges where an ISP can buy backhaul to their chosen location.
Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC)	A fixed broadband technology whereby traffic to and from a customer is delivered by optical fibre as far as the local street cabinet and thence over a twisted copper pair using VDSL technology.
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)	A fixed broadband technology whereby traffic to and from a customer is delivered by optical fibre all the way to the customer premises.
Gigabit broadband	Broadband communications which offers speeds in excess of 1000Mbit/s for download.
PSBA	Public Service Broadband Aggregation: PSBA is a Wales-wide network which connects public sector organisations in Wales to a private secure Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Wide Area Network (WAN)
Superfast broadband	Broadband communications which offers speeds in excess of 30Mbit/s for download.
Superfast Cymru	A Welsh Government initiative to ensure the roll-out of superfast broadband in areas where commercial deployment is unlikely.

7.2 References

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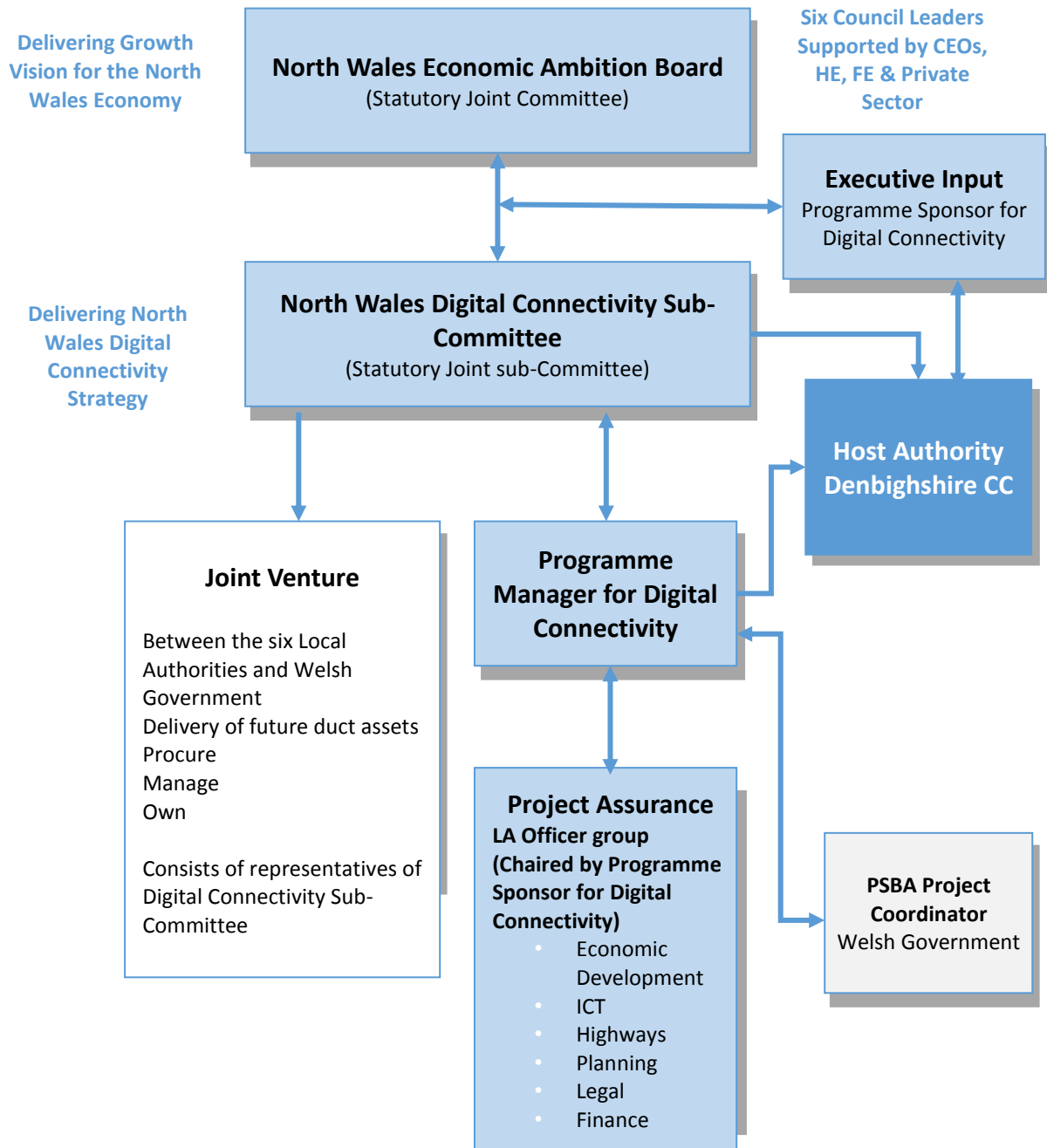
north wales economic ambition board
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Appendix 2 Project Management and Governance structure



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Appendix 3. Proposed North Wales LFFN interventions

Public Sector Connectivity

Upgrading of public sector connectivity by replacing current copper (slow / low and relatively expensive bandwidth) connections with better value, faster 'full fibre' connections at around 400 sites across the region (up to 95 within Denbighshire). Among the direct public sector beneficiaries will be the Local Authorities, BCUHB, North Wales Fire and Rescue, GP surgeries etc.

The public sector upgrades will be delivered via the well-established Welsh public sector procurement framework known as PSBA (Public Sector Broadband Aggregation), with BT providing the service to the sites.

Surrounding residential and business properties will benefit from the investment in the Openreach network. Wider availability of full fibre broadband to the private sector will result from the investment in the public sector sites and UK DCMS considers those within 50m of the 'target' site (e.g. a library) to be within reach of this positive impact, with this potentially extending to 200m depending on local network design.

The outcome of the investment will be an almost complete coverage of full fibre connectivity across the public sector in North Wales, making it one of the best connected in the UK.

The North Wales LFFN project has been developed in parallel to a digital connectivity project as part of the NWEAB Growth Bid. The two projects are separate but complimentary in that they share common objectives.

It should be noted that the Welsh Government have been delivering the 'Superfast Cymru' project to ensure that 96% of premises across Wales have access to 'superfast broadband'. Where this is generally sufficient at present for most households and some businesses at the 'superfast' threshold of 30Mbps, the full-fibre proposal of the LFFN and Growth Deal Projects will deliver 1,000Mbps+ and represents a future proof, gold standard of broadband connectivity.

It is proposed that DCC will act as the Lead Body for the NWEAB and represent the wider public sector partnership in relation to the LFFN Project, including acting as "banker" for the funding. DCC will coordinate payments to other LAs and public sector partners to fund the Public Sector Upgrades.

In order that DCC may act as Lead Body in respect of this project, there will need to be an Inter Authority Agreement to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of each of the partner bodies is clearly defined and that the appropriate indemnities are provided to DCC in respect of the work that will be undertaken as Lead Body.

Given the size of the LFFN project with £9m of digital investment over the whole the region, it is proposed to create 1 new temporary job to support the delivery of the project. It is envisaged that this role will initially be hosted by DCC and transferred to the NWEAB's 'Programme Office' which will be established to deliver all the NWEAB projects, including those funded by the Growth Deal.

The costs of the new Officer and the contributions from DCC's existing staff to the project will be covered by NWEAB funds (including relevant Growth Deal money). The project management and delivery structure is illustrated in Appendix 2.

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Appendix 4 Potential scope of public sector building upgrades by county

	Building upgrades	'Premises passed'	
		50m	200m
Isle of Anglesey	20	285	4,028
Gwynedd	131	883	15,624
Conwy	34	715	9,158
Denbighshire	95	694	10,124
Flintshire	49	570	7,803
Wrexham	67	724	10,242
Total	396	3,871	56,979

All figures are subject to further survey

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Appendix 5. Wellbeing Assessment Summary

In supporting greater and more resilient economic activity the project will contribute to a prosperous Denbighshire

- In supporting a significant number of healthcare sites the project will support working towards a healthier Denbighshire
- In bringing better connectivity to rural areas, the project will contribute to a more equal Denbighshire
- In equipping communities with quality connectivity the project will retain and attract residents and businesses, helping to achieve a Denbighshire of cohesive communities
- In helping to introduce new industries and services to previously excluded areas the project will support the objectives of a globally responsible Denbighshire

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North Wales Local Full Fibre Network Programme

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	565
Brief description:	The proposed project will be a Local Authority led, UK Government funded initiative to improve public sector digital connectivity and enhance connectivity for the private sector at key local economic sites across north Wales.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Public sector organisations and services, private sector businesses and residents in areas where infrastructure is developed.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★ ★ ★ ☆ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 25 / 30.

Implications of the score

The proposed project involves each of the Well-being of Future generations Act five ways of working, being particularly strong in terms of meeting long term needs, preventing problems getting worse, integration and collaboration.

The successful project will deliver these in communities across north Wales and underpin wider exploitation of technology to improve how the wider public sector communicates with service users and delivers effective and efficient services.

The project is seeking to deliver a long term improvement in digital communications infrastructure will have immediate benefits but also support future generations, particularly in terms on supporting employment and broadening of economic activity.

The region has experienced a pattern of lagging behind other parts of the UK with respect to telecommunications infrastructure and this project will serve to prevent this happening where investment is directed.

The project involves a multi partner collaboration with support and in consultation with the private sector.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

- A prosperous Denbighshire
- A resilient Denbighshire
- A healthier Denbighshire
- A more equal Denbighshire
- A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
- A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Denbighshire

- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Positive
- Neutral
- Positive



Main conclusions

The project is focused on improving immediate and long term connectivity requirements across the public sector in north Wales and on improving connectivity for SMEs at key local economic sites. In this respect the Well-being Assessment illustrates direct positive impacts across six of the seven

goals and no negative impacts in any.

In supporting greater and more resilient economic activity the project will contribute to a prosperous Denbighshire, in supporting a significant number of healthcare sites the project will support working towards a healthier Denbighshire, in bringing better connectivity to rural areas, the project will contribute to a more equal Denbighshire, in equipping communities with quality connectivity the project will retain and attract residents and businesses, helping to achieve a Denbighshire of cohesive communities, and in helping to introduce new industries and services to previously excluded areas the project will support the objectives of a globally responsible Denbighshire.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Economic development has been an important consideration in developing the proposal with this being a key benefit of investing in digital infrastructure, along with improving the connectivity in the public sector.
Further actions required	Maximising the positive impacts will include promoting the availability of the new infrastructure to businesses and ensuring that the public sector maintains an awareness of the wide variety of opportunities to exploit better connectivity.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Investments will facilitate tele working and video conferencing, reducing road travel.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Fundamental purpose of project
Economic development	New infrastructure at key economic sites will support existing businesses, facilitate growth of new and existing sectors reliant on the highest quality, affordable digital connectivity.
Quality skills for the long term	It is expected that as more local businesses exploit better digital connectivity, demand for digital skills in the region will increase and employers will invest to maximise the potential of their workforces.
Quality jobs for the long term	Roles requiring digital skills are typically better paid and are increasing as more businesses take on functions that depend on suitably trained staff.
Childcare	None

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	None
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	None
Economic development	None
Quality skills for the long term	None
Quality jobs for the long term	None
Childcare	None

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Reducing the need for journeys is the principle environmental impact. The county and wider region will become more economically resilient with competitive digital infrastructure which will attract new industries and employers and retain those which are seeking to grow.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Better digital connectivity will support wider use of tele working and video conferencing, reducing road journeys.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	None
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
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Justification for impact	Both WG and UK consider that greater adoption of digital technology within primary care is becoming more important. It has emerged as a growing trend in private healthcare and provides new options for GPs, nurses, consultants and the public, for example. The proposal also seeks to facilitate the direct communication between healthcare sites, improving the quality and efficiency of the transfer of important information which will in turn support wider service delivery.
Further actions required	As with all public sector partners, it will be important to ensure that healthcare partners involved fully understand the scope and capacity of new digital communications options to support their operations.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	None
Access to healthcare	A substantial part of the upgrades in public sector connectivity involve primary care. Better connectivity here will facilitate a broader choice of how practitioners can communicate with those seeking healthcare, for example, video streaming consultations, where appropriate, reducing the need for long, difficult or inconvenient journeys.
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	None
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
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Justification for impact	A key benefit of the project is that it will reach into rural areas, addressing relatively poor connectivity serving the public sector but also leading to investment for nearby residents and businesses. This connectivity will be of a standard experience more frequently in urban areas and so the project will contribute to reducing this sub regional disparity.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	It is anticipated that the project will deliver improved connectivity to rural areas with existing public sector presence (e.g. a GP surgery). This investment is expected to lead to better connectivity for those residents in the vicinity of these premises, thereby improving their access to online resources, such as information about accessing health services, educational information, financial state support and employment opportunities.
People in poverty	For those communities benefiting from localised investment, better connectivity will directly improve access to employment opportunities, training and information from relevant support agencies. The wide programme will underpin economic development objectives, including job creation and increasing the number of better paid, highly skilled employment opportunities.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	None
People in poverty	None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project is fundamentally about improving the ability of the public sector to communicate and in supporting businesses and residents to access better connectivity, with direct interventions in improving infrastructure.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	None
Community participation and resilience	Better connectivity will improve the viability of communities, retaining those who may otherwise move away and attracting those for whom good quality connectivity is necessary. This applies to both residents and businesses.
The attractiveness of the area	None
Connected communities	Fundamental part of the project

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	None
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Community participation and resilience	None
The attractiveness of the area	None
Connected communities	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	None
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	None

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	None
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	None

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will improve access to good and services online for those individuals and businesses benefiting from investment. In these communities, some commercial activities previously excluded due to connectivity barriers (e.g. creative industries, digital services, e-commerce) will have the opportunity to relocate and access local and wider markets. Public sector services may also have new capacity to deliver services where previously restricted by connectivity issues (e.g. computer suites / public wifi in libraries, temporary community based staff presence / drop in facilities).
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	The project will underpin better access to services across the public sector, particularly those delivered by local authorities and health bodies

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	None

Appendix 6. Project Risks

Potential for minor traffic disruption at these sites during the construction phase. Standard public notification of works will be undertaken in advance and where appropriate local businesses and residents will be contacted directly to explain the purpose of the work.

The risks associated with Denbighshire County Council 's role as Lead Body on behalf of the NWEAB for the LFFN Project and in accepting the delegation of executive functions relating to the project from the North Wales local authorities will be mitigated through a suitable Inter Authority Agreement.

The recommendation is that Cabinet authorises the Corporate Director Economy and Public Realm in consultation with the s151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Leader to agree the final terms of the Inter Authority Agreement. Further consultation will be undertaken with each of the other authorities in preparing this IAA.

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Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 18th December 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh, Head of Finance

Report Author: Steve Gadd, Chief Accountant

Title: **Finance Report (November - 2018/19)**

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2018/19. The report also provides a summary update of the Capital Plan as well as the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the council's current financial position and confirm the agreed service budgets for 2018/19.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that Cabinet Members note the budgets set for 2018/19 and progress against the agreed strategy.

4. Report details

The report provides a summary of the council's revenue budget for 2018/19 detailed in **Appendix 1**. The council's net revenue budget is £194.418m (£189.252m in 17/18). The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast overspend of £0.964m (overspend of £1.292m in last report). Narrative around the current risks and assumptions underlying this assessment are outlined in Section 6.

The 2018/19 budget required savings and efficiencies of £4.6m to be identified and agreed. The table below gives a break-down of how the savings target was achieved. It can be confirmed that the £2m due to changes in the Minimum Revenue Provision and the £1m from wider corporate savings have both already been achieved. Service efficiencies of £1.2m and savings of £0.4m were agreed as part of the budget. As the efficiencies form part of 'business as usual' for services it is assumed these will all be delivered. Any exceptions will be reported to Cabinet if required. The service savings will be monitored closely over the coming months and progress reported to Cabinet.

Savings/Efficiencies Agreed for 2018/19	£000	%age
Changes to Minimum Revenue Provision	2,000	43%
Corporate Savings identified in 2017/18	1,000	22%
Service Efficiencies (see Appendix 2)	1,200	26%
Service Savings (see Appendix 2)	411	9%
Grand Total	4,611	100%

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

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

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

Significant service narratives explaining variances and risks are shown in the following paragraphs.

Customers, Communications and Marketing is currently projected to overspend by £40k (£40k reported last month). The pressure is largely due to higher than anticipated staff costs relating to maternity cover.

Highways and Environment is currently projected to overspend by £806k (£784k reported last month). The following should be noted:

- **Major Projects** – Following a presentation and discussion of the issues at the Reshaping the Council Board it was proposed that an in-year budget allocation of £140k is released from centrally held contingencies in order to resolve this historic pressure on an ongoing basis.
- **School Transport** – additional funds have now been allocated to fund the full impact of the revised transport policy relating to hazardous routes which was agreed last year. Although it was hoped that this would be sufficient to deliver the service the following pressures have also been identified:
 - Changes to the policy relating to housing Denbighshire children in the Denbighshire special schools has resulted in an increase in special transport costs. These costs are especially high as they involve taxis and escorts. The overall impact of this change in approach which is not within the control of the Highways and Environment Service has led to an increase in costs of approximately £300k.
 - The overall increase in contracts agreed from September amounts to £299k which largely relates to an increase in the overall number of pupils and contractors passing on inflationary pressure to the council. A number of contracts are still out to tender which may impact on future projections.

The new ongoing pressures identified in 2018/19 (amounting to £599k) has been factored into the current budget proposals as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20.

- **Streetscene** – The service has identified a statutory requirement to remedy an issue with 'Legacy Tips'. The overall one-off cost of this is estimated to be in excess of £200k. Further pressures within the service relate to additional time worked by staff to order to address issues raised by the public / Members (eg additional bin emptying in Rhyl during the hot summer months).
- **Waste** – A number of pressures are effecting the Waste service and the issues have been raised at the Budget Board. The majority of the pressure relates to new contract fees for the co-mingled waste contract. The pressure in 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be funded from the Waste Reserve and a budget pressure of £900k has been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21.

Education and Children's Service is currently projected to overspend by £1.669m (£1.638m reported in November). The main reason for the increase of £31k relates to an increase in the cost of independent fostering placement of £45K. Some of this increase has been offset by small reductions in projections elsewhere in the service.

Children's Services continues to be an area of high risk due to the volatility in case numbers and inflationary pressures on placement costs. Each individual placement can be extremely expensive so any increase in numbers can have a large effect on the budget. The projected outturn includes all current out of county predicted placements to realistic timeframes. Education Out of County placements and recoupment income is less than budgeted due to the decrease in the numbers of pupils from other Local Authorities attending the Council's special school provision. Both pressures were part funded last year through the planned use of specific reserves and were considered as part of the 18/19 budget process and a funding pressure of £750k was agreed at Council on the 30th January. The reported overspend includes this budget contribution and the

financial implications of these pressures on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 have now been included in the current budget proposals.

Facilities Assets and Housing is projected to overspend by £87k (£89k overspend reported last month) largely due to an increase in the projected set up costs relating to the SC2 project. The total pressure of £277k has been mitigated by the service through the proposed re-focusing of £138k carried forward from 17/18 and the allocation of £54k from the income received from the Alliance Leisure Procurement Framework Agreement. There remains the option to capitalise some of the expenditure if further in year contributions cannot be identified.

Community Support Services is projected to break-even following an additional budget of £750k being allocated for 2018/19 and the planned use of reserves (amounting to a further £800k contribution in 2018/19). It is likely this picture will improve once the details of the winter pressures in year grant allocation, which has recently been announced, have been released by Welsh Government. Overspends within the Mental Health Service and In-House Provider Services remain areas of greatest pressure. The Medium Term Financial Plan includes an assumed budget requirement of an additional £500k per year although further work is ongoing to assess the full financial implications and the identification of actions to help mitigate the effect of these pressures.

Schools - The position with School Balances will continue to be carefully monitored and reported to Members on a monthly basis. Not only are Education Finance working closely with schools to help develop robust plans, but chief and senior officers in Education and Finance meet regularly to review those plans and take remedial action if necessary. The budget agreed by Council for 2018/19 included a total additional investment in schools delegated budgets of £1.8m. The level of school balances carried forward into 2018/19 was a net deficit balance of £0.343m, which was an improvement of £0.713m on the balances brought forward from 2016/17. At the end of November the projection for school balances is a net deficit balance of £1.342m, which is an increase in the projected deficit of £0.999m on the balances brought forward from 2017/18. The non-delegated budget is currently projected to underspend by £9k due to minor underspends.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The latest revenue position assumes a decrease in balances at year end of £795k which is £165k more than the budgeted decrease of £630k. HRA balances are therefore forecast to be £1.407m at the end of the year. The Capital budget of £10.2m is allocated between planned improvements to existing housings stock (£6m) and new build developments (£4m).

Corporate – It is currently estimated that corporate contingencies amounting to £1.55m will be available to be released to help fund the service overspends (£1.2m projected last month). Following additional work carried out to help the overall financial position of the Council the following additional items have been approved to be released in year in order to help fund the exceptional in year service pressures:

- A review has been undertaken of the timing of the corporate funding for key Re-shaping the Council Board projects that has resulted in a re-profiling of the funding requirements. This has reduced projections by approximately £150k
- A further £200k contingency has been released which had been kept to help fund possible increases relating to historic pension costs. We have now had firm projections from Clwyd Pension Fund which can be funded from existing budgets.

Further work is ongoing in areas, such as the projection on the cost of council-wide energy bills, the Capital Financing Budget, an in-year review of earmarked reserves and

projections around the Council Tax Yield in order to help ensure that the call on General Balances are kept to a minimum.

Treasury Management – At the end of November, the council's borrowing totalled £224.884m at an average rate of 4.24%. Investment balances were £14.2m at an average rate of 0.52%.

A summary of the council's **Capital Plan** is enclosed as **Appendix 2**. The approved capital plan is £54m with expenditure to date of £26.4m. **Appendix 3** provides an update on the major projects included in the overall Capital Plan.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

Well-being Impact Assessments for the savings included in Appendix 2 and the Council Tax rise was presented to Council on 30 January. An assessment for the MRP policy change was included in the report to Council in September 2017.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Corporate Governance Committee, the budget process has been considered by CET, SLT, Cabinet Briefing and Council Briefing meetings. There were regular budget workshops held with elected members to examine service budgets and consider the budget proposals. All members of staff were kept informed about the budget setting process and affected staff have been or will be fully consulted, in accordance with the council's HR policies and procedures. Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

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

Specific pressures remain evident in social care budgets (both Adults' and Children's) despite additional investment of £1.5m in total for 2018/19. A similar situation is now evident in relating to School Transport despite additional investment of £0.6m in 17/18 and 18/19. Provision for these pressures have been included in the budget proposals contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

School balances will continue to be kept under close review. Not only are Education Finance working closely with schools to help develop robust plans, but chief and senior officers in Education and Finance meet regularly to review those plans and take remedial action if necessary.

Despite the release of further corporate contingencies the Council's overall overspend remains an area of concern. There may be additional corporate items which will further help the position such as indicated in Section 6. However it is likely that an in year overspend will need to be funded from General Balances (which would need to be replaced next financial year) unless in year cost saving initiatives across the Council can help bring the overspend on services down.

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

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

11. Power to make the Decision

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

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Nov-18	Net Budget	Budget 2018/19			Projected Outturn						Variance	
	2017/18 (Restated) £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Net %	Previous Report £'000
Customers, Communications and Marketing	2,971	3,461	-634	2,827	3,599	-732	2,867	138	-98	40	1.41%	40
Education and Children's Service	12,955	27,616	-13,436	14,180	27,001	-11,152	15,849	-615	2,284	1,669	11.77%	1,638
Business Improvement and Modernisation	4,613	5,331	-807	4,524	5,367	-843	4,524	36	-36	0	0.00%	0
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	2,623	3,962	-1,328	2,634	4,052	-1,506	2,546	90	-178	-88	-3.34%	-59
Facilities, Assets and Housing	6,931	24,254	-16,294	7,960	24,508	-16,461	8,047	254	-167	87	1.09%	89
Finance	2,914	5,350	-2,186	3,164	5,899	-2,735	3,164	549	-549	0	0.00%	0
Highways and Environmental Services	17,514	31,560	-12,601	18,959	32,555	-12,790	19,765	995	-189	806	4.25%	784
Planning and Public Protection	3,001	5,964	-2,996	2,968	5,915	-2,947	2,968	-49	49	0	0.00%	0
Community Support Services	32,356	51,877	-16,849	35,028	53,921	-18,893	35,028	2,044	-2,044	0	0.00%	0
Total Services	85,878	159,375	-67,131	92,244	162,817	-68,059	94,758	3,442	-928	2,514	2.73%	2,492
Corporate	18,942	54,603	-36,525	18,078	53,053	-36,525	16,528	-1,550	0	-1,550	-8.57%	-1,200
Precepts & Levies	4,525	4,569	0	4,569	4,569	0	4,569	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	12,965	11,361	0	11,361	11,361	0	11,361	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	36,432	70,533	-36,525	34,008	68,983	-36,525	32,458	-1,550	0	-1,550	-4.56%	-1,200
Council Services & Corporate Budget	122,310	229,908	-103,656	126,252	231,800	-104,584	127,216	1,892	-928	964	0.76%	1,292
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	66,942	76,083	-7,917	68,166	76,981	-7,825	69,156	898	92	990	1.45%	713
Total Council Budget	189,252	305,991	-111,573	194,418	308,781	-112,409	196,372	2,790	-836	1,954	1.01%	2,005
Housing Revenue Account	315	16,309	-15,679	630	16,474	-15,679	795	165	0	165		166

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Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22
Position to end November 2018

APPENDIX 2

Capital Expenditure

Total Estimated Payments - Other
 Total Estimated Payments - Major Projects:

Housing Improvement Grants
 Rhyl, New 3-16 Catholic School
 Ysgol Llanfair, New School
 Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, New School
 Highways Maintenance
 East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme
 Rhyl Waterfront and Waterpark

Contingency

Total

Capital Financing

External Funding

Receipts and Reserves

Prudential Borrowing

Unallocated Funding

Total Capital Financing

2018/19 ORIGINAL ESTIMATE £000s	2018/19 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2019/20 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2020/21 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2021/22 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s
9,355	15,156	903	200	0
1,416	1,556			
	12,636	9,313	373	
	4,637	203		
	3,663	697		
3,070	4,222	500		
2,634	1,093	2,017		
10,721	10,545	530		
500	493	500	500	500
27,696	54,001	14,663	1,073	500
12,184	16,106	8,893	4,834	4,834
2,908	9,716	153		
12,604	28,179	9,951	573	0
0	0	(4,334)	(4,334)	(4,334)
27,696	54,001	14,663	1,073	500

Note: 2018-19 Original Estimate is the position as approved by Council on 20th February 2018

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Appendix 3 - Major Capital Projects Update - December 2018

Rhyl Harbour Development	
Total Budget	£10.639m
Expenditure to date	£10.579m
Estimated remaining spend in 2018/19	£ 0.060m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.000m
Funding	WG £2.545m; WEFO £5.899m; Sustrans £0.700m: RWE £155k; WREN/NRW £83k and DCC £1.257m
<p>Narrative:</p> <p>Now that the bridge has been operational for a few years, the maintenance schedule needs to be revised to ensure that the bridge is properly maintained for the longer term. The Corporate Executive Team (CET) have previously considered a report regarding the maintenance regime and agreed in-principle to amend the maintenance schedule, pending a decision about the long term funding.</p> <p>When the revised bridge maintenance contract has been agreed with Dawnus Construction Ltd, the final account for the bridge will be negotiated and this will complete the project. In the meanwhile the necessary maintenance is being undertaken to keep the bridge in working order. Additional costs were incurred during 2017/18 for both reactive maintenance and breakdowns. The new maintenance regime needs to be agreed and implemented so changes can be made and future breakdowns avoided.</p> <p>Options were presented in an updated report to CET on 30th April 2018 and further information was supplied to CET for their meeting on 11th June 2018 where approval was given to proceed with the new bridge maintenance arrangements.</p> <p>The maintenance has now been undertaken, necessary works and purchase of spares has been undertaken and the bridge is now fully certified for insurance purposes. The Final Account is now being determined for the Bridge Contract.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.060m

21st Century Schools Programme - Rhyl New School	
Total Budget	£23.824m
Expenditure to date	£23.761m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£ 0.063m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.000m
Funding	DCC £10.135m; WG £13.689m
Narrative:	
<p>The project has provided a new school building for Rhyl High School to accommodate 1,200 pupils in mainstream education and approximately 45 pupils from Ysgol Tir Morfa, the community special school in Rhyl. The works have also included some extensive refurbishment to the exterior of the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>There are now just a couple of defects to be completed by the Contractor which are in hand, and an updated record of the community benefits derived from the project to be provided.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.063m

21st Century Schools Programme – Glasdir	
Total Budget	£11.246m
Expenditure to date	£11.180m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£0.066m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.000m
Funding	DCC £2.598m; WG £8.648m
Narrative:	
<p>This project has delivered a new shared school building site for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Penbarras at Glasdir, Ruthin.</p> <p>Since April 2018, the schools have been using their new site. The new facilities have been received very positively by pupils, parents, teachers and governors of both schools.</p> <p>The Council's Design, Construction and Maintenance team are supervising the de-snagging of defects as part of the overall project programme. Snagging work is ongoing and will remain ongoing until the end of the defects period in April 2019. Work to de-commission the old site is complete with the asset managed by the Council's Estate department.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.818m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol Carreg Emlyn

Total Budget	£5.059m
Expenditure to date	£3.111m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£1.251m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.697m
Funding	WG £0.221m; DCC £4.838m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project will provide a new school building on a new site in Clocaenog and allow the two existing sites to be declared surplus.</p> <p>Progress continues on site. Work continues to progress on the internals and mechanical and electrical works. The render to the external walls has now been completed and the install of the canopies has now commenced.</p> <p>The easement for the Scottish Power H Pole to supply power to the new site is still ongoing between Scottish Power and the third party land owner.</p> <p>Pupil visits have taken place on site in November as part of the Community Benefits Programme. This has provided pupils with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new school and its surroundings. During the tour, pupils also had an opportunity to look at the building plans and highlighted the types of construction skills involved in the build. Pupils also had the opportunity to see the workforce in action and ask the workforce questions about the work they are doing.</p> <p>In the coming weeks, progress will continue on the internals of the building and works to form the school car park and improvements to the Highway will commence.</p> <p>It is envisaged the new school will open in the Spring of 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£3.663m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol LLanfair	
Total Budget	£5.369m
Expenditure to date	£2.740m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£2.426m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.203m
Funding	WG £0.180m; DCC £5.189m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project will provide a new school building on a new site in Llanfair DC.</p> <p>There has been good progress on site over the last month, with first and second fix works on the internals, and the cladding to the externals having commenced. Work also continues to progress on making the building watertight with the roof lights expected to be installed shortly.</p> <p>Pupil visits have taken place on site in November as part of the Community Benefits Programme. This has provided pupils with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new school and its surroundings. During the tour, pupils also had an opportunity to see the workforce in action and ask questions about their work.</p> <p>In the coming weeks, the internal works will commence on site including the mechanical and electrical first fix and the plaster boarding for the internal walls.</p> <p>It is envisaged the new bilingual church school will open in the summer term of 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£4.637m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Total Budget	£16.763m
Expenditure to date	£16.449m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£0.314m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.000m
Funding	WG £11.461m; DCC £5.302m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project has delivered an extended and refurbished Ysgol Glan Clwyd to accommodate a long term capacity of up to 1,250 pupils via a new three storey extension, partial demolition of existing buildings and refurbishment of the retained buildings. The project has also seen extensive landscaping, with creation of new outdoor hard and soft landscaped areas including a new sports field, extended and rationalised car park and coach parking area.</p> <p>Phase 1, a new three storey extension was completed and handed over for occupation by the school from January 2017.</p> <p>The first two sections of the old buildings following remodelling and refurbishment, comprising Phases 2a and 2b were handed over on 9th May 2017 and 28th June 2017 respectively. Part of Phase 2b included the new Visitors Car Park and the new Main Reception.</p> <p>The final main section of remodelling and refurbishment of the old buildings, Phase 2c, was completed on 4th September 2017 and handed back to the school ready for the start of the new academic year.</p> <p>Remaining internal works to create the new Leisure Centre facility and the final three rooms for the school were completed and handed over on 13th October 2017; at the same time the new Car Park and Coach Area and remaining external landscaping were also completed and handed over.</p> <p>The final activities saw the old Tennis Courts resurfaced and fenced to create a Multi-Use Games Area and clearance of the Contractors site offices and compound; this work was completed and a final handover occurred on Friday 10th November 2017.</p> <p>The School and Leisure Centre have returned to business as usual.</p> <p>As part of dealing with any Defects in association with the 12 month Defects Periods for each of the Phase/Sub Phase sectional completions, Phase 2 internal defects were rectified over the summer school holidays along with the bulk of the Phase 2 external defects. A small number of remaining defects will be addressed in the October half term.</p> <p>The final issue of the BREEAM Certification associated with the project is still awaited and is anticipated within the next couple of months following an update from the Contractor. It is hoped the Final Account will be settled in the next few weeks.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.353m

21st Century Schools Programme – Rhyl 3-16 Faith School	
Total Budget	£23.813m
Expenditure to date	£7.005m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£8.122m
Future Years estimated spend	£8.686m
Funding	WG £5.541m; DCC £18.272m
<p>Narrative: This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme.</p> <p>Work on site continues to progress well. Roof membrane is 100% complete and windows 50% complete. Brickwork continues and is on programme.</p> <p>First fix Mechanical and Electrical and first fix partitioning have both commenced. Programme remains on target.</p> <p>Detailed planning on how the school will operate in Phase1 to ensure successful transition of the two schools will commence in the new year.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£12.637m

Rhyl Waterfront and Waterpark	
Total Budget	£23.467m
Expenditure to date	£19.151m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£ 3.786m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.530m
Funding	WG £5.354m; DCC£16.113m; Rhyl Town Council £2.000m
<p>Narrative: Construction work on SC2 is nearing completion and into the final six weeks. The Waterpark is still on schedule to be handed over to the Council in January 2019 and to open prior to Easter 2019.</p> <p>Travelodge is on schedule to complete in January 2019.</p> <p>Proposals for the footprint of the former Unit C on the Children's Village are being firmed up and plans and costs are due for sign-off. Unit A is to be refurbished and the Tourist Information Centre relocated to the Railway Station, prior to Easter 2019.</p> <p>Major refurbishment of the Children's Village (Underground) car park is on schedule to complete by late March 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£10.545m

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
22 Jan 2019	1	Budget 2019/20 – Final Proposals	To consider a report setting out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2019/20 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2019/20.	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group	To seek Cabinet’s support of projects identified for inclusion in the 2019/20 Capital Plan.	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20	To seek approval for the proposed annual rent increase for council housing and to approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2019/20 and Housing Stock Business Plan	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh / Geoff Davies
	4	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	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
26 Feb 2019	1	Denbighshire's Replacement Local Development Plan – Draft Pre Deposit (preferred strategy) for consultation.	To consider a recommendation to Council.	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Angela Loftus
	2	Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Write-Offs	To seek Cabinet approval to write off irrecoverable NDR (Business rates) as detailed within the report	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	North Wales Construction Framework 2	To appoint contractors for the project	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Tania Silva
	4	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
26 Mar 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
30 Apr 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
28 May 2019	1	North Wales Growth Bid Governance Agreement 2	To approve the governance arrangements in relation to the implementation of the growth deal.	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Graham Boase / Gary Williams
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Future Issues – date to be confirmed

<i>Item (description/title)</i>	<i>Purpose of report</i>	<i>Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)</i>	<i>Author – Lead member and contact officer</i>
Rhyl Regeneration Programme re-launch	To support the future arrangements regarding the regeneration of Rhyl	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Graham Boase

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

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>January</i>	<i>8 January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>12 February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>12 March</i>

Updated 05/12/18 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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