

To: Members of the Partnerships
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 28 October 2021

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2021** in **BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 3 - 4)

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 OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 September 2021 (copy attached).

5 POST COVID RECOVERY IN TOWN CENTRES AND NNDR (Pages 13 - 30)

To consider a report by the Head of Planning and Public Protection and the Head of Finance and Property to provide information regarding the current state of our town centres, the remedial action taken to date and future initiatives to redress the challenges businesses face (copy attached).

6 COVID-19 ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN SCHEMES (Pages 31 - 42)

To consider a report by the Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager, to provide a further update on the findings from the project (copy attached).

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 43 - 66)

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.

8 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (Chair)

Councillor Emrys Wynne (Vice-Chair)

Joan Butterfield
Ann Davies
Gareth Davies
Rachel Flynn
Pat Jones

Christine Marston
Melvyn Mile
Rhys Thomas
David Williams

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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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PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held by video conference on Thursday, 16 September 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (Chair), Ann Davies, Rachel Flynn, Christine Marston, Melvyn Mile, Rhys Thomas, David Williams and Emrys Wynne (Vice-Chair)

Also in attendance –

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets for agenda item 5 and

Councillor Mark Young, Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities for agenda item 6.

Observers –

Councillor Meirick Lloyd-Davies and Councillor Gwyneth Kensler

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Communities (NS), Head of Customers, Communication and Marketing (LG), Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation (AS), Strategic Planning Team Manager (NK), Community Safety Manager (ST), Scrutiny Coordinator (RhE), Committee Administrator/Host (SW) and Democratic Services Officer/Minutes (KE)

Chief Officer for Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC), Tom Barham

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gareth Davies and Pat Jones.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Rachel Flynn to her first meeting of the Committee. Councillor Flynn had been appointed by the Conservative Group as one of its representatives on the Committee in place of Councillor Hugh Irving. Councillor Irving was thanked by the Chair for his contribution to the Committee's work during his period as a member.

2 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised with the Chair.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following personal interests were declared in relation to the business items indicated:

Business item 5, Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC): Councillor Rhys Thomas as a Trustee of the Vale of Clwyd Foodbank

Business item 6, Community Safety Partnership: Councillor Emrys Wynne as he served as a Justice of the Peace (JP).

At this juncture the Chair advised the Committee that she would be varying the order of business to enable sufficient time to be allocated for members to discuss with the new Chief Officer of Denbighshire Voluntary Service Council (DVSC) his future vision for the organisation. The Chief Officer would have to leave the meeting by 11am as he had another meeting to attend.

4 DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL (DVSC)

The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill introduced the recently appointed Chief Officer for Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC), Tom Barham to the Committee.

The Chief Officer DVSC gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the DVSC's role, how it had worked with Denbighshire County Council (DCC) over the years and its vision to strengthen the Third Sector and impact it had on residents of Denbighshire.

Key points of the presentation were the DVSC's aims to support, catalyse, amplify and challenge the third sector in Denbighshire:

- Support – the DVSC worked in partnership with Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) to provide advice, guidance, training and funding.
- Catalyse – bringing Third Sector organisations together to build partnerships, spread good practice and provide new services.
- Amplify – Helping the Third Sector have a voice in Denbighshire with public services, funders and commissioners.
- Challenge – Being an independent voice to support independent organisations if they are not being listened to and promote Third Sector excellence in standards of service and professionalism.

An important aspect for the Third Sector was promoting involvement in improving well-being in communities. Traditionally the Third Sector provided services in areas of food poverty and mental health. A new Well-being Team had recently been recruited by the DVSC to work in conjunction with the Third Sector, DCC, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Public Services Board and the community.

DVSC had a senior officer looking to work with social enterprise and entrepreneurs across the County to create community hubs to promote local food producers, well-being cafes and social supermarkets.

The partnership between DVSC and DCC throughout the Covid-19 pandemic had been positive. DVSC had placed volunteers with:

- DCC
- Dial a Ride
- Forget Me Nots
- Prestatyn Town Council and
- 4x4 Community Responders amongst others.

Going forward a report had been commissioned to identify need and resilience within the Third Sector in Denbighshire. The report was due for completion in January 2022. A Third Sector Forum was to be established to engage with DCC and BCUHB to improve communication and work together on service delivery and development.

Responding to the Committee's questions the Chief Officer advised that:

- Talking Points, I CAN and Community Navigators were all useful signposts in the community. Engagement had been affected by Covid-19 but it was important for communication to be re-established with the community.
- It was anticipated that the re-opening of Ruthin Market Hall would be some time in October.
- A volunteer portal was in use and managed by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).
- The next DVSC annual general meeting would be held in November 2021 and would include the approval of the annual accounts.
- Additional funding to help support COVID-19 related support work had been received through the Welsh Government's (WG) Voluntary Sector Emergency Grants and from Comic Relief.
- The Morfa Hall building on Church Street in Rhyl was owned by the WCVA, not DVSC. The Chief Officer would discuss the proposals for the building and potential for a wellbeing centre with their Chief Executive, Ruth Marks.
- The DVSC's new website was under construction and due to be released in October.
- DVSC had an officer whose role was to help new groups to grow, get constituted, establish governance arrangements, and attract sustainable funding.
- The newsletter would be revised and rebooted later in the year, possibly with the introduction of Blogs etc.
- Consideration would be given to revising the Best Kept Village competition.

The Chair thanked the DVSC Chief Officer and asked him to return with an update in the new year.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations, to –

- (i) receive the Chief Officer's presentation on his future vision for Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and his ambitions to work with the Council and other groups and organisations throughout***

the county with a view to enhancing the lives of residents and communities; and
(ii) request that the Chief Officer attend a future meeting of the Committee, in approximately six months' time, to update members on the progress made to date in delivering his vision, outlining any challenges encountered and how they had been overcome.

The Chair advised the Committee that for the following business item it would be sitting in its capacity as the Council's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Police & Justice Act 2006 ss. 19 and 20.

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, Councillor Mark Young introduced the report (previously circulated). He advised that despite having to change the way the Partnership operated due to the pandemic they had managed to serve the Denbighshire community by working collectively – daily with police colleagues - to anticipate problems, deal with crimes and monitor trends. Additional funding had been sourced for Third Sector organisations working under increased demands.

Thirteen key crime areas were monitored during the pandemic. Ten areas saw a reduction in numbers, but three saw an increase. They were:

1. Stalking and Harassment;
2. Domestic Abuse and
3. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

The Community Safety Manager, Sian Taylor referred to the highlight report included at appendix 1 and the three priority areas:

Priority 1- Reduce Crime and Disorder in Denbighshire by working in partnership.

The performance status had been set only as 'acceptable' as it covered activities of stalking and harassment and domestic abuse which had increased over lockdown.

The Partnership had continued to work collectively with the Fire and Rescue Service, Police, Health and Third Sector networks to get information out over the course of the pandemic. Numerous press releases had also been circulated.

All of the project/activity work associated with priority one had continued, albeit via online and telephone technology rather than face to face and its progress had been assessed as 'good'.

Regional Boards had met and the membership of some had changed during the pandemic. The Safer North Wales Strategic Partnership Board was chaired by Denbighshire's Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and attended by

Denbighshire's senior officers. Meetings of the various Boards were held on a regular basis with quarterly information sharing meetings being held with CSP staff on Denbighshire's position in relation to performance and other matters. Information from these meetings could then be shared with Denbighshire staff if and when required.

Priority 2 – Reducing reoffending.

The performance has been set as 'good' as there had been a reduction in both adult and youth offending, although it was recognised that it was not a normal year.

The integrated offender management programmes had continued, working in partnership to identify repeating youth offenders causing antisocial behaviour. Therefore, the project activity update had also been set as 'good'.

Priority 3 – Local Priorities

There had been a slight increase in reports of antisocial behaviour in the form of neighbour disputes over the course of the pandemic but overall the performance had been set as 'good'.

The project activities associated with priority 3 were also 'good'. There had been meetings to monitor antisocial behaviour and work continued to raise awareness of the Regional Vulnerability and Exploitation Board with regard to:

- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery and
- County Lines.

Referring to the statistical data (pages 26 and 27) the Community Safety Manager expanded on the three areas that had seen an increase over the year and the crimes that made up each of those categories.

Stalking online had seen the biggest increase, particularly in the realm of social media. Victims were advised to make their public profiles private in order to deter perpetrators.

Referrals to the Domestic Abuse Service Unit (DASU) had more than doubled over the previous 12 months. Funding was secured from Welsh Government to support the more complex needs caused by increased isolation and lack of social interaction. The Partnership promoted the Live Fear Free helpline, the majority of calls came from victims being supported by third sector services.

Cyber-crimes – both Cyber-dependent and Cyber-enabled - rose by almost a third over the year. Raising awareness of scams by the Trading Standards Team and working with organisation such as Age Concern to advise caution and what to do if unsure of the authenticity of emails, texts or websites was a priority.

Following the presentation of the report members were advised:

- The report focussed on the work of the Community Safety Partnership rather than that of policing. The Committee could invite North Wales Police to come to Scrutiny to discuss aspects relating to their role specifically if they wished.
- The Public Space Protection Order relating to drinking in public places in Rhyl town centre had been enforced over 50 times since its renewal, several people had been summoned to Court.
- Inspections were undertaken upon businesses such as nail bars and car washes to rule out potential modern slavery and inspect Health and Safety and minimum wages/payroll records etc. Any irregularities identified in relation to accounts/payroll records were forwarded to Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC) for further investigation.
- There was potential scope to expand on the restorative justice.
- Information relating to rural crime figures and wildlife crime would be requested from North Wales Police.
- The Community Safety Partnership did not monitor road traffic accidents. This was undertaken by the Road Safety Partnership. A contact number would be sought and circulated.
- Suspicious emails, websites etc. could be reported to the police online (via 101). Online fraud should always be reported to North Wales Police, benefit fraud should be reported to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- Baseline data of 2019 would be used as the comparator information for the 2021/22 report, as it was deemed that 2020/21 data would not be a suitable comparator due to the pandemic.
- CCTV monitoring was the responsibility of the CCTV Partnership Board and
- DCC would be promoting the new Community Alert and Rural Crime email facility currently under construction by North Wales Police.
- Mental health awareness training for Police Officers may be something that individual members wished to raise with the Police, it was not a matter within the remit of the CSP.

Prior to the conclusion of the discussion the Chair reminded members that representatives from North Wales Police were due to attend a Council Briefing session on 8 November to give a presentation on County Lines work and answer members' questions.

The Committee:

Resolved: - *subject to the above comments and the answers given in response to members' questions, to receive and endorse the performance and statistical information provided in the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report for 2020-21.*

6 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8th July 2021 were submitted. It was:

Resolved: - *that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8th July 2021 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.*

No matters were raised in relation to the accuracy of the minutes or with regard to any matter reported within them.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator referred to the report (previously circulated) seeking members' to review the Committee's work programme and provided an update on relevant issues.

Confirmation was awaited from the Health Board on when its representatives would be in a position to attend a meeting to discuss its plans for services in Denbighshire, including the North Denbighshire Community hospital and other capital projects in the county.

The next meeting on 4th November 2021 had 4 items, including the North Wales Economic Ambition Board performance report for quarter 2. The quarter 1 report would be circulated shortly for information purposes and in preparation for the November meeting.

Earlier in the meeting the Committee had suggested inviting back the DVSC Chief Officer for an update. It was agreed that six months would be a suitable timeframe.

The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group had allocated the item on the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report to the Committee's for consideration on 16th December.

Members were reminded to use the Scrutiny Proposal Form if they had anything they would like to be scrutinised.

It was:

Resolved: - subject to the above comments and inclusions –

- (i) to confirm the Committee's forward work programme; and***
- (ii) that virtual pre-meeting briefing session be held at 10am on Wednesday, 3 November 2021, at 10am.***

8 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Rhys Thomas had attended the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Challenge on 6th July 2021 and remarked on the resilience that the Service had shown over the previous 12 months.

Councillor Christine Marston advised members that she would be attending a meeting of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Stakeholder Reference Group the following week. She was also due to attend a meeting of the Conwy and Denbighshire Sub Regional Children's Assessment Centre Project Board the following week, at which an update was expected on the project's position following a recent re-tendering exercise in the wake of the original company appointed to

build the facility entering into administration. Councillor Marston agreed to report to members on the outcome of that meeting.

The Committee thanked the representatives for reporting back on the activities and decisions taken at various boards and Groups on whom they represented the Committee. It was:

Resolved: - subject to the provision when available of the additional information requested, to receive and note the information updates received from Committee representatives on various Boards and Groups.

Meeting concluded at 11.55am

Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4 November 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance & Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
Report author	Emlyn Jones & Steve Gadd
Title	Post Covid Recovery in Town Centres and NNDR

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report details the number of vacant business premises in Town Centres and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) initiatives.
- 1.2. The report highlights the challenges that Town Centres Businesses face across the county due and approaches being taken to address these.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide information to scrutiny regarding the current state of our town centres, the remedial action taken to date and future initiatives to redress the challenges businesses face.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the contents of the report and provides observations on the matters reported herein.

4. Report details

- 4.1. Whilst the total number of Empty Properties within the Council's area has increased from 267 properties (April 2020) to 294 properties (Sept 2021), an increase of 27 empty properties the total amount of Business Rates properties has also increased from 4361 properties (April 2020) to 4455 properties (Sept

2021). The empty properties represent 6.7% of the overall 4,455 Business Rates properties.

- 4.2. As members may know there are a number of different exemptions from empty property rates, such as within the 3 or 6-month initial empty period, Insolvency, below the chargeable Rateable Value threshold, listed buildings, land, telecommunication masts and prohibited by law. Appendix 1 shows the breakdown of the empty properties and associated exemptions.
- 4.3. The main proportion of the empty properties are in and around the main towns, with much smaller amounts in the more rural parishes. The number and class property type shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.4. There are two key Welsh Government initiatives, providing support to certain classes of Business, through relief schemes, which will reduce or even nullify the Business Rates liability, the headline schemes are as follows:
 - The Small Business Rates Relief Scheme, which awards up to 100% relief, for Businesses that have a Rateable Value below £6,000 and are on a tapered reduction from £12,000 to £6,000 Rateable Value.
 - The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme, which provides a 100% reduction in Business Rates for qualifying Businesses in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- 4.5. There is a further option for Local Authorities to award a reduction in the rates payable, using the powers granted under the Localism Act 2011. This would be through awarding a discretionary relief. However, the full cost of any award under this scheme would be paid by the Council.
- 4.6. A further issue with an award under the Localism Act is that other Businesses could claim that the Council was creating an anti-competitive environment, in that it was subsidising some ratepayers, thus disadvantaging others.
- 4.7. Whilst the reliefs are available, we have seen both locally and at a national level that there are still closures of shops, then the properties are becoming empty, there are 4 main reasons for this:

- Whilst the Business Rates charge has been reduced property rents have not seen an equivalent reduction and in many cases there has been a no rent reduction offered by the landlords.
- Some shops, particularly the bigger companies have moved individual shops into bigger premises e.g. Carphone Warehouse, closing in Prestatyn Retail Park and Rhyl, then being subsumed into the bigger premises in the Clwyd Retail Park in Rhyl.
- Other shop units have closed too and have a presence in another shop, such as Argos in Sainsbury's or Costa Coffee being part of a garage.
- The switch to online shopping had started to change citizens shopping patterns, this was further accelerated by Covid19. Many businesses, particularly banks have closed many branches as people have gone online. Additionally, customers now use retail shops either as a pick up or drop off point far more, having ordered the goods via the internet.

4.8. Footfall data for our towns can be found at Appendix 3. The data shows the clear negative impact Covid-19 had on town centres as government guidance on trading and travel restrictions was adopted. As restrictions are removed footfall is indicating returns to pre pandemic levels in 2019.

4.9. Economic and Business Development (EBD) have commissioned a business survey in order to gain an understanding of the challenges that businesses are facing as a result of Covid-19. The launch was aligned with the end of furlough with a view that this would provide greater insight. A report of the findings will be available early 2022, they will help inform future work packages. In addition, a monthly 'Business Bulletin' is issued to businesses in the county to advise of support offered locally, regionally and nationally. The bulletin currently reaches 3,700 businesses.

4.10. EBD are delivering the projects below with funding provided by Welsh Government's *Transforming Town Centres Business Fund*. Please see appendix 4 for detail

- Pop Up Shop
- Smart Window Dressing

4.11. The Transforming Towns (TT) Thematic programme affords Local Authorities in Wales a broad and flexible package of support, aimed at revitalising town

centres throughout Wales. The programme follows a 'Town Centres first' approach to regeneration, and is conferred and prioritised at a regional level. In the instance of North Wales, prioritisation is overseen by the Regional Regeneration Officers' Group, comprising of the six local authorities and informed by the North Wales Regeneration Strategy. An update of the North Wales RRP is currently being undertaken by the region. Projects currently being delivered through this package include Llangollen 2020 Castle Street, Hummingbird Denbigh, Queens Market Phase 1 & Rhyl Town Centre Gateway Phase 1.

4.12. EBD is supporting the application for the Levelling Up Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to invest in infrastructure, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. Please see appendix 5 for detail.

4.13. Welsh Government have selected Rhyl as one of four pilot towns for the Town Centre Entrepreneurship Fund. The fund offers up-to £10k per business in the way of revenue to start up or relocate in the town. To date 22 businesses have expressed an interest, the applications are processed by Business Wales. EBD actively promotes the fund.

4.14. EBD is working on the digital projects listed below to support business recovery. Please see appendix 6 for detail

- Smart Towns Maybetech
- Denbighshire County Council Digital Grant Scheme

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

5.1. Our work in Town Centres will make contributions to the 2017-2022 corporate priorities including:

- Developing new town centre housing targeted at younger people;
- Bringing redundant space back into commercial and residential use;
- Supporting the creation of an attractive town centre environment that supports economic prosperity;
- Improving the connection between residents and their town centre, shops, services and employment opportunities;

- Developing town centres as places where young people want to live and work;
- Enabling local people to plan and shape the future of their town centre.

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

6.1. In addition to the public funding we are able to access to deliver the key projects it is important that we work with public and third sector partners to maximise their investment opportunities in the town.

6.2. The formal approval of expenditure decisions will remain within existing delegations and processes, including the requirement for all capital expenditure proposals to be considered by the Strategic Investment Group (SIG).

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

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been completed as a decision is not being sought by the Committee.

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

8.1. Not applicable as this report has been commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The background and framework of NNDR is clearly set out in Section 4 of this report. In Wales, Local Authorities collect NNDR on behalf of Welsh Government and any schemes agreed at a local level are paid for through the Council Fund and would therefore need to be funded by either increasing Council Tax or reducing service budgets.

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

10.1. Not applicable as this report is providing an update and not seeking a decision.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

11.2. Sections 7.2.3 and 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution

Empty Properties and Associated Exemptions

Empty & Exempt totals	Apr 2020	April 2021	Sept 2021
Empty properties	267	334	294
Exempt within 3 months	10	20	14
Exempt Deminimis Rateable Value	100	124	113
Exempt Account	1	2	1
Exempt Property	46	56	53
Chargeable properties	100	142	113

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APPENDIX 2

Empty Property Location and Class Type

Parish / Town	Retail	Offices	Industrial	Parking	Other	Total
Bodelwyddan	0	6	2	2	0	10
Corwen	4	0	1	0	0	5
Denbigh	16	12	6	0	2	36
Llangollen	7	11	4	0	2	24
Prestatyn	6	14	4	0	6	30
Rhyl	48	57	17	7	5	134
Ruthin	5	13	5	0	3	26
St Asaph	2	4	0	0	3	9
Totals	88	117	39	9	21	274

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2020 Footfall Background

Period	Total
Q1	749981
Q2	327072
Q3	800026
Q4	543992
TOTAL	2421071

Denbighshire saw a sharp decrease between Q1 and Q2 in 2020 which can be attributed to the effect that Covid regulations had on town centres.

Each town centre then bounced back between Q2 and Q3 when restrictions were relaxed. Q4, which included the Firebreak lockdown in October and the restrictions leading up to Christmas, then saw a decrease again from Q3.

Q1	-11.2%
Q2	-62.2%
Q3	-20.7%
Q4	-40.2%

This highlights that Denbighshire town centres were harshly impacted by the restrictions. While Q1 footfall fell by 11.2%, it was the lowest fall out of the quarters and with no restrictions in place can be used as a benchmark of the fall for other months.

However, there are signs for optimism. Despite the restrictions that were in place during Q3, there was only a 20.7% decrease in visitors compared to the previous year. It should also be taken into account that while less restrictions were in place during this period, there was still a large number of consumers who were more careful with their interaction. This further indicates that the Denbighshire town centres will continue their revival once the pandemic is over.

Footfall per Denbighshire Town Centre in 2020

Footfall in 2020	Corwen	Denbigh	Llangollen	Prestatyn	Rhuddlan	Rhyl	Ruthin	St. Asaph	Total
Q1	25027	158874	107515	129841	17066	234963	64911	11784	749981
Q2	11506	89902	32403	58111	13004	96935	17093	8118	327072
Q3	27289	128612	210677	148889	17331	203994	53855	9379	800026
Q4	16464	127386	58894	101430	17781	164816	47654	9567	543992
TOTAL	80286	504774	409489	438271	65182	700708	183513	38848	2421071

As shown, all town centres in Denbighshire followed a similar trend of a reduction between Q1 and Q2 2020, a recovery between Q2 and Q3, and another reduction between Q3 and Q4.

In comparison to previous years, Denbigh had the smallest change year on year change which was only 3.8% decrease. In contrast, Ruthin saw a decrease of 45.4% year on year, and Corwen a decrease of 43.5%. Reasons for these town centres being particularly impacted include people working from home and being a hospitality based town centre.

Footfall During 2021 so far

Footfall Number 2021	Corwen	Denbigh	Llangollen	Prestatyn	Rhuddlan	Rhyl	Ruthin	St Asaph	Total
Q1	11299	103892	39268	75751	15878	119864	30394	8812	405158
Q2	23253	130648	166172	152615	19914	195563	50794	10454	749413

Footfall (decrease)/increase in 2021 to 2020	Corwen	Denbigh	Llangollen	Prestatyn	Rhuddlan	Rhyl	Ruthin	St Asaph	Total
Q1	(55%)	(35%)	(63%)	(42%)	(7%)	(49%)	(53%)	(25%)	(46%)
Q2	102%	45%	413%	163%	53%	103%	197%	28%	229%

As 2021 began with more restrictions on retail businesses, the above data shows that in Q1 of 2021, there was a continuation of the trend of less footfall during periods with restrictions on retail and hospitality. Despite this, it has again been shown that once restrictions are lifted, consumers do once again go back to Denbighshire town centres.

The vast increase shown between Q2 in 2020 and Q2 in 2021, despite Q2 in 2021 having minor restrictions on retail and major restrictions on hospitality during this period, demonstrates that there is a clear indication that town centres in Denbighshire will continue to be used at the same level as before the start of the pandemic in the years to come.

There are some town centres within Denbighshire which are performing better now than they were in 2019. Despite the restrictions in place, Rhuddlan had a higher footfall count in Q2 of 2021 than they did in 2019. The highest footfall achieved by Rhuddlan in Q2 during the last 5 years was in 2016, which 2021 was only 10% lower than. It is important to understand which town centres are currently having success and how this is being done so that these results can be replicated in other town centres.

Despite this, in other town centres there has been a decrease over the last 5 years. During Q2 of 2021 there was only 61% of the footfall number of Q2 in 2016 in Rhyl. Being able to understand the difficulties faced by the businesses in the area, along with understanding what consumers in the area want in their town centre will be vital in being able to recover the footfall figures in town centres such as Rhyl.

Pop Up Shop

The project concept is a 'Pop up shop' which aims to bring a vacant business premises back into use, the location identified is Rhyl. The project will provide test retail space for start-ups, promising and expanding businesses who see Rhyl as a potential location for their growth.

SMART Window Dressing

This project aims to showcase local produce in a vacant premise in a Denbighshire town by making use of digital technology for browsers to scan a code displayed in the window to direct them to the producers' website/platform learn more and place an order.

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Levelling Up Fund

Denbighshire County Council is able to develop up to three bids for – Clwyd South, Clwyd West and Vale of Clwyd. A bid has been submitted for Clwyd South in partnership with Wrexham CBC, whilst bids are currently being developed for Clwyd West (in partnership with Conwy CBC.) and Vale of Clwyd. Each bid can apply for a maximum of £20m, whilst a standalone transport bid can access up to £50m. The Fund is a one off i.e. one application per constituency area, and any successful bid must be delivered by March 2024 – however, it offers a once in a generation opportunity to economically ‘level-up’ our Town Centres and wider communities in the wake of the recent pandemic.

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Digital Projects

Smart Towns Maybetech

This project in conjunction with Menter Môn, Rhyl BID and the technology provider Maybetech is to provide a digital platform for town centre business in Rhyl. Rhyl has been selected as a pilot location for the adoption of new technology to enhance the town's competitiveness and sustainability. The platform provides businesses with insightful data to help inform business decisions to recover and grow

Denbighshire County Council Digital Grant Scheme

The scheme provides financial assistance to businesses to adopt digital technology to improve productivity, stability and growth. The scheme is open to businesses county wide who undertake a review of their business with Superfast Business Wales as the subject matter experts. The findings of the review help inform the grant application to which a decision is made on which packages we agree to fund

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Report to	Partnership Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4 th November 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment / Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside
Report author	Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager
Title	COVID-19 Active Travel Plan Schemes

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report is about the temporary active travel schemes that were implemented in a number of Denbighshire town centres in late 2020 and which have now all subsequently been removed.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a further update on the findings from project as a follow-up to the report that was presented to the Committee in December 2020 and which is included in Appendix A to this report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the contents of the report and provides observations and the conclusions drawn from the Covid AT schemes.

4. Report details

4.1 Background and purpose of the grant

- 4.1.1 In May 2020, the Welsh Government invited local authorities to bid for projects that would encourage active travel and support social distancing in town centres.
- 4.1.2 Following an initial selection process led by officers and email notification to the MAGs, schemes were developed for Denbigh, Llangollen, Rhyl and Ruthin town centres. With the exception of Denbigh which was withdrawn, these were awarded

WG funding in June 2020. The December 2020 report included in Appendix A provides more detail surrounding the grant and process followed.

- 4.1.3 A short public consultation process was undertaken for each of the four schemes in July 2020 and the results were then presented to the relevant MAGs. The response rates for both the Denbigh and Ruthin schemes was very good with approximately 500 people responding to the Denbigh consultation and over 600 responding to the Ruthin consultation. Whilst 80% of the Ruthin responses were supportive of the proposals, a similar proportion opposed the Denbigh scheme. The response rates for the Llangollen and Rhyl schemes were much lower. Approximately 90 people responded to the Llangollen consultation with just over 60% being supportive of the proposals. The response to the Rhyl consultation saw just 30 responses received, again with 60% of respondents in support.
- 4.1.4 The above findings from the consultation led to the scheme for Denbigh being withdrawn but the other three schemes proceeding. The Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment made the formal decision whether each scheme should proceed after considering the views of each respective MAG.
- 4.1.5 Following initial delays due to contractor availability and material shortages. The schemes in Llangollen, Rhyl and Ruthin were implemented by November 2020.

4.2 Ruthin scheme

- 4.2.1 The scheme in Ruthin encountered initial teething problems which were largely addressed by making slight amendments to the scheme. A number of businesses that had been directly affected by the measures complained about the loss of spaces for parking and loading outside their premises. Whilst some mitigation for these losses had been included within the overall scheme, this wasn't considered to be enough by some business owners. In light of the concerns, meetings were held with Ruthin MAG which led to the Lead Member taking the decision to withdraw the scheme and this work took place in February 2021.

4.3 Llangollen scheme

- 4.3.1 Initially, little feedback was received in response to the Llangollen scheme following its introduction in early November 2020. However from March 2021, a number of incidents began to occur involving pedestrians tripping over the bases of the temporary bollards that had been introduced. As these incidents continued,

the bollards were replaced with narrow planter boxes which put a stop to the tripping incidents. The temporary scheme also resulted in an increase in some large vehicles mounting the pavement in order to manoeuvre past obstructions caused by the opposing lane of traffic.

4.3.2 Despite the above concerns, the Dee Valley MAG were keen to retain the temporary scheme on the basis that the additional pavement width that had been created was proving really useful for the heavy pedestrian footfall that was being experienced in Llangollen. This view had also been based on the feedback from a follow-up online consultation where although views on the temporary scheme were mixed, approximately 60% of respondents indicated that they felt that the scheme should remain either because they felt it was working well, or because they felt it was too early to draw any conclusions to the contrary. On-site observations by officers observed plenty of usage of the widened pavement area even outside of tradition peak periods such as weekends and school holidays.

4.3.3 Following the relaxation of the Welsh Government Covid restrictions in mid-August 2021 and the move to Alert Level 0, the Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment took the decision to remove the temporary scheme following discussion with the local members.

4.4 Rhyl scheme

4.4.1 Once implemented the Rhyl temporary scheme generated little feedback from residents. However, concerns were raised by local businesses who said that the loss of on-street parking was having a detrimental impact on their businesses. Some of residents and local members raised concerns that the scheme was increasing traffic queues at the A548 Wellington Road/Bodfor Street junction. The Lead Member took the decision for the scheme following consultation with the Rhyl MAG. The scheme was removed in late April 2021.

4.5 Conclusions

4.5.1 As discussed in the previous scrutiny committee report in December 2020 (see Appendix A), the short timescales for submitting bids to Welsh Government left little time to develop projects and to adequately engage residents, business and visitors. This was because of the need to try and implement works quickly and to help businesses, shoppers and visitors feel safe when town centres reopened.

- 4.5.2 The particularly negative reaction to the Denbigh scheme resulted in a short consultation being agreed for all four of the temporary schemes proposed.
- 4.5.3 With the exception of the Denbigh scheme, the other three schemes were mostly supported by the consultation respondents. By the time the projects were introduced in late October/early November the peak spring/summer footfall had subsided and the October “firebreak” had just taken place. The colder weather combined with the further lockdown that commenced on the 20th December 2020, and ran until Spring, resulted in many of our town centres being relatively deserted. This made the purpose of the temporary schemes seem less obvious especially as this had often been at the expense of on-street parking. This was undoubtedly a factor in the early removal of the Rhyl and Ruthin schemes.
- 4.5.4 In the event that similar funding becomes available in the future at similarly short notice, it is recommended that such funding is limited to projects that have either been sufficiently developed already, or to projects that are relatively simple in scope and can be implemented fairly easily.
- 4.5.5 A presentation about the Covid Active Travel project was given to SLT in late October in order to share lessons learnt with other services.

5. How does the decision contribute to Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 The active travel schemes contribute towards the Connected Communities priority.

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

- 6.1 The total costs for all the works including staff costs incurred was fully met from the grant award of £825,000.

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

- 7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as a decision isn't being sought from the Committee.

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

- 8.1 Consultation was undertaken with the Lead Member and MAGs initially. This was then followed-up by a two-week on-line consultation exercise in July 2020. A follow-

up consultation was undertaken for Llangollen as this project remained for a longer period.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 As the report is focused on a review of processes there are no direct ongoing financial implications. However, it should be noted that some of the issues raised in this report are common themes with regard to grant funding. The balance between the aim to ensure external funding sources are maximised and the need to ensure that projects reflect local priorities is an important task, but also sometimes difficult. This is particularly acute when funding is announced at short notice. These wider issues are regularly raised with WLGA and Welsh Government.

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

- 10.1 Reputational damage owing to elements of the schemes being unpopular, such as where parking has been removed to enable pavements to be widened.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1 Section 7.4.2 of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's powers with respect to examining the impact of decisions and the application of policies.

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Appendix A



Report to	Partnership Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	17 th December 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment / Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside
Report author	Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager
Title	COVID-19 Active Travel Plan Schemes

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report is about the active travel schemes that have been implemented in some Denbighshire town centres and which have been funded by the Welsh Government's Covid-19 sustainable transport grant.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To provide information to Scrutiny regarding the purpose of the grant, the rationale behind the schemes developed and early findings from their implementation.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the contents of the report and provides observations on the process followed by the Council in identifying and developing projects, applying for the grant and implementing projects.

4. Report details

4.1 Background and purpose of the grant

- 4.1.1 In May 2020, the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport wrote to Council Leaders across Wales inviting Councils to submit

expressions of interest for a special grant for “Local sustainable transport measures in response to Covid 19”. A copy of this letter is provided in Appendix A.

- 4.1.2 The rationale behind the grant was twofold. The first reason was to build upon the increases in active travel (cycling and walking) that had been occurring during the first lockdown period. The second was to help facilitate social distancing in our town centres and other busy public areas such as routes to schools, bus stops and bus stations once non-essential retail and schools reopened.
- 4.1.3 The letter from the Deputy Minister provides examples of some of the types of measure that could be funded by the grant for creating more space for cyclists, pedestrians and at bus stops. These examples include footway widening, road closures, one way systems, lane closures, temporary parking removal and so on.
- 4.1.4 The WG stated that whilst they expected many of the measures would be temporary or experimental initially, their expectation was that some of these measures could be introduced on a permanent basis if they proved to be effective.

4.2 Actions undertaken by the Council

- 4.2.1 Once the letter had been received, officers from the Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Section met to develop initial ideas for proposals that could be implemented on a trial basis of 18 months. Given the limited time available, it was decided to concentrate on developing proposals for our five busiest town centres namely Rhyl, Llangollen, Prestatyn, Denbigh and Ruthin. Some additional proposals were also developed for some footpaths surrounding Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. After discussion with the Lead Member, officers contacted the relevant MAGs to outline the proposals within their areas and to invite feedback. Based on this feedback, the proposals for Prestatyn were abandoned. Cost estimates were provided and the expressions of interest were then submitted to the WG on the 22nd May 2020. Details of the schemes for Llangollen, Rhyl and Ruthin as consulted upon are included within Appendix B.
- 4.2.2 WG wrote to the Council on the 19th June 2020 to confirm we’d been awarded funding for all of our active travel proposals except for Ysbyty Glan Clwyd. The total value of the grant for the active travel schemes was £825k.

- 4.2.3 As stated in the letter from the Deputy Minister, the WG's intention was that many of the schemes would be implemented in "early summer". This timescale was always going to be challenging to deliver given that the funding wasn't awarded until the 19th June 2020. Nonetheless, the expectation was that proposals would be implemented quickly. To help this, the secondary legislation relating to emergency Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) had been amended to include Covid-related highway works as a justification for making a temporary TRO. This meant that proposals to implement one way systems or remove on-street parking, for example, could be undertaken without any need to consult so as not to unnecessarily delay their implementation. In line with this, we developed an engagement strategy that outlined how we would inform residents and business of the proposals yet this wasn't planned to be a consultation process.
- 4.2.4 Local members were contacted to let them know about the funding award and WebEx meetings were arranged to discuss the proposals in further detail.
- 4.2.5 News of the proposals for Denbigh ended up in the public domain. This quickly generated many negative comments on social media. After discussions between senior officers and the Lead Member, it was decided to carry out a two week online consultation for each town centre scheme. It was also agreed that officers would then present a summary of the consultation feedback for each town to the relevant MAG, followed by the MAG making a recommendation of whether or not to proceed with the scheme. It was decided that the Lead Member would attend each of these meetings in an observational capacity and would subsequently make a decision whether each of the schemes should proceed.
- 4.2.6 Following the conclusion of this process; the decision was taken to proceed with the proposals for Rhyl, Llangollen and Ruthin, but to abandon the proposal for Denbigh. It was decided to develop an alternative proposal for Denbigh instead.
- 4.2.7 The proposed schemes for Llangollen, Rhyl and Ruthin have recently been implemented. Contracts for the construction works were not let until decisions had been made for each of the schemes.
- 4.2.8 Robust monitoring plans are in place for each of the town centre schemes. This will enable the impact of the proposals to be closely monitored through the 18 month trial period.

4.2.9 Some minor problems have occurred following the implementation of the schemes. These issues are being dealt with quickly by officers. Such issues aren't uncommon for schemes developed over typical timescales, but obviously are more likely for schemes delivered in a compressed timescale such as these.

4.3 Conclusions

4.3.1 Traffic engineering schemes are normally developed over 1-2 years as surveys are undertaken, designs and cost estimates produced and consultations carried out. These processes ensure problems and solutions are fully assessed whilst enabling stakeholders to provide their views before final decisions are taken.

4.3.2 For the reasons outlined in this report, there was very little time available to firstly identify proposals and develop these through to implementation.

4.3.3 The one-off nature of the grant and circumstances around it mean that it is difficult to compare with normal working practice. Officers quickly identified proposals and shared these with local members to gain their initial views before submitting an expression of interest to the Welsh Government. Further member engagement then followed as the schemes were developed.

4.3.4 The Regulations for making Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) was amended to include Covid-related highway works as justification for making a TTRO, meaning that no consultation was required. However, given the negative response to the Denbigh proposal in particular, it was decided to consult on all four schemes. This was arguably the correct decision given the amount of public concern, however it also substantially delayed the implementation of the projects which has also drawn a lot of criticism. On balance, however, it is considered that the correct approach was adopted.

5. How does the decision contribute to Corporate Priorities?

5.1 The active travel schemes contribute towards the Connected Communities priority.

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

6.1 The total costs for all the works including staff costs incurred will be fully met from the grant award of £825,000.

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

- 7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as a decision isn't being sought from the Committee.

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

- 8.1 Consultation was undertaken with the Lead Member and MAGs initially. This was then followed-up by a two week on-line consultation exercise in July 2020.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 As the report is focused on processes there are no direct financial implications.

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

- 10.1 Reputational damage owing to elements of the schemes being unpopular, such as where parking has been removed to enable pavements to be widened. Officers are actively meeting with affected parties to try and mitigate where possible. Robust monitoring of projects is also key.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1 Section 7.4.2 of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's powers with respect to examining the impact of decisions and the application of policies.

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Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4 November 2021
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 Partnerships 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 determines whether any key messages or themes from the current meeting should be publicised 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.

Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services

- 4.8 The above report was scheduled for presentation to the Committee at the current meeting. However, in order to have the latest information on the progress made in addressing the actions arising from the Internal Audit review incorporated into the report officers requested that its presentation be deferred until the Committee's December meeting. The Chair agreed to the deferral request and the report is now listed for presentation at the meeting on 16 December (see Appendix 1).

North Wales Economic Ambition Board Quarter 2 Report 2021/22

- 4.9 This report had also originally been scheduled for presentation to the Committee at the current meeting, but unfortunately as the lead in time for this meeting was too early to fit in with the publication of the Board's Quarter 2 report its presentation had to be rescheduled to the Committee's December 2021 meeting (see Appendix 1).

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

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

Progress on Committee Resolutions

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

5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The Group has not met since the Committee's last meeting. It is scheduled to hold its next meeting on the 25 November 2021.

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 and resource pressures.

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 through its 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

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

11.2 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.

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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
<i>Date tbc</i>	Councillor Bobby Feeley	1. <i>Health Board plans for services in Denbighshire</i>	<i>To detail to the Committee the future direction for the delivery of Health Board services in Denbighshire (including major capital projects such as the North Denbighshire Community Hospital, future provision at Denbigh Infirmary and Ruthin Hospital)</i>	<i>To secure the future delivery of health care services and effective partnership working with respect of delivering health, social care and well-being services in order to realise the resilient communities corporate priority</i>	<i>BCUHB</i>	<i>February 2020 (rescheduled February 2021 & May 2021)</i>
16 December	Leader	1. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Performance Quarter 2 2021/22	To consider the Board's Quarter 2 report on its performance, work and progress in delivering its projects during 2021-22	To ensure that the Board delivers its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB	By SCVCG March 2021 (rescheduled October 2021)
	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	2. Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services	(i) To examine the effectiveness of the multi-disciplinary service in delivering	(i) To secure the timely delivery of outcome focussed co-	Phil Gilroy/Ann Lloyd/Lisa Harte	By SCVCG January 2021 (rescheduled October 2021)

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			homelessness services in line with the Welsh Government's vision for homelessness and housing related support services; and (ii) to review the actions arising from the Internal Audit of 'Provision of Homeless Accommodation' as per the referral by the Governance & Audit Committee in January 2021.	ordinated support to individuals and families who need it and avert them reaching crisis point; and (ii) To ensure that governance, risk and control weaknesses relating to the area are suitably addressed		
	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	3. Annual Report of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB) 2020/21	To provide members with an opportunity to scrutinise the activities of the Regional Partnerships Board during 2020/21 and its priority areas for 2021/22	A greater understanding of the NWRPB's key role in securing and supporting the delivery of health and social care both across North Wales and locally in Denbighshire	Nicola Stubbins	By SCVCG September 2021
10 February 2022	Cllr. Tony Thomas	1. Highways Grass Verge, Hedge Maintenance and	To review the Council's highways grass verge, hedge maintenance and	To ensure that County's policies conform with bio-	Tony Ward/Andy Clark/Mark Evans	February 2021

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		Pesticide Application Policies (annual report)	pesticide application policies, in particular the timing of cuts on the county's rural road network	diversity standards that support the delivery of the Council's environment priority whilst ensuring the safety of road users and pedestrians		
7 April	Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill	1. Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC)	To update the Committee on the progress achieved to date in delivering the DVSC's vision, enhancing its working relationship with the Council and voluntary organisations within Denbighshire	Secure the development of close and effective working relationships between all stakeholder to support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities relating to resilient and connected communities	DVSC Alan Smith/Liz Grieve	September 2021
7 July	Leader	1. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2021/22	To consider the Board's Quarter4/Annual Report on its work and progress during 2021-22	To ensure that the Board delivers its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board	NWEAB	By SCVCG March 2021

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				and the UK & Welsh Governments		
	Cllr. Bobby Feeley	2. Annual Report on Adult Safeguarding 2021/22	To consider the annual report on adult safeguarding, and information in place to meet the statutory requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and an evaluation of the financial and resource impact of the Supreme Court's 2014 Judgement on deprivation of liberty on the Service and its work (data to include actual numbers in each category as well as % figures and the actual number of allegations proven)	An evaluation of whether the Authority is meeting its statutory duty with respect to adult safeguarding and has sufficient resources to undertake this work along with the additional work in the wake of the Supreme Court's judgement	Phil Gilroy/Alaw Pierce/Nerys Tompsett	July 2021
15 September	Cllr. Mark Young	1. Community Safety Partnership [Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee]	To detail the Partnership's achievement in delivering its 2021/22 action plan and its progress to date in delivering its action plan for 2022/23. The report to include financial sources	Effective monitoring of the CSP's delivery of its action plan for 2021/22 and its progress to date in delivering its plan for 2022/23 will	Alan Smith/Nicola Kneale/Sian Taylor	September 2021

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				and the progress made in spending the allocated funding. (report to include actual numbers as well as percentages to enable the Committee to effectively evaluate the impact of measures put in place)	ensure that the CSP delivers the services which the Council and local residents require		
27 October	Leader	1.	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Performance Quarter 2 2022/23	To consider the Board's Quarter 2 report on its performance, work and progress in delivering its projects during 2022-23	To ensure that the Board delivers its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB	By SCVCG March 2021
15 December							

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Nature for Health Pilot Project	To examine the pilot project and consider whether a similar project should become part of the Corporate Priority Programme of projects	An assessments of the benefits of the pilot project and any measurable achievements received through Services working in partnership and within existing budgets to determine whether a similar project should be rolled-out across the county and included in the Corporate Priority programme of projects to deliver the Corporate Plan	Howard Sutcliffe	BY SCVCG July 2019 (deferred with the Chair's permission October 2019, subject to further work being carried out on the proposal)
Update following conclusion of inquiry undertaken by the National Crime Agency in to historic abuse in North Wales Children's' Care Homes <i>(potentially Spring 2022?)</i>	To update the Committee of the outcome of the National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation in to the abuse of children in the care of the former Clwyd County Council, and to determine whether any procedures require revision.	Determination of whether any of the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures need to be revised in light of the NCA's findings	Nicola Stubbins	November 2012

For future years

<i>Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 Note: information on the Act is still awaited (further delayed due to COVID – 19 and WG decision in relation to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)). Not now expected to be implemented before the autumn of 2022</i>	<i>To review the content of the Act and associated statutory regulations and code of practice (expected to be published in April 2020).</i>	<i>To review the implications for the Council and residents.</i>	<i>Phil Gilroy/David Soley</i>	<i>December 2019 (rescheduled April 2020 due to COVID-19) – check with lead officer</i>
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				<i>in the autumn of 2022 whether available</i>

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information Report (for circulation Oct 2021)	Quarterly Monitoring of External Care Providers	To provide details of the regular monitoring of external care service providers commissioned by the council for social care services, identifying any escalating concerns or other areas of concern	Katie Newe/Ben Chandler	By SCVCG 2018
INFORMATION REPORT (January 2022)	Collaborative Procurement Service's Annual Report	To receive information on the collaborative Service's activity and performance against targets set out in the Procurement Strategy 2019/20	Gary Williams/Lisa Jones/Lee Evans/Sue Rees	By SCVCG March 2020
INFORMATION REPORT (for circulation in Sept (Q1) & February (Q3) each year) Feb & Sept 2022	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	To provide information on the Board's performance and progress in delivering its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB	By SCVCG March 2021

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Updated 25/10/2021 – RhE

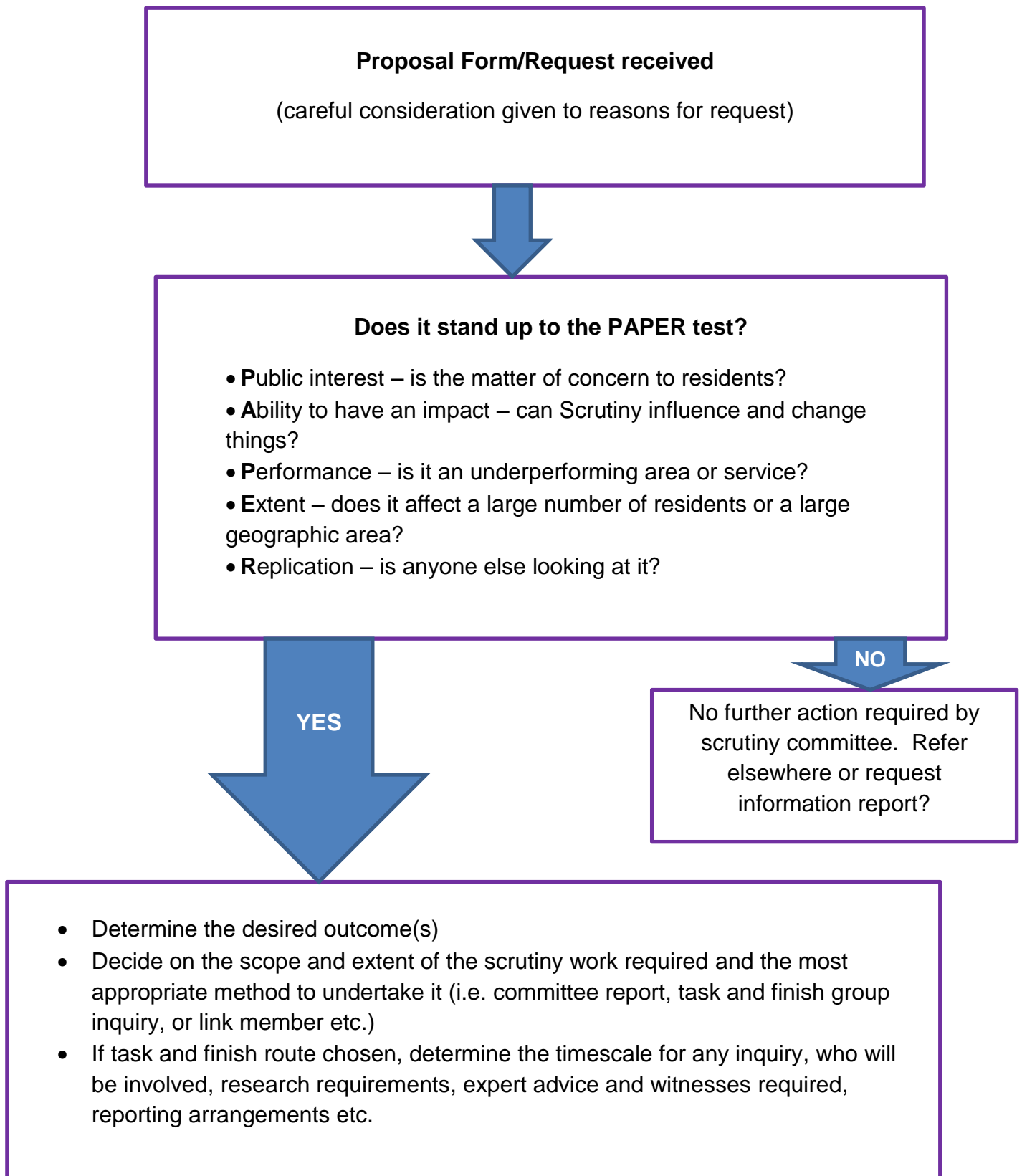
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
16 December	2 December	10 February 2022	27 January	7 April	24 March

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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
23 Nov	1	Corporate Plan Update: July to September 2021	To monitor the Council's progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Iolo McGregor
	2	Levelling Up – Vale of Clwyd and Clwyd West bid approval	Bid Approval	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Emlyn Jones / Gareth Roberts
	3	Meifod Update	To consider the future operation of services at Meifod following the recent engagement exercise with citizens who attend and their families	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy
	4	Llannerch Bridge	To consider the outcome of the public engagement exercise and the feasibility study commissioned by Highways and Environmental Services	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward
	5	Regional Memory Assessment Service Invitation to Tender (ITT)	To seek Cabinet approval for Denbighshire County Council to act as the Lead Commissioning Body for the regional Memory Assessment Service	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Catrin Roberts / Catrin Perry

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			Invitation to Tender (ITT)		
	6	Adra, all Wales Framework	To seek approval to direct award a new materials supplier for housing maintenance	Yes	Councillor Tony Thomas / Mark Cassidy
	7	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	8	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
14 Dec	1	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	To approve the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan before submission to Welsh Government.	Tbc	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts/ Carwyn Edwards
	2	Queens Market Phase 1 – award construction contract	To seek approval to award a contract for the delivery of Phase 1 of the Queens Building Rhyl	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Russell Vaughan
	3	Proposed Minimum Standard for Denbighshire County Council New Build and Major Extension/Refurbishment Construction Projects	A decision is required on the adoption and implementation of the proposed minimum standard which would impose a duty on all Council	Yes	Councillor Brian Jones / David Lorey

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			services to ensure all new build and major extensions/refurbishment construction projects are built to meet in use and embodied carbon targets		
	4	Contract Award – Redevelopment of the former library in Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn	To award the construction contract for council housing development	Yes	Councillors Tony Thomas & Julian Thompson-Hill / Mark Dixon
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
18 Jan	1	Central Rhyl Flood Defence Scheme	To recommend that Council agree the funding for the schemes and permit the service to proceed to the construction phase	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Wayne Hope / Matthew Hazlewood / Helen Johnson
	2	Prestatyn Flood Defence Scheme	To recommend that Council agree the funding for the schemes and permit the	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Wayne Hope / Matthew Hazlewood / Helen

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			service to proceed to the construction phase		Johnson
	3	Contract Award approval for new Waste Fleet to support new Waste Service Model	To award the contract for the new Waste Fleet	Yes	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Peter Clayton
	4	Budget Proposals 2022/23	To consider a report setting out budget proposals for 2022/23	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
15 Feb	1	Contract Award approval for Phase 2 Construction Works – DCC Waste Transfer Station to support new Waste Service Model	To award the contract for Phase 2 construction works	Yes	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Peter Clayton
	2	Regional Memory Assessment Service Invitation Tender	To seek final approval of the tender award	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Catrin Roberts / Catrin Perry
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
22 March	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline
<i>November</i>	9 November	<i>December</i>	30 November	<i>January</i>	4 January

Updated 22/10/2021 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
16 September 2021	5. Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC)	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>subject to the above observations, to –</i></p> <p>(i) <i>receive the Chief Officer’s presentation on his future vision for Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) and his ambitions to work with the Council and other groups and organisations throughout the county with a view to enhancing the lives of residents and communities; and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>request that the Chief Officer attend a future meeting of the Committee, in approximately six months’ time, to update members on the progress made to date in delivering his vision, outlining any challenges encountered and how they had been overcome.</i></p>	Lead Member and officers informed of the Committee’s recommendations and an update report from DVSC has been scheduled into the Committee’s forward work programme for its meeting in April 2022 (see Appendix 1)
	6. Community Safety Partnership	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>- subject to the above comments and the answers given in response to members’ questions, to receive and endorse the performance and statistical information provided in the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report for 2020-21.</i></p>	Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee’s recommendation.

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