

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15 October 2020

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2020** in **REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AT ITS USUAL LOCATION. THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)

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

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

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

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 3 September 2020 (copy enclosed).

10.05am – 10.10am

5 IMPACT OF RUTHIN PRIMARY REVIEW (Pages 15 - 42)

To consider a report by the Principal Manager - School Support (copy attached) which seeks the Committee to assess the impact of the Ruthin area primary education review against the well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

10.10am – 10.45am

6 COMMUNITY BENEFITS POLICY (Pages 43 - 68)

To consider a report by the Community Hub Manager (copy attached) which seeks the Committee's observations and support for the Council's Community Benefits Policy and recommendations in relation to its use

10.45am – 11.15am

BREAK 11.15am - 11.30am

7 NORTH EAST WALES ARCHIVES AND RUTHIN GAOL (Pages 69 - 80)

To consider a report by the Business Information Team Manager (copy attached) updating the Committee on the Archives project and which seeks members' views on the proposals put forward for the future use of Ruthin Gaol

11.30am – 12pm

8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 81 - 104)

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

12pm – 12.20pm

9 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

12.20pm – 12.30pm

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Huw Williams (Chair)

Councillor Graham Timms (Vice-Chair)

Mabon ap Gwynfor
Brian Blakeley

Anton Sampson
Glenn Swingler

Rachel Flynn
Tina Jones
Merfyn Parry

Andrew Thomas
Cheryl Williams

Voting Co-opted Members for Education (Agenda Item No. 5 only)

Kathleen Jones

Neil Roberts

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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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held in on Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Mabon ap Gwynfor, Brian Blakeley, Rachel Flynn, Tina Jones, Merfyn Parry, Anton Sampson, Glenn Swingler, Andrew Thomas, Graham Timms (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair).

Councillor Huw Hilditch Roberts – Lead Member for Education and Children’s Services was present for item 5.

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill Lead member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets was present for item 6.

Councillor Brian Jones - Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment was present for item 7.

Observers: Councillors Joan Butterfield, Meirick Lloyd Davies, Gwyneth Kensler, Barry Mellor and Emrys Wynne

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Economy & Public Realm (GB), Corporate Director: communities (NS), Interim Head of Education (GD), Interim Head of Children’s Service (RM), Head of Finance and Assets (SG), Lead Officer Corporate Property & Housing Stock (DL), Head of Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services (TW), Risk and Asset Manager (TT), Scrutiny Coordinator (RhE) and Democratic Services Officer (KE)

The Local Democracy Reporter and a representative from Audit Wales were also in remote attendance to observe proceedings.

POINT OF NOTICE

Due to the current restrictions on travel and requirement for social distancing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic the meeting was held remotely by video conference and was not open to the general public. All members had been given the opportunity to attend as observers. The Local Democracy Reporter and a representative from Audit Wales had also been invited to observe.

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following declarations of interests were made – all of which were personal interests:

Councillor Huw O Williams – his son is a pupil in one of the County's schools
Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies – governor at Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog
Councillor Cheryl Williams – governor at Christ the Word School
Councillor Tina Jones – governor at Ysgol Melyd
Councillor Andrew Thomas – governor at one of the County's schools
Councillor Merfyn Parry – governor at Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor
Councillor Graham Timms – governor at one of the County's schools
Councillor Emrys Wynne – governor at Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Borthyn
Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts – parent governor at one of the County's schools

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent items had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020 were submitted.

Accuracy

Page 6, Declarations of Interest - Councillor Meirick Lloyd-Davies advised that he had declared personal interests as a Governor of Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog and as a member of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority not Board.

Agreement on the recommendation was by consensus. No formal vote was taken. All members indicated they were in favour of the recommendation, no one indicated they were against it and no one indicated they wanted to abstain.

Resolved: - subject to the above corrections, that the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020 be received and approved as a true and correct record

5 RECOVERY PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

The report (previously circulated) was introduced by the Lead Member for Education, Children' Services and Public Engagement who began by thanking all of Denbighshire County Council's staff in Education Services – including the outgoing Head of Service, school head teachers, parents and children for their hard work and commitment during the challenging time of lockdown.

Before the summer holidays commenced learners were given the opportunity to attend sessions to check-in, catch up and prepare for the new term. On average a

50% take up rate had been experienced although some schools had seen up to 85% - 90% attendance.

The Region, local authority (LA) and schools had been preparing for four possible eventualities at the beginning of the new school term but were surprised when Welsh Government had announced that the least expected outcome – 100% return to school – the week before schools closed for the summer holidays. A further announcement (but no guidelines) regarding the use of face coverings was also delivered by Welsh Government last week. In response a meeting had been held with all Head Teachers who had agreed that secondary school children would be required to wear face coverings when moving between classes in the corridors.

The Interim Head of Education acknowledged the role of various other departments throughout the Authority that had had a part in helping the Education Service meet their challenges. He gave his assurances that schools were ready for the return of the children, all were expected to have returned by 14th September. Detailed risk assessments covering catering, cleaning, transport, HR etc. had been undertaken to ensure the wellbeing of Denbighshire's 16,000 students.

In response to questions the Committee were:

- reassured that capacity and support were in place for the Education and Children's Services following the previous Head of Service's recent move to another Authority;
- advised that the interim appointments for Heads of Education and Children's Services had been made for a period of 12 months (commenced in June 2020) with the expectation of a permanent decision on the Service's structure in December;
- assured that the changes made to the Housing Allocation Policy and Homelessness Regulations by the Welsh Government(WG) in response to Covid-19 were still in place and discussions were ongoing with WG in relation to them.
- confirmed that Welsh government guidelines and subsequent operational protocol would be followed should any child display symptoms whilst in school;
- advised that there were no plans to test asymptomatic children – that was a decision for Public Health Wales rather than Local Authorities;
- informed that fixed penalty notices for non-attendance would not be issued at that time and attendance data submitted to Welsh government would not be used in the current or previous academic year;
- reassured that the child protection process had been ongoing during lockdown and contact had been made throughout with all known vulnerable children. It was anticipated that the volume of child referrals would increase once the schools had re-opened fully;
- advised that additional costs for PPE etc. were currently being met through the school budget but Covid-19 grants were being accessed;
- acknowledged that school transport arrangements were difficult given the reduced capacity for social distancing; and
- emphasised that WG COVID-19 guidelines in relation to Schools and associated support services' operating practices changed on a regular basis.

At the end of the discussion the Chair reiterated thanks to the Lead Member for Education, Children's Services and Public Engagement, Corporate Director: Communities, Interim Head of Education and Interim Head of Children's Services.

Agreement on the recommendation in the report was by consensus. No formal vote was taken. All members indicated they were in favour of the recommendation, no one indicated they were against it and no one indicated they wanted to abstain.

Resolved: - subject to the above observations to:

- (i) support the action taken to date to enable schools to safely open for all pupils in September 2020, and endorse the evolving post COVID Recovery Plans for Schools; and***
- (ii) extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all Education and other Council services' staff for all their hard work and efforts during the lockdown and in planning and facilitating the re-opening of the County's schools***

6 RECOVERY PLAN FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS

The lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets introduced the report (previously circulated) outlining progress on Council buildings where office staff may be located:

- Preparing buildings for re-opening
- Decommissioning any temporary use of buildings and
- Property maintenance

The document had been prepared by a multidisciplinary team covering all aspects relating to working arrangements (social distancing) and Health, Safety and Welfare in the office workplace to which appendices 1 and 2 referred. Each Service was responsible for undertaking risk assessments in their own areas.

In terms of building structures a number of compliance works were suspended over the lockdown period:

- I. Asbestos – fortunately works completed prior to lockdown meant that the programme of works were still on target.
- II. Fire Risk Assessments had a small backlog but would be picked up moving ahead a
- III. Routine gas servicing etc. had been taking place and had no issue.

There was a complete list of status of properties. Status – Red (closed), Amber (partially open, reduced hours) and Green (fully open) – very much reflected the position of the recovery phase.

The Head of Finance and Assets reminded the Committee that the report was about preparing buildings and processes for returning to work in the office – not agile working which would be part of another recovery theme. Since the preparation of the report the Senior Leadership Team had agreed to the use of face coverings

for employees where a risk assessment deemed it necessary, which was now going through consultation with the unions.

The Committee were advised that no buildings had been decommissioned as a result change of working patterns over lockdown.

Agreement on the recommendation was by consensus. No formal vote was taken. All members indicated they were in favour of the recommendation, no one indicated they were against it and no one indicated they wanted to abstain.

Resolved: - subject to the above observations to:

- (i) support the progress made to date to prepare the Council's buildings for reopening, decommissioning any temporary uses, and facilitating and dealing with maintenance backlogs;**
- (ii) extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all staff for all their hard work and efforts in securing the safety of Council buildings during the pandemic and preparing for their safe re-opening; and**
- (iii) request that a follow-up report be presented to the Committee in six months' time on the progress made in relation to the recovery of Council buildings post COVID-19**

7 RECOVERY PLAN FOR HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC REALM

The Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment introduced the report (previously circulated) explaining the two phased approach to recovery as:

1. Short term – resuming normal highway maintenance activities and
2. Sustainable model – a longer term maintenance plan involving future structures of the department and new technology for increased efficiency.

The Head of Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services acknowledged that the report did not paint a particularly positive picture but there was a need to be open and honest about the challenges the Service faced. The 7 months of disruption to highway maintenance occurred at exactly the time when the majority of maintenance for the year would have been undertaken. The loss of the entire annual highways maintenance cycle meant that roads that had required work before had deteriorated further and would cost much more to bring up to an acceptable standard again. Highways work had resumed as a matter of urgency in order to achieve as much as possible before the onset of winter with its inherent risks - winter gritting and potential second spike in Covid-19. Contingency plans were being developed to manage that risk.

Responding to members of the Committee the Head of Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services and Risk and Asset Manager:

- highlighted the difficulty of securing surfacing contractors when they were so few in numbers and in demand across the whole country;

- advised that contractors were generally easier to secure when larger scored volumes of work are available, leaving Denbighshire's relatively small programme at a disadvantage;
- highlighted that the local road condition scoring surveys that are usually undertaken twice yearly had been suspended for the past 6 months, due to Covid-19. However the roads survey for the national Key Performance Indicators had been completed on August 6th. The results were expected back in the Spring of 2021;
- agreed to look at reconvening the members workshop (virtually) on the Highways Code of Practice and Maintenance Strategy planned prior to lockdown;
- acknowledged the limited capacity due to the balancing of resources for gully and ditch maintenance. For that reason, some capacity is kept available for reactive work, although much of that work is scheduled;
- confirmed that land owners were contacted regarding the condition of their roadside hedgerows and served notice to cut them back, where necessary; and
- advised that road surface water was rarely the responsibility of Welsh Water or Natural Resources Wales but, when it was, the Authority worked with them to resolve it;

At the end of the discussion agreement on the report recommendation was by consensus. No formal vote was taken. All members indicated they were in favour of the recommendation, no one indicated they were against it and no one indicated they wanted to abstain.

Resolved: - subject to the above observations to:

- (i) support the recovery plan, as set out in Appendix A, to the report;***
- (ii) extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all staff within the Highways and Public Realm Service for all their work and efforts in delivering services to the best of their abilities during the lockdown restrictions period, and also for their work in preparing and planning for the Service's recovery from responding to the pandemic to delivering day to day business and the Service's recovery objectives; and***
- (iii) request that the Member Workshop on the Highways Code of Practice and Service associated matters that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic be rescheduled and held via video conferencing as soon as possible.***

8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator introduced the report (previously circulated) seeking to review the Committee's forward work plan with a view to focus on the recovery phase from the Covid-19 pandemic and the rescheduling of topics previously listed on the Committee's forward work programme.

The Committee were reminded that whilst they had last met in March the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group had met meantime and agreed to clear all Scrutiny

Committees' initial work programmes when meetings reconvened, parking all topics in the existing programme, in order to focus on the Covid-19 recovery themes.

In addition the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Group had scheduled an extra meeting on 12th October 2020 (after all Scrutiny Committees had met), when they would be in a better position to filter the outstanding items (appendix 1b) into the forward work plans, bearing in mind that some reports might be delayed due to conflicting priorities by departments in resuming normal service.

The reports that were originally scheduled for July/September 2020 were now available:

- Community Benefits Policy
- Welsh Government Free Childcare
- Allocation of 21st Century School Band B Funding.
- Impact of Ruthin Primary Education Area Review (follow up report)
- Future Proposals for Ruthin Gaol.

Originally the October meeting was set aside to address flooding issues with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dŵr Cymru. NRW had been tied up responding to the impact Covid-19 and unable to progress some of its modelling work and would not be in a position to report to the Committee before the meeting on December 10th.

It was proposed that the following reports be added to agenda for the October meeting:

- Future Proposals for Ruthin Gaol.
- Community Benefits Policy
- Impact of Ruthin Primary Education Area Review (follow up report) and
- Allocation of 21st Century School Band B Funding.

Appendix 4 reported on progress on recommendations from the last meeting in March. The Moorland Officer post was in the process of being filled. Members asked if the Fire and Rescue Authority had reconsidered their rejection of contributing to the role's funding. The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised that the Fire and Rescue Authority had not met since the Committee's last meeting, but she agreed to pursue the matter with them.

Agreement on the recommendation was by consensus. No formal vote was taken. All members indicated they were in favour of the recommendation, no one indicated they were against it and no one indicated they wanted to abstain.

Resolved: - subject to recommendations made during discussions on earlier agenda items and the inclusion of the items suggested during the above discussion to approve the Committee's forward work programme

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	22nd October 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Lead Member for Education, Children's Services and Public Engagement/Geraint Davies, Interim Head of Education
Report author	James Curran, Principal Manager – School Support
Title	Impact of Ruthin Primary Review

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report seeks to assess the impact of the Ruthin Primary review against the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. Members considered the main impact of the Ruthin Review at its meeting in October 2017. It was agreed to further assess the impact against the seven well-being goals in terms how it has impacted on the wider community.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 considers the findings arising and makes recommendations accordingly; and
- 3.2 confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix1) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Denbighshire's Cabinet agreed in November 2012 to commence informal consultation regarding a review of Primary Provision in the Ruthin area. It was agreed that the area review would focus on the following objectives; Ensuring

the sustainability of high quality education provision; Improving the quality of school buildings and facilities and Providing the right number of places, of the right type in the right location. Cabinet reviewed the findings of the informal consultation and made six recommendations which would impact on school provision in the area.

- 4.2 A report was submitted to this Committee three years ago which gave a summary of the findings and detailed a number of lessons learnt. This is expanded upon and updated in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 4.3 The Committee requested that the impact be assessed against the seven well-being goals from the Future Generations Act. To assist an assessment has been undertaken to assess the impact of the wider review on 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 and a globally responsible Denbighshire. (see Appendix 1)
- 4.4 Overall the assessment has concluded that the overall impact of the review has been positive.
- 4.5 A prosperous Denbighshire - the construction phase of each project provided opportunities to engage with local labour market and supply chains. It also created opportunities for the creation of apprenticeships. A direct consequence of the construction projects was an investment into the local infrastructure including highways, safe routes to schools and flood management features. The creation of onsite facilities for preschool children has improved wraparound childcare options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery.
- 4.6 A resilient Denbighshire - there has been extensive investment in biodiversity and energy efficient features in all schemes. The investment in flood risk management at Glasdir and the potential for redundant sites to become woodland areas support the view that the impact is positive.
- 4.7 A healthier Denbighshire - an increase in opportunities to promote healthy lifestyle as a result of investment in onsite and offsite facilities. The links to existing active travel routes from the new sites and an increase in numbers of

pupils accessing school meals support the view that the impact has been positive. In addition the use of part of a vacated site for the expansion of facilities on the adjacent hospital site strengthens this judgement.

- 4.8 A Denbighshire of Cohesive Communities - the decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families and contributes towards strengthening the Welsh language across the area.
- 4.9 Other areas of the assessment highlight the competing views of a programme of change. For example for a more equal Denbighshire the investment and change has enhanced faith and Welsh Language provision in some schools. It has also allowed for improvement in facilities for pupils living in rural isolation. However these benefits may be offset by the loss of sites which may impact on accessibility, particularly for pre-school provision where transport is non-statutory.
- 4.10 The proposals overall have had a positive impact on a Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language. The proposals has seen investment and an increase in the overall capacity of Welsh Medium schools in the town and surrounding areas. Contractors have been strongly encouraged to promote the Welsh Language during the construction phase. The facilities allow for an overall improvement in facilities for promotional activities outside of school times and an improved ability to hold celebratory events on school sites, as many of the schools previously had no access to halls. These sites now have modern facilities, lighting and sound etc. to hold eisteddfodau and other events.
- 4.11 The construction element of the programme has had a positive impact on a globally responsible Denbighshire. There was a strong emphasis on health and safety and well-being during the construction phase and a strong application of community benefits with the targets for local labour, supply chains and training opportunities being met via North Wales Construction Framework and Welsh Government requirements.
- 4.12 This investment or change has impacted schools in different ways. 61% of primary school places in the area are now in new buildings and the findings of the review has meant that only one mobile classroom remains for teaching,

located at Ysgol Borthyn. However, there are a number of schools and areas where these findings will have had little or no impact.

- 4.13 For the schools where investment has taken place they have witnessed a transformation of the school environment. All former sites had similarities little or no direct access to outside areas, use of mobile accommodation, no off street parking for parents/guardians and in some instances an absence of dining facilities for pupils. The feedback from the wider school community has been largely overwhelmingly positive as the investment made by Denbighshire has transformed the learning experience for its children and young people.

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

- 5.1. The proposals had been developed to meet the success measures of the 2012-2017 Corporate Plan, namely the significant improvement in the quality of school buildings and facilities and a significant reduction in the number of mobile classrooms used. This work also reflects the current priorities of the Corporate Plan in respect of continuing to modernise schools via the 21st Schools Programme.

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

- 6.1. The overall investment in Schools in the Ruthin area across the 4 schools is forecast to be £20.3m. This was funded as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme which was match funded 50/50 for Band A by the Welsh Government. The proposals generated savings via school organisation proposals and the removal of mobile accommodation. These savings were utilised for prudential borrowing to support the Corporate Plan.
- 6.2. The delivery of Band A and the Ruthin area proposals saw a number of teams within the Council work together to deliver these projects/workstreams. Outside of education, staff in Design and Construction, ICT, Marketing and Communications, HR and Legal were all involved.

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

7.1. This report focusses on the main conclusion of the Well-being Impact Assessment.

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

8.1. This report has been produced at the request of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. No decision sought in this report.

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

10.1. The risks with all projects/workstreams involved in the review were regularly monitored during the progression of the projects. Where risks became issues they were escalated to the Project Sponsor to be resolved.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

11.2. Section 7.4.2 of the Council's Constitution sets out scrutiny's powers in relation to assessing the impact of policies and decisions.

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Review of Ruthin Primary Area provision

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:	830
Brief description:	The impact assessment seek to examine the impact of the Ruthin Area Primary Review based on the seven elements of the Wellbeing goals.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Ruthin,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Pupils, parents and staff at the schools in the Ruthin area were impacted on by the proposal.
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 : 23 / 30.

Implications of the score

This assessment considers the overall impact of the Ruthin Area Review. The adopted approach looked at maintaining existing service methods rather than different approaches. All consultation was undertaken in accordance with legislation and the requirement of the school organisation code.

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

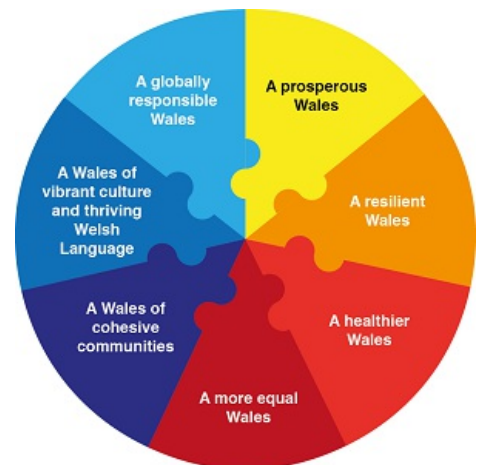
Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive



Main conclusions

The overall impact of the review has been assessed as positive for each wellbeing goal.

The impact on a prosperous Denbighshire is positive as the construction phase of each project provided opportunities to engage with local labour market and supply chains. It also created opportunities for the creation of apprenticeships. A direct consequence of the construction projects was an investment into the local infrastructure including highways, safe routes to schools and flood management features. The completed proposals has led to the vacation of six school buildings which were generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and with a poor layout. The creation of onsite facilities for preschool children has improved wraparound childcare options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery.

The impact on a resilient Denbighshire is clear as there has been extensive investment in biodiversity and energy efficient features in all schemes. The investment in flood risk management at Glasdir and the potential for redundant sites to become woodland areas support the view that the impact is positive.

The review has delivered an increase in opportunities to promote healthy lifestyle as a result of investment in onsite and offsite facilities. The links to existing active travel routes from the new sites and an increase in numbers of pupils accessing school meals support the view that the impact has been positive. In addition the use of part of a vacated site for the expansion of facilities on the adjacent hospital site strengthens this judgement.

The positive impact with regards to cohesive communities is clear as the decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families and contributes towards strengthening the Welsh language across the area.

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	Proposals led to the vacation of six school buildings - buildings generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and in layout. Investment in routes and highways - safe route to school planned for Llanfair, infrastructure at Glasdir. Co-location of childcare at schools improves wraparound options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery Replacement sites now predominately on gas. Decision to retain rural provision offset potential increase in travel.
Further actions required	Eligibility for home to school transport would mitigate provision lost in some areas. Redeployment procedures used extensively.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Proposals led to the vacation of six school buildings - buildings generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and in layout Three sites were on oil reducing reliant on fossil fuels for energy. Replacement sites now predominately on gas Decision to retain rural provision offset potential increase in travel
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Improved connectivity for schools where investment was made - some areas saw changes in investment patterns Investment in routes and highways - safe route to school planned for Llanfair, infrastructure at Glasdir
Economic development	Strong emphasis on community benefits - targets met for local spend. Benefits for local suppliers - used by main contractors, benefits to convenience sector - accommodation, meals etc
Quality skills for the long term	Commitment to training from main contractors, sessions with local schools regarding future employment and skills
Quality jobs for the long term	Success of project enabled local staff to obtain permanent jobs Larger sites or schools could create improved job prospects
Childcare	Purpose built facilities Co-location with schools improves wraparound options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	External decisions led to the retention of two buildings in poor condition. This retains the maintenance requirements for these buildings. Potential increase in travel for pupils with reduced number of sites
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Lack of infrastructure in rural areas impacted on timescales for delivery of projects - i.e. requirement for drainage tank for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn
Economic development	None
Quality skills for the long term	None
Quality jobs for the long term	Nature of projects usually 10 to 18 months may restrict long term planning for jobs Reduction in staffing due to reduction in sites
Childcare	Loss of some settings

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Extensive investment in biodiversity and energy efficient features in all schemes. Potential for redundant sites to become woodland areas. Flood risk management in Glasdir.
Further actions required	Projects worked with biodiversity officers to provide mitigating facilities, bat lofts at Glasdir & bat boxes at Llanfair - sites being monitored.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Installation of infrastructure to support local wildlife - emphasis on retaining hedgerows where practical - main boundary at Glasdir is retained hedgerows
Biodiversity in the built environment	Projects worked with biodiversity officers to provide mitigating facilities, bat lofts at Glasdir & bat boxes at Llanfair - sites being monitored. Liaison with local groups to utilise facilities at sites - gardening groups use of polytunnels
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Schools designed to meet BREEAM targets - heavy emphasis recycling, waste diversion and energy efficient solutions. Use of sustainable systems in build - SIP panels at Glasdir, Llanfair and Clocaenog - sustainable buildings and insulation material Significant furniture used by other schools within Denbighshire Recycling of existing facilities - portable structures moved to new sites
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Buildings designed to be more energy efficient PV panels installed at school sites - options to offset energy costs via use of reusables
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Projects increased people's awareness - individual pupil sessions by contractors to raise awareness

Flood risk management	Investment at school site at Glasdir reduced flood risk due to mitigating measures and contributed to development of Taylor Wimpey housing at Glasdir site. Mitigation works in Clocaenog to offset risks for flood in village - improved drainage
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Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Loss of green field sites and hedgerows (some of the sites designated in LDP for housing development)
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Number of retained sites remain energy inefficient - issues to be addressed via capital investment by building maintenance
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	Different site management requirements to manage flood risk

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Increase opportunity to promote healthy lifestyle as a result of investment in onsite and offsite facilities. Link to existing active travel routes. Use of the vacated site for expansion of health care facilities on the adjacent hospital site. Increase in numbers of pupils accessing school meals.
Further actions required	Mitigation - consideration to transition arrangements - visits to new sites during construction for all pupils Communication with local residents - communication of awareness of key milestones

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Improved learning environment Full access to school halls and MUGA's for physical exercise. Improved connectivity for access to schools - safe routes to schools Scope for 1-2-1 / small group sessions to support pupil wellbeing Links between pre-school and statutory provision
Access to good quality, healthy food	All new sites now have on site dining facilities - number of sites either had insufficient dining facilities or used classrooms as main facility for eating

People's emotional and mental well-being	Welcoming learning environment
Access to healthcare	Vacated site has enabled expansion in facilities at Ruthin hospital
Participation in leisure opportunities	Ruthin active travel route was considered as part of the project improving connectivity from Glasdir to the town of Ruthin. Location links local leisure facilities. Potential use of sites for community groups, sites using school halls

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Number of schools remain on site which do not meet criteria for 21st Century Schools facilities
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	Impact of change on pupil's wellbeing - move to different or new sites Disruption to local residents during construction period
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Investment has enhanced faith and Welsh language provision More school sites in the area are fully accessible.
Further actions required	Accessibility works to be undertaken on a needs basis on other sites.

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	Investment has enhanced faith and Welsh language provision. Accessibility on all Band A sites. Use of hearing loops, automatic doors, learning design sympathetic for learning difficulties - scope for break out sessions for ALN pupils. Toilets designed to be capable of being gender non-specific. Enhanced acoustics and compliance with BB93 standard.
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People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	N/A
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Improvement in facilities for pupils living in rural isolation which enable better access to services at their nearest school.
People in poverty	Construction phase targeted economically inactive - engagement with NEET's community benefits Affordable childcare based around school settings to allow parents to return to work

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	Issues remain which impact on accessibility access - identified issues would be addressed on a needs basis
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	N/A
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Reduction in rural sites may impact on accessibility for pre-school provision where transport is non statutory.
People in poverty	None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Investment has sought to maximise connectivity - shared routes Glasdir / Llanfair. Decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families in those areas. Safeguarding a key issue in design of new sites, secure boundaries, dedicated zones for parents / pupils, security lighting, CCTV coverage.
Further actions required	The new area school provision has a strong rural identity and ownership of the identity is broader than the village where the building is located.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Safeguarding a key issue in design of new sites, secure boundaries, dedicated zones for parents / pupils, security lighting, CCTV coverage. Dedicated car parks and improved access via paths etc.
Community participation and resilience	Scope for school to be greater focus, scope for outside use by the community
The attractiveness of the area	Schools designed to be sympathetic to local area, use of local materials. New schools seen to be stimulus to local developments and house purchases - seen as strong reason for location to villages via new facilities available
Connected communities	Investment has sought to maximise connectivity - shared routes Glasdir / Llanfair Infrastructure developed around school sites
Rural resilience	Decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Number of issues remain with existing sites that will need to be resolved via Safeguarding / Maintenance funds etc
Community participation and resilience	Loss of school facilities and connectivity within two local villages
The attractiveness of the area	Villages without schools could be seen as a negative
Connected communities	None
Rural resilience	None

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Increase in capacity for welsh medium education. Promotion of Welsh language during construction phase, encouragement for the use of Welsh medium staff in locality - assisted with communications. Ability to hold celebratory events on school sites - schools without access to halls unable to hold events - now have modern facilities. lighting and sound to hold eisteddfodau and cultural events.
Further actions required	Continuous investment through the school maintenance budget in older school sites.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Increase in capacity for welsh medium education, Co-location of pre-school provision / cylch has improved attractiveness of offer Pre-school provision increased in welsh medium schools
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Promoting the Welsh language	Promotion of Welsh language during construction phase, encouragement for the use of Welsh medium staff in locality - assisted with communications. Improved facilities for promotional activities outside of school settings
Culture and heritage	Ability to hold celebratory events on school sites - schools without access to halls unable to hold events - now have modern facilities. lighting and sound to hold eisteddfodau

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Perception re bias towards investment in Welsh Medium education Impact of Judicial Review amended approach for Llanfair and Pentrecelyn proposals - Pentrecelyn remained a category 1 school - facilities may impact on future admissions
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	Impact on community of local buildings of note

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Use of local labour and strong application of community benefits - targets being met via North Wales Framework. Improved facilities has improved the standing of the local educational offer.
Further actions required	No mitigation required.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Use of local labour and strong application of community benefits - targets being met via North Wales Construction Framework rules. Use of a range of local, national supply chains based on complexity of provision
Human rights	Considerate contractor - strong emphasis on health and safety and well-being during the construction phase
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Improved facilities has improved the standing of the local educational offer

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None

Broader service provision in the local area or the region	None
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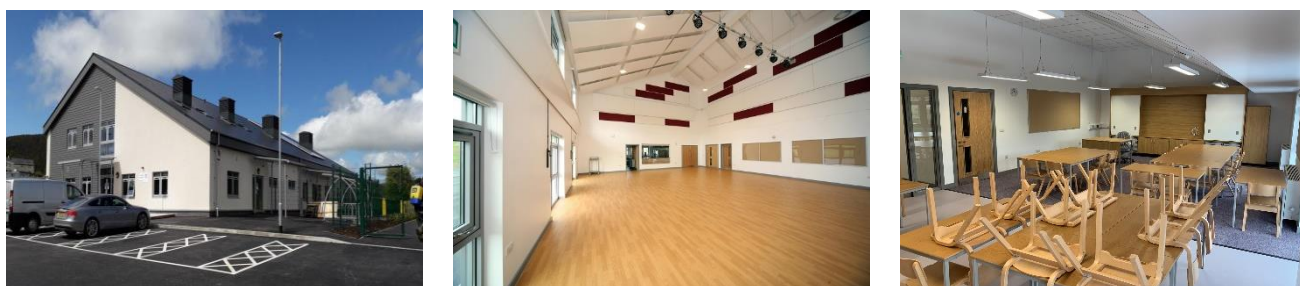
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Appendix 2 – Ruthin Review – Progress of the initial proposals from 2013

1.0 What were the proposals?

- 1.1 Cabinet considered in June 2013 a range of proposals to identify the way forward for primary sector education in the Ruthin area. The proposals impacted on all schools in the area which had differing implications.
- 1.2 In total 6 recommendations were brought forward to enable a more long term sustainable provision in the Ruthin area. The report stated that the extent and rate of change will depend on financial resources. In the following paragraphs the initial recommendations and rationale are provided in italics and the progress made follows.

2.0 Proposal 1 – Creation of new Area School to serve the communities of Clocaenog and Cyffylliog



Ysgol Carreg Emlyn's New area School, opened in June 2019.

- 2.1 *The review process identified a strong desire to retain education provision in the rural areas to the West of Ruthin. At present 55 full time pupils attend the two schools, with Ysgol Clocaenog experiencing a high demand at present, whilst numbers have dropped in recent years at Ysgol Cyffylliog. As neither of the sites is suitable for extending, it is recommended that Denbighshire creates a new area school to serve these communities. In the initial stage, the area school will be based on the existing sites with Reception to Year 2 (Foundation Phase) pupils attending the Cyffylliog site and Years 3 to 6 (Key Stage 2) pupils attending the Clocaenog site.*
- 2.2 *This should be considered as a two phased approach with a longer term commitment to create a single site school which could enable both existing sites to close and a new facility being opened, potentially linked to community facilities. It is suggested that this first phase of change should occur for the start of September 2014.*
- 2.3 Following the decision of Cabinet a formal consultation was progressed to enable a new Area school to be created. Following careful consideration of the views of the community a statutory notice was published. This drew a small number of objections and following review of these the Cabinet agreed to proceed with the proposal.
- 2.4 This allowed a new Temporary Governing Body (TGB) to be formed and Denbighshire worked closely with the TGB to enable the new school named Ysgol Carreg Emlyn to be established as of September 2014. The TGB agreed to operate with Foundation Pupils attending the Cyffylliog site and Key Stage 2 pupils (7-11) attending the Clocaenog site.

2.5 In terms of the long term external funding was secured via Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme and following a lengthy planning process a new school was opened in June 2019. This has enabled the two former sites to be declared surplus to requirements and discussions are ongoing with the local communities in respect of their future use.

3.0 Proposal 2 – Closure of Ysgol Llanbedr with the transfer of pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference

3.1 *The review process noted the recent decline in pupil numbers at Ysgol Llanbedr and the concerns of the Governing Body and others that this issue should not be considered in isolation when any decision was made on the future of the school. However in considering provision within the town of Ruthin and its close environment, there appears to be significant over provision of English medium places. Ysgol Llanbedr, (as is Ysgol Borthyn) is an English Medium Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School. At present, analysis of parental demand has identified only 20 pupils within the natural catchment area for the school opting for English medium education. At present within close proximity there would be an alternative English medium church school at Ysgol Borthyn (2.8 miles) and non –faith provision at Ysgol Gellifor (2.3 miles) and Rhos Street (1.9 miles). Therefore in view of the need to reduce the overall supply for such provision, it is recommended that consultation should commence regarding the recommendation that Ysgol Llanbedr should close at the end of the 2013/2014 academic year.*

3.2 A proposal to close the school was progressed and approved in January 2013. The closure was subsequently referred to the Welsh Government in February 2014. In January 2015 the Welsh Government confirmed that the decision should not be supported due to “procedural flaws”.

3.3 The Council after careful consideration agreed to undertake further consultation on the future of the school and a second decision to close the school was made in February 2016. The matter was referred to the Welsh Government in March 2016. The merits of the referral were considered by the Welsh Government for over 2 years with a decision finally made by the Cabinet Secretary in October 2018 to allow the school to remain open.

3.4 During the decision making process on the second consultation in 2016, Ysgol Llanbedr initiated a partnership approach with Ysgol Trefnant, also a Church in Wales school, with a shared headship agreed. As a consequence of the decision for the school to remain open the two Governing Bodies in 2019 agreed to formalise this arrangement and agreement in accordance with the Federated Schools regulations was made in September 2020.

4.0 Proposal 3 – Ruthin Town Area



Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School relocated to the Glasdir site in April 2018

- 4.1 *The review noted strong support for the continued provision from all three town schools, whilst acknowledging the long term difficulties associated with the Rhos Street / Ysgol Penbarras site. This shared site has significant access problems from the main A494 Trunk Road with no suitable drop off areas for pupils, leading to congestion and safety issues. This site also relies heavily on mobile provision, particularly for Ysgol Penbarras. The findings of the review and an assessment of the suitability of the site suggests that as an immediate priority, the Council should identify the suitability for potentially building a new school campus at the Glasdir site to the North of the Town. Initial feasibility has suggested that the land currently allocated in the Local Development Plan for a new school may be able to accommodate the needs of both Rhos Street and Ysgol Penbarras. This option needs to be considered in greater detail before any decisions are made.*
- 4.2 *Linked to any proposal for the Glasdir site is the future for both Ysgol Borthyn and Ysgol Rhewl. The need to ensure diversity of choice through continued faith provision (particularly should the recommendation to close Ysgol Llanbedr be progressed) has led to the recommendation that Ysgol Borthyn should be retained.*
- 4.3 *The study of the Ysgol Rhewl site identified scope to expand the current provision. However in considering this, the state of the current buildings at the site need to be considered and the need for investment in these buildings to bring them up to a suitable standard for long term provision. Overall, it may be difficult to justify significant investment in the Ysgol Rhewl site should new provision be built on the Glasdir site. Therefore the findings of the review suggest that the future of the school should be considered in conjunction with the Glasdir development. This would include the option for the closure of Ysgol Rhewl upon completion of the works for the new school(s). Any proposal that may arise to close Ysgol Rhewl, would require formal consultation and the publication of a statutory notice.*
- 4.4 *In respect of formal proposals, should either or both Rhos Street and Ysgol Penbarras move from their existing site to the Glasdir site, if the school does not change significantly in size, there would be no need for statutory proposals to be published as the school would transfer sites by less than a mile.*
- 4.5 This recommendation commenced feasibility works to establish options for investment. The conclusion was the development of a business case for investment in new facilities for Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street School and the progression of a closure notice for Ysgol Rhewl.
- 4.6 The funding via the 21st Century Schools Programme for the investment in the new facilities was approved in June 2016 with the two new school buildings opening in

April 2018. Alongside this the Cabinet approved the statutory proposal for the closure of Ysgol Rhewl with the school closing as of August 2018.

5.0 Proposal 4 – Proposed Federation of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn



Ysgol Llanfair DC opened in February 2020

- 5.1 *The consultation process identified strong support for the retention of educational provision in the communities around Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn. From Ysgol Llanfair DC, a clear case for investment in the facilities was identified and it was accepted by many that the existing school was not fit for purpose. At Ysgol Pentrecelyn, the importance of the school within the community was also emphasised alongside the difference between providing Welsh medium and dual stream provision. In considering the needs of the wider area and the need for significant investment, a phased approach is suggested.*
- 5.2 *The first phase would involve retaining both schools and recommending that both Governing Bodies enter into discussions to form a federation. Denbighshire County Council would seek for an agreement in principal to progress this, to be in place by January 2014 with a view to the new federation commencing in September 2014. The long term plans that would form part of Band B proposals (scheduled for 2019 onwards) for 21st Century Schools, would see progression towards a new area school to serve the communities of Pentrecelyn and Llanfair DC. Any move towards a new area school would require formal consultation and this would be progressed at the appropriate time.*
- 5.3 Initial discussions with both Governing Bodies were progressed but a change in Welsh Government regulations prevented the Federation progressing. The focus switched to an amalgamation of the school. The proposal would allow an area school to be formed with the school operating across two sites in the first instance. The proposal noted the scope for a longer term vision seeing a new building established and the school moving to a single site. This was approved by Cabinet but referred to the High Court by a former pupil. The High Court quashed the decision on the grounds of “failure to take into account the language and community impact of the creation of a new single site school”.
- 5.4 Cabinet subsequently agreed to seek a replacement building for Ysgol Llanfair and for the status quo to remain for Ysgol Pentrecelyn. Funding was secured for a replacement building for Ysgol Llanfair and the new facility was opened in February 2020.

6.0 Proposal 5 – Support for Federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor

- 6.1 *During the informal consultation stage, it was suggested that Ysgol Bryn Clwyd should be included within the Ruthin review, despite its close geographical proximity to Denbigh. This was because of the implications for any recommendation for change at Ysgol Gellifor as the schools have combined leadership and management arrangements following their federation in 2011.*
- 6.2 *Ysgol Gellifor is a popular school serving the community of Gellifor and surrounding areas. The school draws in a number of pupils from outside of its natural area and is currently at capacity. There is limited scope to extend the school.*
- 6.3 *In terms of the federation arrangements, there is a clear difference between pupil numbers at both sites: Ysgol Gellifor has a small number of surplus places (4%) whereas Ysgol Bryn Clwyd has a significant number of surplus places (67.6%). Clearly this has implications for the long term sustainability of the federation arrangements.*
- 6.4 *One of the matters questioned during the informal consultation stage was the language categories of both schools. Currently both schools are identified as Category 5, which means that only the minimum amount of Welsh has to be taught in the schools. Moving along, the Welsh language continuum would see the amount of Welsh taught in the schools increase as a response to the views of stakeholders.*
- 6.5 *The Governors have sought assurances regarding the future of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd as a consequence of this review and a desire that the long term future of the school be linked to any proposals emerging from the Ruthin review. The Council acknowledges this to prevent any further uncertainty regarding the federation.*
- 6.6 *Therefore the Council recommends to the Governing Body that the status quo should remain, subject to agreement to explore the future language category of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd. The balance of pupils at both schools will need to be addressed through the admissions arrangements.*
- 6.7 *No significant progress has been made by the schools in progressing along the language continuum.*

7.0 Proposal 6 – Retention of Ysgol Bro Famau

- 7.1 *The review has identified that the school serves predominately its local area and that both sites at Llanferres and Llanarmon are generally in good condition. However it is noted that at present there are significant surplus places at the school.*
- 7.2 *On balance, it is recommended that the status quo should remain. In the short term, the Authority will work with the Governing Body to review its current use of space.*
- 7.3 *Discussions regarding the current use of school space have taken place. As a consequence the school have reviewed how they operate and now undertake split site arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 to enable a greater focus on the respective areas of the curriculum. This has also enable a review of the capacity with a small decrease in size.*

8.0 Impacts of the findings of the review

School Places

- 8.1 Overall the Ruthin area has seen a decline in primary aged pupils attending school over the last 7 years. This has seen a decrease of 58 pupils, a reduction of just over 6% during this time period.
- 8.2 The proposals sought to remove surplus capacity via a mixture of proposals. The external decisions which led to the retention of provision at Llanbedr and Pentrecelyn has retained surplus capacity within the Ruthin area. The projects for new build sought to introduce where possible school models close to the pattern of ½ form entry, one form entry of 1.5 form entry. This has seen a small increase in capacity at these schools.

Quality of Buildings

- 8.3 The proposals and subsequent investment has made a significant impact on the quality of buildings in the Ruthin area. The proposals have seen 6 school buildings deemed surplus to requirements with the provision of 4 new school buildings. For other schools in the area investment has occurred via the Schools Building Maintenance allocation.

9.0 Feedback from the School Community

- 9.1 As projects have progressed feedback has been sought on a range of levels. Overall the feedback on new projects has been positive as the teaching and learning environment has been transformed. The investment in buildings and ICT as part of has assisted learners and for many of the schools access to school halls, breakout spaces and external areas has transformed the way schools can operate.
- 9.2 Of particular relevance has been the ability to schools to operate in recent months due to COVID 19 requirements. Some of the former sites would have raised significant challenges due to the layout of buildings to provide a safe environment.
- 9.3 Members have previously received an information report on the impact of the closure of Ysgol Rhewl. This looked at the work undertaken to assist in the transition for pupils into the new learning environment.
- 9.4 The Glasdir development has had a positive impact on Ysgol Penbarras and Rhos Street School in terms of changing the way they can deliver the curriculum and the environment for pupils. Feedback is provided in Appendix 3
- 9.5 Appendix 4 details the feedback from Carreg Emlyn on how the learning environment has been transformed for the benefits of pupils, staff and the community. The work undertaken with Governors prior to the school moving to the single new site ensured that the school was part of the wider community of Derwen, Clawddnewydd and Cyffylliog in addition to Clocaenog.
- 9.6 To date Ysgol Llanfair have been on site for less than 10 weeks. They moved into the building at the end of February with schools closing in mid March in response to COVID 19. To date they have been open fully for just over a month this term and feedback is provided in Appendix 5.
- 9.7 As part of the Closure reports for Welsh Government further discussions will take place with school stakeholders in the coming months.

Appendix 3

Glasdir development

Impact the new learning environment has had on the following:

Pupils Wellbeing

- All pupils have are now located within the same building. Previously both schools were split across various buildings and mobile accommodation.
- More toilets in school for children. Previously pupils located in mobiles had to walk across the school yard to use a toilet.
- Classrooms are larger on the whole with enough room to move around the desks. This means that the pupils have a better working environment.
- Each school has their own school hall which is available for PE and for dining.
- Additional rooms available for ALN support – more privacy and less disruptions during sessions.
- Additional room available for peripatetic music lessons.
- Outside Play Area – the children now have ample space to play outside including access to a MUGA, school yard and field.

Educational attainment

- Both schools have been awarded Excellent by Estyn for standards since moving into their new accommodation (Rhos Street – Nov 2018, Pen Barras – March 2019).
- Classrooms are suitable for the 21st century with direct access to outdoor areas.
- Ancillary rooms enable better additional support for learners.
- Better acoustics within the building – sound doesn't carry.
- Interactive screen in each class provide teachers with the tools to do their work.

Staff morale improved

- Staff have adequate space within the building with staffroom, work room and suitable offices.
- Spacious car park – staff don't need to worry about finding a parking space.
- Working environment improved:
 - More space inside and out.
 - Comfortable building both in winter and summer.

Safety

- The site is more secure – secure fence around the site and access control within the building.
- Safer for children to walk to school using network of footways around the site.
- Large car park which is used only by the schools.

Appendix 4

Ysgol Carreg Emlyn

Impact the new learning environment has had on the following:

Pupils Wellbeing

- Pupils no longer have to travel from one site to another and many have a much shorter journey to school. It is therefore less tiring for them and has had a positive impact on the Foundation Phase children especially.
- Siblings see each other during the school day and the older and younger children mix on the playground. We can now have a whole school assembly. This is beneficial for both younger and older children. It gives the school more of a family and caring feel.
- Outside Play Area – the children now have ample space to play outside including a MUGA, school yard and field. They have more space to play and socialise during their free times.
- Classrooms are larger on the whole with enough room to move around the desks. This means that the pupils have a better working environment
- School hall is available for PE during winter months. This saves the weekly journey to Canolfan Cae Cymro.
- More toilets in school for children (and staff.)
- Additional rooms available for ALN support – more privacy and less disruptions during sessions.
- Additional room available for Instrumental lessons – meaning less disruption to the sessions.
- Children can now eat lunch in the hall all together rather than in the classroom by their desks – no lingering smell all afternoon.

Educational attainment – difficult to give evidence but -

- All the above add up to happier children that in turn achieve more in general.
- We now have a school hall which can be used for PE lessons with suitable gymnastics equipment which raises the standard of gymnastic and dance skills.
- More teaching time as we do not need to travel for PE lessons
- The hall is used for other lessons such as drama, music etc. The sound and light equipment as well as a stage add to the effectiveness of the lessons and make them more enjoyable and educational for the children. The children have more chances to perform and this has improved oracy and music skills.
- Classrooms are more suitable for the 21st century.
 - o More spacious and therefore a calmer feel in the classrooms.
 - o Covered outside areas off the classrooms that can be used as a learning environment throughout the year.
 - o Interactive Board in each class
- Cylch Meithrin on site – children settle in quicker when they start school and are ready to learn.

Staff morale improved

- Spacious staffroom where staff can relax during break times.
- Spacious car park – staff don't need to worry about finding a parking space near the school any more!
- Staff from both sites have got to know each other better and more of a united feel to the school.
- Staff no longer need to travel 4 miles for a staff meeting – therefore less time wasting.
- Working environment improved
 - o Spacious classrooms

- Warm building
 - More space inside and out
- Separate offices for secretary and head teacher and therefore easier to have peace and quiet to work. Also space for private meetings.

Safety

- The school is more secure – impossible for strangers to come in and for children to walk out.
- Safer for children to get on and off the minibuses as we are now off road.

Appendix 5 – Ysgol Llanfair DC development

Pupils Wellbeing

- Pupils have parity of experiences with their peers across Wales - access to a safe space to eat as well as do PE and collective worship in the hall.
- More toilets in school for children. Previously pupils located in mobiles had to walk across the school yard to use a toilet.
- Access to sufficient and hygienic toilets. Some pupils were housed in damp mobile classrooms or eating in their classes.
- Outside Play Area – the children now have ample space to play outside including access to a MUGA, school yard and field.
- Classrooms are larger providing space to move around and adapt the class room setting. Resulting in a better working environment.
- Additional rooms available for ALN support Music lessons and break out space – more privacy and less disruptions during sessions.

Educational attainment – difficult to give evidence regarding attainment but -

- Classrooms are suitable for the 21st century with direct access to outdoor areas.
- Improved ICT infrastructure in each class, providing teachers with the tools to do their work.
- Ancillary rooms enable better additional support for learners.
- Acoustics within the building are vastly improved, providing a better learning environment.

Staff morale improved

- A big boost to morale as staff can develop their classrooms to provide continuous provision and set out their classrooms in a style conducive to learning especially in the foundation phase.
- Being housed in a light, bright school without dampness also has helped with staff wellbeing and physical health.
- Access to the outdoors ensures that teachers are able to enhance the provision using the safe space for learners outside their classrooms. Also, due to the fact that we have safe boundaries means that it enables the staff to give pupils a degree of independence.
- Staff have adequate space within the building with staffroom, work room and suitable offices.
- Car park – staff don't need to worry about finding a parking space, having issues transporting resources and equipment from their car to the school.

Safety

- The site is more secure – perimeter fencing around the site and access control within the building.
- Improved routes to school due to improvements to network of footways and safe route to the site.

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	22 October 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
Report author	Karen Bellis, Community Hub Manager
Title	Community Benefits Policy

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. Approval and adoption of Denbighshire County Council's (DCC) Community Benefits (CB) Policy

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To consider and comment on the proposed CB policy (Appendix 1) and its alignment with the Council's corporate plans and priorities

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the policy document and makes recommendations in relation to its use
- 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

DCC Community Benefits Policy

- 4.1. In June 2019 the DCC Programme Board for Young People and Housing approved the creation of the Community Benefits Hub (CB Hub), along with the inclusion of community benefits in all relevant contracts. The Hub will provide support, and enable Services to include CBs in contracts at the earliest opportunity. The

commissioning cycle process is central to achieving best value and outcomes for DCC spend and it is to be expected that by applying a CB approach at an early stage this will go toward increasing value for DCC spend. A CB Hub Officer was appointed in February 2020 and CB Hub manager appointed in March. DCC Community Benefits Policy will support the work and actions of the CB Hub in achieving intended outcomes and targets.

4.2. The Council spent £116m in 2017/18 so with a modest 1% CB return this could generate £1.16m in new benefit per annum. This Policy will support the work of the CB Hub, and the council officers it supports, to access such funding and benefits to reinforce our corporate plan priorities that will help our communities to become more independent and resilient. The Council delivers its services directly through its own workforce, and through private and third sector organisations. The Council procures a wide range of goods, services and works from over 4,500 suppliers, service providers and contractors. The CB Policy will provide a framework for internal and external stakeholders to be active in continued and developing engagement allowing us to monitor and evaluate, learn lessons, measure impact, and design fit for purpose CB planning the future. Policy will also support the CB Hub to track, monitor and report on community benefit outcomes across the council and become a means of assessing the strength, vitality and performance for the Corporate Plan 2017-2022. This in turn will be used to formulate strategies for improvements and influence policy decisions. There could be opportunities to involve local communities in the delivery of community benefits.

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

- 5.1. Young People – by contributing to greater employment opportunities, opportunities to develop skills in life and work through volunteering and community based activities, and provide access to effective career advice and mentoring.
- 5.2. Connected Communities – Opportunities to work with partners to improve outreach to communities, target those most likely to be digitally excluded so they have the skills and means to use digital services

- 5.3. Environment – Increase the biodiversity quality of important habitats and species across the county, raise the profile of the county as a place to visit in order to capitalise on Denbighshire’s economic potential
- 5.4. Resilient Communities – Support people to plan and shape their communities, provide easily accessible information that support people’s independence and resilience, ensure people are involved in shaping and improving services

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

- 6.1. Adoption of DCC Community Benefits Policy does not require additional funding.
- 6.2. Officers will be engaged at early stages to access CB Hub support for the inclusion of Community Benefits at Business Case stage.

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

- 7.1. The Well-being Impact Assessment (attached at Appendix 2) was completed at beginning June, after the production of a Draft CB Policy.
- 7.2. The Well-being Impact Assessment was undertaken by Karen Bellis, Manager Community Hub with support from Tania Silva, North Wales Construction Framework Manager
- 7.3. Continued internal and external stakeholder engagement is key to securing and delivering significant and sustainable community benefits. We need to ensure that any benefits gained are going to be of use and are to be valued by not only DCC (Members and officers) but also the community that we serve. The Corporate Plan 2017-2022 sets out our five corporate priorities designed around the Well-being and Future Generations Act and this was developed following the County Conversation which provided feedback from our residents. We asked people to comment on what was good, bad, or needed developing in the areas in relation to the seven goals. This provided the priorities Denbighshire developed: Housing, Connected Communities, Resilient Communities, Young People, and Environment

- 7.4. The Community Benefits Hub is now active (as of mid-March 2020) and this policy will guide and enable the CB Hub to offer practical and relevant support to officers during the commissioning and procurement of goods and services, and also to undertake meaningful engagement with external stakeholders.
- 7.5. Consultation and engagement has been carried out with: DCC Planning Department, Countryside Services, Community Development Officers, Education, Legal & Democratic Services and Procurement Officers. External consultation and engagement has been undertaken with Value Wales, Social Value Portal, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Flintshire County Council and Impact Social Value Reporting.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 8.1 Section 6 indicates that there are no direct financial consequences of this report. As no additional funds have been requested, it is assumed that any impact will be contained within existing budgets

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

- 9.1 No risks have been identified in adopting the DCC CB Policy.

10. Power to make the decision

- 10.1 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015; and Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 10.2 Scrutiny's powers with respect of policy development and review is outlined in section 7.4.1 of the Council's Constitution

Community Benefits Policy

May 2020

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

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Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

Purpose and Scope

“Enabling Communities to build resilience and shape their own futures”

This policy applies to all relevant commissioning and procurement activities undertaken by Denbighshire County Council. Officers are expected to consider the inclusion of Community Benefits at the start of the commissioning cycle. Further help and advice is available from the Community Benefits Hub or by contacting Karen.Bellis@denbighshire.gov.uk .

Background

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public services to work with people, communities and each other to tackle challenges Wales faces now and in the future. The Act’s aim is to improve the long term social, environmental and economic well-being of Wales. It has been used to inform, and complements, our [Corporate Plan 2017–2022](#), strategies, and corporate values. Denbighshire County Council (DCC) is committed to maximising Community Benefits in contract and service delivery. Going forward, the application of this Policy will be driven and supported by the DCC Community Benefit Hub (CB Hub).

This policy is based on the following principles:

- To consider the inclusion of Community Benefits in all relevant contracts and maximise outcomes through the use of voluntary Community Benefits
- To increase the Community Benefit outcomes generated through the inclusion of Community Benefit requirements within works, services and goods specifications
- To review and monitor the impact of Community Benefit activity, and to report via the Corporate Procurement Annual Report; and to continually strive to improve our performance.

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

- To minimise the impact, and maximise the benefits, that our work has on the environment and people around us.
- To integrate our Community Benefits considerations into all our business decisions.

In developing our policy for the first time we aim to deliver gradual but continuous improvements in our performance every year. As a result, our approach will continue to evolve as lessons are learned along the way. This Policy will be updated as per introduction of any new applicable legislation, and will be reviewed through lessons learned, every 3 years.

This Policy is relevant to the development and provision of Community Benefits aligned to DCC Corporate Plan via three key routes:

- **Economic Responsibility** - focusing on practices that facilitate the long-term growth of the County, whilst also meeting the standards set for ethical, environmental practices within the council.
 - The [Economic and Community Ambition Strategy 2013-2023](#) sets out our ambitions for Denbighshire's local economy and benefits that we expect to achieve for our residents.
 - The [Conwy and Denbighshire Public Service Board \(PSB\) Wellbeing Plan 2018 – 2023](#) sets out the local objectives to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being for the area by working to achieve the 7 national well-being goals.
- **Environmental sustainability initiatives** - generally focusing on the following areas: limiting pollution, reduction of carbon footprint, increasing carbon sequestration and biodiversity improvement. As awareness of environmental issues increases, organisations and businesses that take proactive steps to reduce air, land and water pollution can increase their reputation as good corporate citizens, while also benefiting society as a whole. In July 2019 DCC declared a climate and ecological emergency – committing the organisation to achieve net carbon zero, and be ecologically positive, by 2030. Welsh Government (WG) Policy: Local Authorities (LAs) must be carbon neutral by 2030, [Climate change strategy for](#)

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

[Wales, Low carbon Delivery Plan](#) this includes carbon emissions from DCC's supply chain and the Council is required to report its emissions to WG each year.

- **Social initiatives** – these include the donation of time, money and/or resources to charities and organisations at local, national or international levels.

Whilst the names Community Benefits, and social value or requirements, are interchangeable, the term 'Community Benefits' will be used throughout this policy. This also will avoid confusion with Section 106 agreements, subject to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, which enables inclusion of 'social requirements' as a condition of planning consent. (See Appendix 1)

Creation of Community Benefit Hub

In June 2019 the DCC Programme Board for Young People and Housing approved the creation of the Community Benefits Hub, along with the inclusion of community benefits in all relevant contracts. The inclusion of community benefits clauses will be considered within relevant grants made by DCC. The Hub will provide support, and enable Services to include CBs in contracts at the earliest opportunity. The commissioning cycle process is central to achieving best value and outcomes for DCC spend and it is to be expected that by applying a CB approach at an early stage this will go toward increasing value for DCC spend.

Community Benefits within DCC

Long-term financial sustainability requires close collaborative and partnership working with local, private and third sector organisations, and it is integral to the DCC approach. The effect of joining policies and resources together has the potential for greater impact than when these when delivered independently. Working together with a wide range of organisations can be expected to increase innovation, efficiency and value whilst delivering an equal or improved service.

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

DCC [Procurement Policy](#) incorporates the Welsh Government definition and guidance, as below:

Welsh Government - definition of Community Benefits

Community benefits is the term that has been adopted by Welsh Government in their published guidance "[Community Benefits Guidance Delivering Maximum Value for the Welsh Pound](#)". This provides formalised guidance and toolkits together with an overview of the type of Community Benefits the public sector should be seeking to deliver.

Completing the [measurement tool kit](#) meets the current reporting requirements in the procurement policy statement.

Incorporating community benefits into DCC Contracts

The CB Hub will co-ordinate, produce and signpost to training, support and guidelines that will be available to Services on how to include social, economic and environmental requirements, as Community Benefits, when tendering DCC contracts. Training and support will also be provided for contract managers on monitoring the delivery of all such Community Benefits. A bespoke community benefit measurement portal will be introduced to capture such benefits, and support reporting on the outcome and impacts of those benefits.

In line with this Policy the CB Hub will:

- Design and deliver appropriate training and support to Services and contract managers
- Encourage and enable officers of the Council to access relevant, appropriate and up to date community benefits advice at the earliest stages of their project development thinking, continuing through to contract management and monitoring of the provision of the CBs
- Become the central point at which the CB related data across the Council is co-ordinated, documented and reported

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

We currently spend in the region of £100 million a year with private and third sector organisations on the goods, services and works needed to deliver public services. It is our responsibility to manage this money efficiently and effectively to achieve Council objectives. Our [Procurement Strategy](#) sets out how we are changing procurement and commissioning within the Council.

Community Benefits can be used to build a range of economic, social, cultural or environmental conditions into the delivery of council contracts and projects.

Community Benefits form part of the Specification, and suppliers will have a contractual obligation to deliver these commitments. Community Benefit delivery will form part of the key performance indicators of the contract (where relevant).

Community Benefits shall be considered and included in all relevant and appropriate contracts with an aggregated threshold value as noted below:

- Works Contracts more than £100k
- Good/Services Contracts more than £25k

Core Community Benefits – Evaluated

The Core approach to Community Benefits is the inclusion of community benefit objectives in the subject matter of the contract and as such CBs are evaluated as part of the tender process:

- Where the Community Benefits being sought must relate to the subject matter of the contract and must be included and scored as part of the evaluation procedure; and (e.g. Targeted Employment and Training Initiatives).
- A relevant percentage of the evaluation criteria will be attributed to Community Benefits.

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

None Core Community Benefits - mandatory but not evaluated

The non-core approach to Community Benefits is to use either the Conditions of Contract or by inviting community benefits proposals. Conditions of Contract e.g. include obligations to make payment to subcontractors within a specified timeframe

- Bidders will be asked to provide details of the Community Benefits they would deliver through the contract (which may have been suggested by the contractor). These non-core benefits would not be evaluated as part of the tender but should still be included as contractual requirements and their delivery monitored as part of the normal contract management process.

Voluntary Community Benefits

Voluntary Community Benefits do not form part of the contract as awarded and the council would negotiate any CBs on a goodwill basis.

- The council may seek to encourage Voluntary Community Benefits for a particular procurement activity. This will not form part of the evaluation, or indeed place a contractual obligation on the supplier; however, those which are offered and accepted by the Council will be reported in the CB Hub Annual report.
- Delivery of Voluntary Community Benefits will be monitored through management information provided by the supplier and as part of the contract management process

Community Benefits Monitoring and Reporting

Successful suppliers will be required to provide regular monitoring information outlining Community Benefits delivery progress. This will enable DCC to monitor progress and report on the Community Benefits achieved in the Annual DCC Procurement Report as mandated by Welsh Procurement Policy Statement. A CB measurement and reporting on-line portal will be used to capture metric reporting. Training and support will be given to officers and supplier staff in effective use of the portal.

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

- Monitoring information will be reviewed by the CB Hub and relevant Strategic Leads and outcomes will be recorded.
- A Community Benefits Steering Group of internal stakeholders will be created to monitor and review overall Community Benefits outcomes on a regular basis.
- The CB Hub will produce DCC CB reporting in format and timescale as requested by Welsh Government.

Denbighshire County Council Community Benefits Policy

Appendix 1. Section 106 agreements

As Section 106 (S106) agreements are outside the scope of public procurement, S106 does not form part of the Community Benefits Policy. However, to ensure that wider social, environmental and economic issues are taken into account the DCC CB Hub will agree an information sharing mechanism with Planning (Local Planning Authority - LPA). This communication process will share information on S106 agreements with the CB Hub.

This will enable the CB Hub to:

- Create and maintain a central register of historic, current and future S106 agreements
- Centrally co-ordinate reporting of triggers reached within S106 agreements, as advised
- Confirm S106 commitments are received, and document their allocation to relevant themes e.g. Open Space, Education, Ecology etc.
- Support, collate and co-ordinate monitoring of S106 commitment outcomes by the relevant services
- Produce a series of case studies for use as reference, and to identify and share best practice
- Identify potential for adding value to any procurement derived community benefit and vice versa
- Build a countywide picture of S106 impacts, and
- Liaise with DCC Members and internal DCC stakeholders

APPENDIX 2

Community Benefits Policy

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:	797
Brief description:	Policy to support the development and delivery of community benefits within Denbighshire County Council via commissioning and procurement. Also, policy will be basis for newly launched Community Benefits Hub programme of work and activity.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Legal, HR & Democratic Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Denbighshire County Council, its residents, commissioners, suppliers, local business, third sector & Educational establishments.
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 : 28 / 30.

Implications of the score

Continued internal and external stakeholder engagement is key to securing and delivering significant and sustainable community benefits. We need to ensure that any benefits gained are going to be of use and are to be valued by not only DCC (Members and officers) but also the community that we serve.

The corporate plan 2017-2022 sets out our five corporate priorities designed around the WFG Act this was developed on the back of the County Conversation which provided feed back from our residents. We asked people to comment on what was good, bad, needed developing in the areas in relation to the seven goals. This provided the priorities Denbighshire developed.

1. Housing = Community Cohesion, (environmental) Resilience & Global (energy efficient homes), Prosperous (enabling people to settle in the area), equality (considerations of young and old people)
2. Connected communities – Cohesion, Prosperous, Equality, Healthier
3. Resilient communities – Cohesion, Equal, Healthier
4. Young People = Prosperous, Healthier
5. Environment – Prosperous, Resilient, Healthier

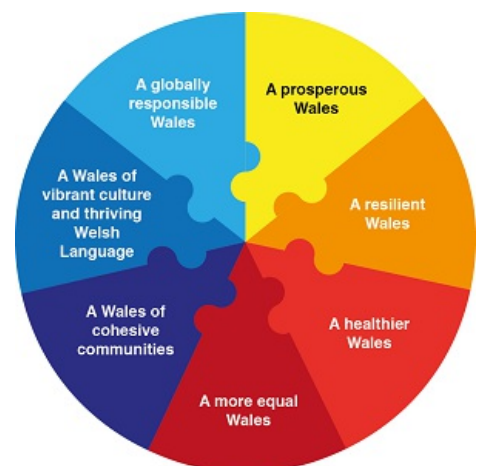
The Community Benefits Hub is now active (as of mid March 2020) and this policy will guide and enable the CB Hub to offer practical and relevant support to officers during the commissioning and procurement of goods and services, and also to undertake meaningful engagement with external stakeholders.

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

The Council spent £116m in 2017/18 so with a modest 1% CB return this could generate £1.16m in new benefit per annum. This Policy will support the work of the CB Hub, and the council officers it supports, to access such funding and benefits to reinforce our corporate plan priorities that will help our communities to become more independent and resilient.

The Council delivers its services directly through its own workforce, and through private and third sector organisations. The Council procures a wide range of goods, services and works from over 4,500 suppliers, service providers and contractors.

The CB Policy will provide a framework for internal and external stakeholders to be active in continued and developing engagement allowing us to monitor and evaluate, learn lessons, measure impact, and design fit for purpose CB planning the future. Policy will also support the CB Hub to track, monitor and report on community benefit outcomes across the council and become a means of assessing the strength, vitality and performance for the Corporate Plan 2017-2022. This in turn will be used to formulate strategies for improvements and influence policy decisions.

There could be opportunities to involve local communities in the delivery of community benefits.

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 expected impact of the Policy is to support the intended actions of the CB Hub to co-ordinate and support inclusion and consideration of CBs into commissioning and procurement activity. The inclusion and consideration of CBs, when applied to annual DCC spend, could bring significant additional value for the area. The Policy validates the role of CB Hub in building long term and meaningful engagement with internal and external stakeholders, including but not limited to, Members, Officers, potential suppliers, community groups, special interest groups (such as Ambition Board and Public Service Board) and individuals. The Policy will guide the DCC and the CB Hub to attract meaningful and real benefit to needs as identified by CB Hubs liaison and engagement with these stakeholders. The CB Hub's co-ordination of Section 106 agreements and the production of case studies and reporting will contribute to a wider picture of benefits brought through development and spend.
Further actions required	Review and report on outcomes and impact of CB Hub's implementation of this Policy. Producing robust reporting that will be used to continue engagement and collaborative review involving all affected stakeholders.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	DCC declared a climate emergency in 2018 and is committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. Policy has potential to contribute to shaping of Community Benefits menu that could include benefits designed to reduce carbon based transport and ways of living. Such benefits could increase options via practical interventions for reduction of carbon expenditure, e.g. improved walking routes, improved house insulation, innovations in non-carbon energy generation etc.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Policy would support officers to consider impacts of commissioning on further development of connected communities. CB Hub's role in coordinating between CBs and Section 106 projects could lead to an increase in joined up thinking and approach thereby increasing potential for additionality
Economic development	Policy will provide approved framework for DCC to maximise social, environmental, economic, cultural and health well-being delivered via considering Community Benefits throughout the commissioning cycle. The inclusion of CB criteria can enable alternative providers, such as third sector organisations, e.g. community groups, voluntary or social businesses, to compete in the tendering process. It is to be expected that Policy will support capacity building within this sector that would contribute towards sustainability of the sector.
Quality skills for the long term	Using experience from the North Wales Construction Framework (NWCF) the CB Hub, supported by this Policy, has the potential to drive up-skilling of the local workforce
Quality jobs for the long term	Based on experience of NWCF Capacity building within third sector organisations and other local SMEs or providers it is to

Childcare	The CB Hub will be able to direct officers to the relevant third sector organisations, educational establishments that can help parents obtain skills, training and job opportunities to re-enter work. It can also strengthen parents' job stability and wages.
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Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Economic development	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality skills for the long term	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality jobs for the long term	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Childcare	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Policy will encourage the consideration of Community Benefits at planning and also at commissioning stages. The CB Hub will work with stakeholders, both internal and external, to maximise the resilience of Denbighshire and also potentially increase innovative actions as proposed by winning tenders.
Further actions required	Any identified risks centre on lack of education and public and stakeholder engagement. Mitigation would include co-operation with special groups such as Countryside Services, Natural Resources Wales, AONB, and local community nature groups, to provide information and engagement opportunities.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Advice and training on how to include identified biodiversity themed needs on the menu of community benefits. Policy works in tandem with S106 agreements and DCC Countryside Services
Biodiversity in the built environment	Advice and training on how to include identified biodiversity themed needs on the menu of community benefits. Policy works in tandem with S106 agreements and DCC Countryside Services
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Policy will support measurement of increase in recycling and reduction of waste as a positive Community Benefit outcome.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Considering CBs at initial planning or commissioning stage would increase potential for actual reductions in energy/fuel consumption to be measured and reported as actual CBs.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Working with special interest groups, stakeholders and Countryside Services and possibly Education Services to increase people's awareness of how protecting existing environment and biodiversity and potentially improving biodiversity and quality of environment could directly impact well being and quality of life.
Flood risk management	When CBs are aligned with Biodiversity and Environmental considerations resulting flood risk management and mitigation can be reported and monitored as benefit.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Lack on public engagement on value of biodiversity and natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Resistance to any perceived increase in cost due to consideration of biodiversity in the built environment. Also, potential for some lack of sympathy for any biodiversity supporting mitigations.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Lack of public engagement and understanding
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	None identified
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Lack of engagement
Flood risk management	None identified

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Adoption of CB Policy will have a generally positive impact by enabling the CB Hub to better encourage, support and monitor effect and impact of CBs in Denbighshire.
Further actions required	The identified risk of receiving negative feedback regarding resistance to choosing healthy food over convenience food would be addressed by working in partnership with community based education groups and also school settings.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Policy will promote and support application and consideration of CBs early on in planning and commissioning cycle. It is expected that CBs will include increase in local employment; increase in existing, or training in new, skills; improved sense of belonging, and well-being arising from increased resilience self reliance; easier and safer access to outdoors environment encouraging interaction and increased walking and cycling.
Access to good quality, healthy food	Through consideration of CBs at planning and commissioning stage access to good quality, healthy food may be improved in a community benefit focused on food provision and supply, e.g. support for community kitchen; community shop; education and training on healthy food preparation and cooking; and production of local food via allotment scheme.

People's emotional and mental well-being	This policy, via consideration of CBs at planning and commissioning stage, will encourage relevant CBs contributing to emotional and mental well-being, e.g. increased access to outside areas; support for community led groups from which participation can support sense of purpose and create new friendships widening social circles among other benefits.
Access to healthcare	CB based support to community initiatives offering advocacy, chaperoning, self-help groups, medicine pick-up and delivery, etc. CBs could also improve access to education and information on how to access relevant healthcare and provide support via healthcare outreach. Policy will support CB Hub to engage with Community Health Board and other patient representative bodies and organisations to support identification of benefits that would be valued within Denbighshire..
Participation in leisure opportunities	Aligned with CBs identified under Resilient Denbighshire improved access to open spaces along with an increased interest in nature and biodiversity and participation in locally led groups would potentially increase opportunities for outdoors based leisure. Increased CB based support for development of community based fitness groups could also improve indoor and outdoor opportunities, e.g. community based bowls groups offering social and fitness improvements.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None identified
Access to good quality, healthy food	Resistance to choosing healthy food over convenience foods.
People's emotional and mental well-being	None identified
Access to healthcare	None identified
Participation in leisure opportunities	Non identified

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The impact is expected to be positive as Policy will support the measurement, monitoring and reporting of impact of community benefits on all groups of people. The Policy will support continual appraisal and evaluation of the DCC CB Hub approach.
Further actions required	Currently no negative impacts are identified. However, continued monitoring, appraisal and evaluation will recognise if any are developing in future.

Positive impacts identified:

<p>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</p>	<p>Improved opportunities have the potential to improve well-being of all people within Denbighshire including those with protracted characteristics. The CB Hub will report on impact and benefit to those people with protected characteristics</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>This Policy will support the CB approach to working closely with various stakeholders to create and improve opportunities for various disadvantaged groups.</p>
<p>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</p>	<p>Policy will support the CB Hub to encourage all services to consider, implement and monitor community benefits and their impact upon challenging wards.</p>
<p>People in poverty</p>	<p>Policy will support the CB Hub approach to encouraging consideration of inclusion of CBs in planning and commissioning stages thus leading to increases in real opportunities and targeted support that delivers measurable benefit to those people and their communities.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>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</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>People in poverty</p>	<p>Non identified</p>

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Policy will support the CB Hub to work in partnership with DCC services, communities and stakeholders to strengthen cohesiveness within Denbighshire communities.
Further actions required	No negative impacts have been identified but Policy will support CB Hub to monitor and report on an ongoing basis.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Policy will support consideration and implementation of CBs throughout DCC. Benefits contributing to safer surroundings and safeguarded locations will form part of the menu of benefits DCC would value.
Community participation and resilience	Policy will support continued engagement with Public Service Board, Community and Town Councils. CBs are expected to offer practical and measurable supports to communities to become more self-reliant and resilient. Outcomes and impacts will be monitored and assessed.
The attractiveness of the area	Policy will support the consideration of social value in new housing and infrastructure developments.
Connected communities	Policy will support measurement and reporting on connectivity within the County and any improvements stemming from CBs
Rural resilience	Policy will support co-ordination of application of gained CBs with other benefits such as S106, Rural Development initiatives and rural support organisations.

Negative impacts identified:

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

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	All CB Hub activity will be aligned to Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh Language Strategy. The CB Hub will engage and work with Officers, Members, Community and Town Councils, Local community and special interest groups to identify community benefits that would be valued in promoting use of Welsh language. The CB Hub will also engage and work with a wide variety of organisations to protect and promote cultural heritage, e.g. AONB, County Libraries, historic locations and buildings, etc.
Further actions required	Policy will support continued engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	All CB Hub activity will align with Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh language Policy. It may be expected that CB activities would include Welsh language promotion or support for business or community activity to be undertaken using Welsh language.
Promoting the Welsh language	All CB Hub activity will align with Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh Language Strategy.
Culture and heritage	The Policy supports co-operation with DCC officers to ensure culture and heritage are considered for potential community benefit where appropriate.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Possibility that CBs increase economic activity that in turn creates employment opportunities that will attract non-Welsh speakers.
Promoting the Welsh language	None identified
Culture and heritage	None identified

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The impact of the community benefits, once secured, will be positive for all public bodies that share similar well-being objectives.
Further actions required	By continued monitoring and evaluation on the impact of Policy on community benefits.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The Policy will support CB Hub to monitor supply DCC chains by both measuring and reporting on proportion of local, regional and national spend according to nationally accepted baselines.
Human rights	Through the procurement process all contractors are required to meet at least minimum standards for H&S, employment rights, etc. this requirement feeds down to their subcontractors and suppliers.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	The CB Hub is supporting DCC Planning to record, monitor and report against S106 agreements. This provision will generate a countywide picture of S106 supported activities and create regular updates and points of information for members and officers on the impact of S106 undertakings. The alignment of S106 with community benefits will also increase potential for additionality.

Negative impacts identified:

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

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	22nd October 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Tony Thomas - Cabinet Lead Member for Housing and Communities
Report author	Craig Berry - Business Information Team Manager
Title	North East Wales Archives (NEWA) & Ruthin Gaol

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. To provide an update on North East Wales Archives (NEWA) and the future of Ruthin Gaol.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. This follows a report presented to Communities Scrutiny Committee during October 2019, where the plans were outlined for NEWA and the possible move to Mold in 2025 (subject to National Lottery Heritage Funding). During this meeting, the Committee requested an update during 2020 on the utilisation of the potential vacated space at Ruthin Gaol.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee comments on the progress made and supports the proposals for the future use of Ruthin Gaol.

4. Report details

North East Wales Archives (NEWA)

- 4.1. Denbighshire County Council and Flintshire County Council merged archive services in order to create a stronger, more resilient and sustainable archive service for the region. The combined service - NEWA, came into operation during April 2020, initially across their existing two offices – Ruthin and Hawarden. The long-term plan for the joint service is to move into a new purpose built, environmentally friendly building in Mold, adjacent to Clwyd Theatr Cymru. It is hoped that the new building will be paid for from the National Lottery Heritage Horizon Fund (NLHF) with contributions from both Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils. Should the funding be secured, then the new archive centre in Mold will open during 2025.
- 4.2. Although the long-term plans are for NEWA to be based in Mold, the intention is to utilise destinations such as libraries and other community hubs in order to bring the archive service out to communities. The joint service will very much be based on a ‘hub and spoke’ delivery model, thus ensuring local communities do not feel removed from their rich cultural documentary heritage.
- 4.3. NEWA’s application to the NLHF is progressing well and the bid has been shortlisted from over 200 applications down to the final 12. The next stage of our application is being prepared and is due for submission during February 2021. We are expected to hear whether we have been successful in receiving the £11.5 million grant from the NLHF during spring 2021.

Ruthin Gaol

- 4.4. A working group was established earlier this year to develop plans for the long-term use of Ruthin Gaol. The working group consisted of Local Members, selected key officers and a representative from Ruthin Town Council. The Working Group has developed exciting and innovative plans

for expanding the heritage attraction at the Gaol, so that the vacated space is used to develop the following:

- Development of immersive Cell Experiences;
- An outdoor 'Escaped Prisoner' trail;
- A Play Area;
- Creation of a large multi-function room;
- The removal of the glass security screen (currently separating the archive and heritage attraction);
- Bring together Denbighshire's Heritage Collections into one location at the Gaol and have them on display; and
- A dedicated area for Archives/Family History activity.

4.5 The aforementioned plans are detailed further in appendix 1 but the intention is to create an exciting and expanded heritage destination for visitors, which will increase visitor numbers and further support the local economy.

4.6. An important element of the expanded heritage attraction at Ruthin Gaol is the continued archive presence. An Archivist will be on site to provide support to visitors with their local history or family research activities.

4.7 To complement the exciting plans that have been outlined, the Heritage Service are also working on plans to incorporate the front block at 46 Clwyd Street into their attraction. A range of external funding sources are being explored to help fund this.

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

The project contributes to the following priorities:

“The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience” and “Offer young people the opportunity to develop skills for life and work through volunteering opportunities and meaningful work experience.”

“The environment is attractive and protected, supporting well-being and economic prosperity” and “Climate and Ecological Emergency”

“The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015”

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

6.1. The expanded heritage features will cost approximately £65k. The Business Improvement & Modernisation Service has agreed to build a reserve specifically for this, so that the necessary funds will be available for 2025.

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

7.1. As this is an update report to Communities Scrutiny Committee, it is suggested that the previous well-being impact assessment is still valid and should be referred to. A summary of the results were as follows:

A prosperous Denbighshire and Flintshire - Positive

A resilient Denbighshire and Flintshire - Neutral

A healthier Denbighshire and Flintshire – Positive

A more equal Denbighshire and Flintshire- Positive

A Denbighshire and Flintshire of cohesive communities- Positive

A Denbighshire and Flintshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language- Positive

A globally responsible Denbighshire and Flintshire – Neutral

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

- 8.1. A Ruthin Gaol Working Group was established in order to discuss and develop plans for Ruthin Gaol. The group consisted of key officers, local members and a representative from Ruthin Town Council.
- 8.2. The heritage expansion plans have been presented to Ruthin Town Council. The Town Council expressed its sadness at the archive service potentially leaving the town but stated it welcomed the heritage plans provided. It noted that the expanded heritage attraction is likely to attract a far greater number of visitors by extending the season and length of visit by including new facilities inside and outside the gaol site, including the 46 Clwyd Street building, which would complement what would be on offer at the Old Courthouse. This extra footfall would support the local economy and enhance Ruthin's reputation as a heritage and tourism destination.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 The Cabinet Meeting in September approved the setting up of a specific reserve to facilitate the BIM service to build up the required funds. It should be noted that the larger Archives project will still be subject to the internal capital approval process (Strategic Investment Group (SIG), Cabinet) even if the grant application is successful.

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

- 10.1. The main risk associated with delivering the expanded heritage attraction at Ruthin Gaol is the ability of the Business Improvement & Modernisation Service to generate the £65k reserve in light of continued budget pressures.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Scrutiny's powers in relation to this matter are outlined in Section 7.2.3

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Expanding
Denbighshire's Heritage
Attraction at Ruthin Gaol
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The Context

Ruthin Gaol represents a unique and intriguing heritage asset of national importance and is owned by Denbighshire County Council. Denbighshire County Council purchased the site in 1926.

The 1868 Pentonville prison block currently houses a heritage attraction (30%) and the County Archive (70%).

The Archive Service currently attracts approximately 800 visits per year while the Heritage Attraction attracts approximately 11,000, opening to the public April-September with pre-arranged group bookings only October-March.

The Gaol visitor attraction is rated Number 1 of Things to Do in Ruthin on TripAdvisor. Approx. 80% of visitors state they are visiting Ruthin specifically to see The Gaol museum. Feedback is generally very positive but many visitors comment that they would like to see the following:

- More of the building
- A play area
- More interactive experiences
- More to do outside
- A cafe
- Would like spend longer at the Gaol (current average visit time of just 2 hours)

A recent Cadwyn Clwyd funded Feasibility Study report reflected much of the customer feedback but also advised that the sense of arrival and signage be improved. It would benefit from the introduction of high tech interpretation/experiences (i.e. VR and AR), a much bigger retail offer, better site and regional marketing (also cited in the 2015 DC Research Economic Study).

The Heritage Team have researched the Gaol's history linked to WW2, it's use as a munition factory, the transportation of prisoners to America and Australia, the overcrowding of prisons and use of 'hulks' (docked ships) to house them, crime and poverty, Victorian punishment, capital punishment, prison and religion, children in prison, the industrial revolution and many more aspects of social history that are only partly (if at all) told within the current small Ruthin Gaol museum. With additional space, much more of this research can be put into practice with physical interpretation and new experiences.

The Opportunity

Denbighshire County Council, along with Flintshire County Council, are developing ambitious plans for a joint North East Wales Archive Service. The new joint service came into being during April of this year, initially located over 2 sites – Hawarden and Ruthin.

A National Lottery Heritage Fund bid is well underway that if successful, will help fund a new purpose-built and environmentally friendly archive centre in Mold, next to Theatr Clwyd. The bid is progressing well so far, with anecdotal feedback from the NLHF indicating that the bid is regarded as being within the top 3 in the UK. There is still a long way to go, but should the funding application be successful, the Archive Service will vacate Ruthin Gaol by 2025 and move to Mold.

The space vacated by the Archive Service presents a tremendous opportunity to create an expanded heritage destination at Ruthin Gaol, which would not only serve to safeguard the building for the long-term but to also increase visitor numbers, thereby growing the local economy.

The Gaol campus has the potential to be developed into a year-round all-weather attraction with a range of indoor and outdoor spaces and buildings which could be converted into offices, café, shop, education space and welcome space as well as investment in audio visual interpretation.

The Proposal – Expansion of Denbighshire’s Heritage Attraction at Ruthin Gaol

In consultation with staff and users, several ideas have been developed for creating an extended heritage attraction at Ruthin Gaol.

It’s expected that the following proposals would increase visitor numbers, from 11,000 to approx. 20,000 per year within 3 years. This compares to 800 visits that the archive service attracts.

The options laid out below will all deliver the following benefits:

- Generate increased income at the Gaol
- Increase footfall, spend and overnight stays in Ruthin
- Improve the local economy
- Expand the visitor season
- Create a permanent Ruthin town exhibition
- Provide space, events and activities for local residents
- Utilise empty space at Ruthin Gaol and secure its future
- Enable all museum artefacts to be available in one single location and free up much needed warehouse space for other services
- Attract new user groups, larger group bookings, coach trips and more schools
- Expand opportunities for volunteers
- Enhance the visitor experience through product development
- Increase accessibility for all
- Extend formal and lifelong learning provision and offer new wellbeing related activities for physical and mental health
- Enhance and Develop the Museum Collections

Changes to be made for 2025:

The following changes will be implemented and paid for from DCC service underspends.

As well as being affordable, it's believed the following changes will expand the heritage attraction and provide a truly memorable visitor attraction that will have a significant impact on visitor numbers and the local economy.

Capital costs have been provided by Denbighshire's Design Team. Equipment costs have been provided by Denbighshire's Heritage Service.

A large multi-function room

The creation of a dedicated multi-function room that can be used for schools, exhibitions and gatherings of large groups. Can also be used for events, room hire, parties, workshops, cinema nights, plays etc.

Immersive Cell Experiences

Use the vacated cells to expand the existing interpretation to include:

- 'children in prison' cell
- More cells telling the stories of interesting prisoners (the 'human story')
- Augmented reality and virtual reality cell(s)

The removal of the glass security screen.

The screen separating the Museum from the Archives will be removed, instantly expanding the visitor attraction, allowing visitors to experience more of the interpreted cells.

An outdoor 'Escaped prisoner' trail.

A detective trail to find the notorious escaped prisoner 'Coch Bach Y Bala' with lots of clues along the way. Takes visitors all around the outside of the Gaol.

Denbighshire's Heritage Collections

Bringing the collections from the DCC Corporate Store into Ruthin Gaol and storing them on the vacated racked cells and allowing room for displaying.

A dedicated area for Archives/Family History activity.

This area will be staffed by an Archivist, initially 1 day a week, and reviewed on a regular basis in order to ensure that resources meet demand

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Play Area

Encourage movement, exploration, 'families playing together', wellbeing and education through play.

The cost of the capital works and equipment total £65k.

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	22 October 2020
Lead Officer	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Report author	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report seeks the Communities Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme. In doing so the Committee is asked to reflect on the implications of the focus on business critical operations during the emergency phase of the COVID -19 pandemic and the programmes of work underway or being planned under the recovery phase, whilst also having regard to items of business already on its forward work programme prior to the pandemic.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

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

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee

- 3.1 considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate; and
- 3.2 identifies key messages and themes from the current meeting which it wishes to publicise via the press and/or social media.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Section 7 of Denbighshire County Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, as well as the rules of procedure and debate.
- 4.2 The Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must set, and regularly review, a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.
- 4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The aim of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.
- 4.4 In recent years the Welsh Government (WG) and Audit Wales (AW) have highlighted the need to strengthen scrutiny's role across local government and public services in Wales, including utilising scrutiny as a means of engaging with residents and service-users. From now on scrutiny will be expected to engage better and more frequently with the public with a view to securing better decisions which ultimately lead to better outcomes for citizens. AW will measure scrutiny's effectiveness in fulfilling these expectations.
- 4.5 Having regard to the national vision for scrutiny whilst at the same time focussing on local priorities, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) recommended that the Council's scrutiny committees should, when deciding on their work programmes, focus on the following key areas:
- budget savings;
 - achievement of the Corporate Plan objectives (with particular emphasis on their deliverability during a period of financial austerity);
 - any other items agreed by the Scrutiny Committee (or the SCVCG) as high priority (based on the PAPER test criteria – see reverse side of the 'Member Proposal Form' at Appendix 2);

- Urgent, unforeseen or high priority issues; and
- Supporting the Council's recovery work in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on Council services, the local economy and the county's communities

4.6 Scrutiny Proposal Forms

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

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

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

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

Progress on Committee Resolutions

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

5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

- 5.1 Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The Group met on 12 October 2020. At that meeting it requested this Committee to consider the following items of business in January and during the spring of 2021 (see Appendix 1 attached):

- Rhyl Regeneration Programme (January 2021)
- Car Park Charging Policy and Residents Parking Schemes (January 2021)
- Planning Compliance Charter with City, Town and Community Councils (May 2021)

The Group's next meeting is scheduled for 5 November 2020.

- 5.2 With a view to raising Scrutiny's profile and encouraging public engagement the Group recently decided that all three scrutiny committees should, for a trial period, identify key themes or messages arising from their meetings for publication via the Authority's social media pages and the local press. The Committee is therefore asked to identify which themes or messages it wishes to highlight from the current meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in relation to the purpose or contents of this report. However, Scrutiny's through it work in examining service delivery, policies, procedures and proposals will consider their impact or potential impact on the sustainable development principle and the well-being goals stipulated in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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

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

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

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

11. Power to make the decision

Section 7.11 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that scrutiny committees and/or the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group will be responsible for setting their own work programmes, taking into account the wishes of Members of the Committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.

Contact Officer:

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Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

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

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered	
10 December	Cllr. Brian Jones	1.	Flood Management Responsibilities in Denbighshire	To present the conclusions of the joint study into whether improvements could be made to the management of the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter, adjacent drains and sewers, and to outline each organisation's responsibilities in relation to flood management and flood mitigation	An assessment of whether the Council effectively fulfils its responsibilities in relation to flood management and mitigation and works effectively with partner organisations to reduce the risk of flooding and deliver the Environment and Resilient Communities priorities of the Corporate Plan	Tony Ward/Wayne Hope	March 2018 (rescheduled February 2019 & June 2019) rescheduled until conclusion of the Phase 3 study
	Reps from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water & NRW to be invited						
	Cllr. Brian Jones	2.	Flood Risk Management across Denbighshire	To outline flood management and mitigation measures to deal with all types of flood risks county-wide (already in place or planned). These to include work with public and private partners and	Delivery of the Council's corporate priorities relating to the environment, housing and resilient communities whilst ensuring that the Authority is positively addressing the risks associated with the climate and ecological emergency	Tony Ward/Emlyn Jones/Wayne Hope/Paul Mead	January 2020
	Reps from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water & NRW to be invited						

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				landowners - including engineering projects and land management initiatives with a view to reducing the risk of flooding and combat the effect of climate change. The report also to include details of work the Planning Department is undertaking in relation to flood mitigation as part of the planning process			
21 January 2021	Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill	1.	Universal Credit (UC)	To detail: (i) the impact of migrating legacy benefits residents on to Universal Credit on Council services; and (ii) the effectiveness of the measures taken by the	(i) An understanding of the impact of migrating legacy benefit recipients onto UC on Council services and on residents themselves; and (ii) an assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken to support services and residents to deal with the changes and proposed plans for dealing with the remainder of the rollout.	Paul Barnes/Rachel Thomas	May 2019 (Impact of COVID-19 element added Sept 2020)

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				Council and its partners with a view to mitigating the effects of migrating legacy benefits residents on to UC (including the lessons learnt; and (iii) the impact of COVID-19 on the number of UC claimants in Denbighshire	Scrutiny's consideration of the above matters will assist it to identify proposed ways to mitigate against the effects of UC adversely affecting the Council's aim of building resilient communities (iii) An understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the numbers of Denbighshire residents claiming UC and the consequential effects on Council services		
	Leader	2.	Rhyl Regeneration Programme	To outline the work undertaken to date as part of the programme and the governance arrangements that supports this work	A greater understanding of the Rhyl Regeneration Programme and its governance arrangement and how it supports the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities	Nicola Caie/Emllyn Jones	By SCVCG October 2020
<i>(may be brought forward to Dec 2020 if NRW & Dŵr Cymru are not able to attend that meeting)</i>	Cllr. Brian Jones	3.	<i>Car Park Charging Policy and Residents' Parking Schemes</i>	<i>To examine the Council's car parking charging policy and residents' parking schemes</i>	<i>Examination of the current policy and schemes to determine whether they are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of all parts of the county and support individual communities and businesses, particularly in view of COVID-19 restrictions</i>	<i>Emllyn Jones/Mike Jones/Peter Lea/Ben Wilcox-Jones</i>	<i>By SCVCG October 2020</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
11 March	Leader	1. <i>Draft Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire (tbc)</i>	<i>To examine the draft Tourism Signage Strategy for the county developed by the Working Group including potential funding sources and the anticipated timescale for the Strategy's delivery</i>	<i>The development of a tourism signage strategy that complements trunk road signage and technological innovations in the field of tourism, takes into account the aims of 'The Wales Way' project, attracts visitors and increases the value of tourism spend in the county in line with the corporate priority relating to the Environment, and in-keeping with the outcomes of Denbighshire's Tourism Strategy</i>	<i>Mike Jones/Peter McDermott</i>	<i>March 2020 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 (Sept 20))</i>
	Cllr. Brian Jones	2. The Role of Denbighshire in Public Transport and Active Travel Provision (tbc)	To examine the Council's work to date in planning public transport and active travel provision in readiness for the likely growth in demand due to the response to the public's response to climate change and sustainable living requirements	Input into future service provision that will meet residents and businesses' needs and help support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities and Corporate Plan	Peter Daniels	By SCVCG March 2020 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 (Sept 20))
	Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill	3. COVID-19 Recovery Theme – Council Buildings	To detail the progress made to date in relation to getting Council buildings back into	To ensure that all Council buildings are compliant with guidelines and regulations for safe use by staff and the public, and the identification of new ways delivering services from	Steve Gadd	September 2020

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				use, decommissioning temporary use buildings and undertaking maintenance backlogs following the Authority's response to the pandemic	Council buildings which safeguard those who enter them		
	Cllr. Brian Jones	4.	<i>Waste and Recycling (tbc – potentially Apr/May)</i>	<i>To: (i) provide an overall on the progress of the project; (ii) update on the outcome of the pilot projects undertaken to increase the capture of recyclable waste across the county; and (iii) examine the proposed Benefits Realisation Plan to be implemented for the purpose of monitoring the</i>	<i>An evaluation of the pilot projects' success in increasing recycling rates for the purpose of formulating recommendations for future improvements in this area and in relation to the Benefits Realisation Plan with a view to ensuring effective, meaningful and quantifiable monitoring of the new waste operating model that will help support future improvements to the service</i>	<i>Tony Ward/Tara Dumas</i>	<i>October 2019 (rescheduled March 2020) (rescheduled due to COVID-19 (Sept 20))</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				<i>environmental, financial, employee and customer benefits of the new waste operating model</i>			
13 May	Cllr. Mark Young	1.	<i>Planning Compliance Charter (may be presented earlier if other items are not available (tbc))</i>	<i>To examine the effectiveness of the Planning Compliance Charter with the county's city, town and community councils in addressing planning contraventions, non-compliance and enforcement issues across the county</i>	<i>An evaluation of the Charter's effectiveness in order to determine whether recommendations are required to strengthen the Charter or increase resources available for planning enforcement across the county</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Adam Turner</i>	<i>By SCVCG October 2020</i>
1 July							
9 September							
21 October							

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
9 December						

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Denbighshire's Learner Transport Policy (date to be confirmed, possibly an information report) (early 2021)	To review the Council's policy in relation to the provision of learner transport for: (i) pupils accessing non-statutory elements of education following the Welsh Government's review of Post 16 Learner Travel; and (ii) The impact of Public Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) on learner travel in the county	Clarity in relation to the cost of learner transport in the county going forward which will support the allocation of sufficient funding to cover these costs in the annual budget setting process	Geraint Davies/Ian Land/Peter Daniels	March 2020

For future years

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Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author(s)	Date Entered
INFORMATION	Welsh Government's Free Childcare Offer in Denbighshire	(i) To assess the take-up and impact of the WG's free childcare offer in the county since its introduction in April 2019	Geraint Davies/James Wood	September 2018 (rescheduled April 2020)

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

		(ii) To evaluate whether the introduction of the free childcare offer has supported the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities relating to young people and resilient communities, supported the local economy and will enhance better outcomes for children and families; and (iii) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the scheme's delivery in Denbighshire		due to COVID-19)
INFORMATION <i>(for circulation early 2021)</i>	Car Park Asset/Investment Management Plan	To detail the progress made to date with the delivery of the asset management plan and associated initiatives	Emlyn Jones/Mike Jones	July 2019

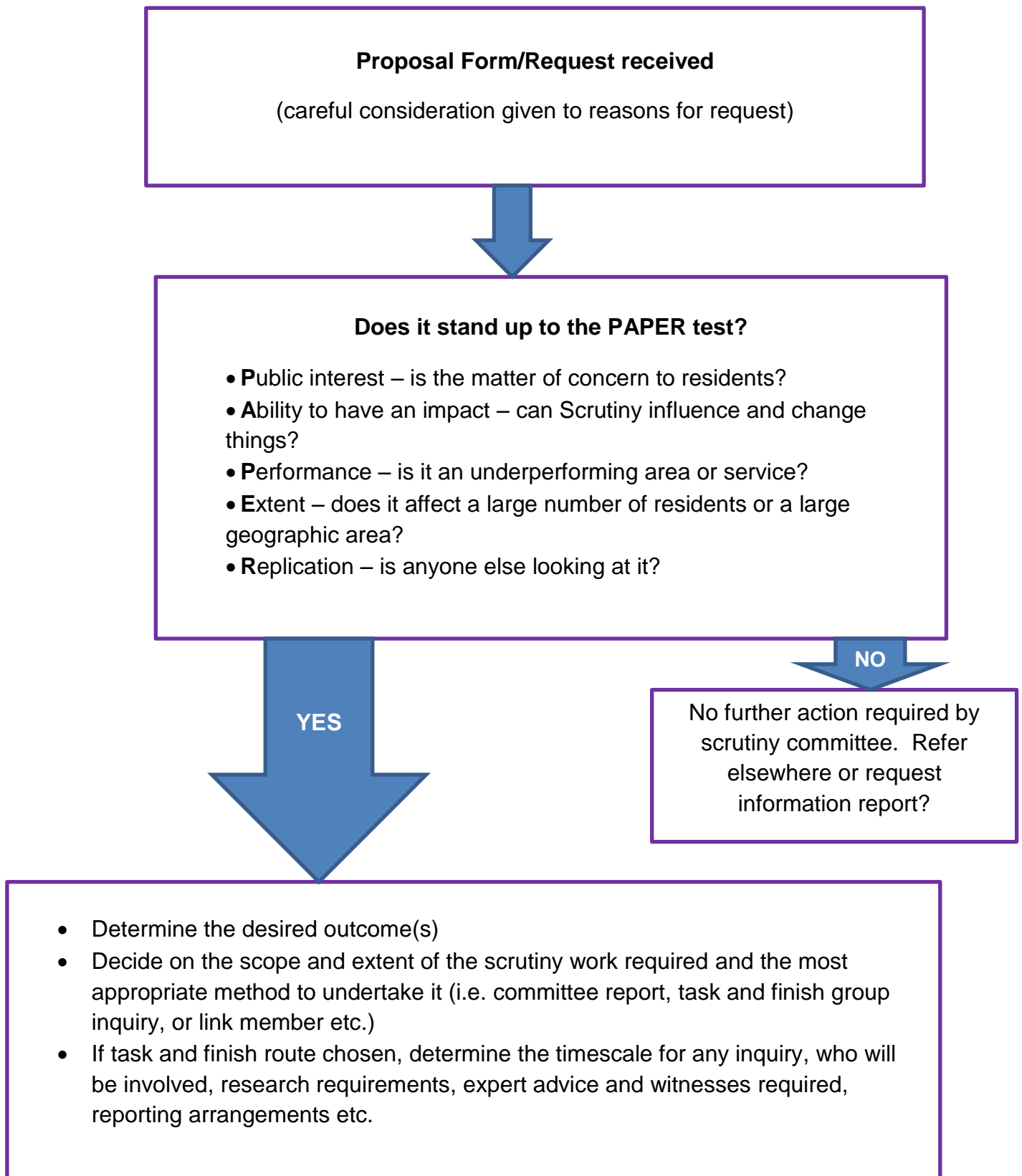
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
10 December	26 November	21 January 2021	7 January	11 March	25 February

13/10/2020 RhE

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

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny



Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
24 Nov	1	Corporate Plan Quarter 2 Performance Report	To monitor the Council's progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017-22	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Iolo McGregor
	2	Denbighshire and Flintshire Joint Archive Project	To approve the proposals and deliver a new building and commit to allocate match funding for the project	Yes	Councillor Tony Thomas / Alan Smith / Helen Vaughan-Evans
	3	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Growth Deal: Governance Agreement for relevant partners	To seek agreement to recommend the Governance Agreement 2 to full Council	Tbc	Councillor Hugh Evans / Graham Boase
	4	Draft revised Housing & Homelessness Strategy	To seek Cabinet's support and recommendation that Council approve the document	Yes	Councillor Tony Thomas / Angela Loftus
	5	Llys Awelon Phase 2	To approve proposals to progress the scheme	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy / Sharon Walley
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	7	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
15 Dec	1	Contract Procedure Rules	To consider the reviewed contract procedures rules which will require adoption and form part of the council constitution	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Lisa Jones / Helen Makin
	2	Asbestos Removal Contract	To obtain permission to award the contract to the successful tenderer	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Tom Booty / Sarah Wainwright
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
October	6 October	November	10 November	December	1 December

Updated 07/10/2020 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
3 September 2020	5. Recovery Plan for Schools	<p><u>Resolved:</u> - <i>subject to the above observations to:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>support the action taken to date to enable schools to safely open for all pupils in September 2020, and endorse the evolving post COVID Recovery Plans for Schools; and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all Education and other Council services' staff for all their hard work and efforts during the lockdown and in planning and facilitating the re-opening of the County's schools</i></p>	Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee's observations and recommendations
	6. Recovery Plan for Council Buildings	<p><u>Resolved:</u> - <i>subject to the above observations to:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>support the progress made to date to prepare the Council's buildings for reopening, decommissioning any temporary uses, and facilitating and dealing with maintenance backlogs;</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all staff for all their hard work and efforts in securing</i></p>	Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee's observations and recommendations.

		<p><i>the safety of Council buildings during the pandemic and preparing for their safe re-opening; and</i></p> <p><i>(iii) request that a follow-up report be presented to the Committee in six months' time on the progress made in relation to the recovery of Council buildings post COVID-19</i></p>	<p>A follow-up report is scheduled in the Committee's forward work programme for presentation to members at the meeting on 11 March 2021 (see Appendix 1)</p>
	<p>7. Recovery Plan for Highways and Public Realm</p>	<p><u>Resolved:</u> - subject to the above observations to:</p> <p><i>(i) support the recovery plan, as set out in Appendix A, to the report;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) extend the Committee's sincerest gratitude to all staff within the Highways and Public Realm Service for all their work and efforts in delivering services to the best of their abilities during the lockdown restrictions period, and also for their work in preparing and planning for the Service's recovery from responding to the pandemic to delivering day to day business and the Service's recovery objectives; and</i></p> <p><i>(iii) request that the Member Workshop on the Highways Code of Practice and Service associated</i></p>	<p>Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee's observations and recommendations.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of arranging a date for this workshop in February 2021</p>

		<i>matters that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic be rescheduled and held via video conferencing as soon as possible</i>	
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