

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1 September 2022

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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, 8 SEPTEMBER 2022** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (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 (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 30 June 2022 (copy enclosed).

5 PROPOSED CENTRAL RHYL AND CENTRAL PRESTATYN COASTAL DEFENCE SCHEMES (Pages 13 - 78)

To consider a report (copy enclosed) by the Council's Flood Risk Manager on the value and benefits of investing in both schemes for the communities concerned and the county in general and seek members' support for progressing their approval through the Council's decision-making processes.

10.10am – 11am

6 WILDFLOWER MEADOW PROJECT (Pages 79 - 114)

To consider a report by the Council's Ecology Officer (copy enclosed) which seeks the Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures take to improve engagement and increase publicity in relation to the project.

11am – 11.45am

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 115 - 138)

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.

11:45am – 12:00pm

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Huw Williams (Chair)

Brian Blakeley
James Elson
Jon Harland
Alan James

Councillor Karen Anne Edwards (Vice-Chair)

Delyth Jones
Merfyn Parry
Michelle Walker
Cheryl 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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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held in COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE on Thursday, 30 June 2022 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Brian Blakeley, Karen Edwards, Jon Harland, Delyth Jones, Michelle Walker, Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair)

Observers – Councillors Joan Butterfield, Andrea Tomlin, Emrys Wynne and Martyn Hogg

ALSO PRESENT

Strategic Planning and Housing Officer (AL); Senior Planning Officer (LG); Public Protection, Regeneration & Economic Development Manager (GR); Head of Finance and Property Service (SG), Joint Acting Head of Business Improvement Management (NK); Business Support Manager (PB); Senior Revenues Officer (LG); Scrutiny Co-ordinator (RE); Zoom and Webcast host (SJ); and Committee Administrator (SLW).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Elson, Alan James and Merfyn Parry

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were sought for the office of Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2022/23 year.

Councillor Brian Blakeley nominated Councillor Karen Edwards for the position of Committee Vice-Chair. Councillor Delyth Jones seconded Councillor Blakeley's nomination.

No other nominations were received and by a unanimous vote the Committee:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Karen Edwards as its Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Councillor Karen Edwards thanked everyone for their confidence in her to be Vice-Chair of Communities Scrutiny Committee.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 March 2022 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022 be received and approved as a correct and true record of proceedings.

No matters were raised in relation to the contents of the minutes

6 RHYL REGENERATION PROGRAMME

At this juncture, the Chair informed the Committee that the Leader, Councillor Jason McLellan and the Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services were both unable to attend the meeting, due to a prior arranged engagement.

The Joint Acting Head of Business Improvement (BIM), Nicola Kneale, introduced the Rhyl Regeneration Programme and Governance Report (previously circulated) to outline the work undertaken through the Rhyl Regeneration Programme.

Rhyl Regeneration had been a Council (and Welsh Government (WG)) priority for many years due to the level of deprivation in the town. The top 2 most deprived wards in Wales were located in West Rhyl, together with in and around the Town Centre.

A considerable amount of investment had taken place in the regeneration of Rhyl, supported by significant grant funding.

The current phase of regeneration activity built on the foundations laid over previous years with the focus on the regeneration of the Town Centre.

The Rhyl Regeneration Executive Group had been re-established in July 2020 as the Rhyl Regeneration Programme Board. The Programme Board was responsible for overseeing the Council's contribution to the delivery of the Town Centre Vision along with managing any Council led regeneration projects in the town.

Taking the lead from the Town Centre Vision, the focus of the Programme Board was divided into 5 main work streams:-

- Retail and Commercial
- Environment
- Queens Buildings
- Residential
- Highways and Access.

The Joint Acting Head of Business Improvement (BIM), supported the Rhyl Community Development Board and was also a member of the Rhyl Regeneration Programme Board. The Boards Chairs worked closely with the Leader of the Council and it ensured good communication between the two Boards, and the Council with work continuing towards the same goals.

The Public Protection, Regeneration & Economic Development Manager (PPR&EDM), Gareth Roberts, introduced the governance arrangements which support the work.

The Rhyl vision had been through a lengthy consultation process. Up to recently the main source of funding had been from the Welsh Government (WG) but applications had recently been submitted to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund.

The PPR&EDM summarised the list of projects contained in Appendix 2. The main projects were as follows -

Item 1 - Queens Building had been the largest project. The original building had been demolished, but the construction of a new building had been delayed due to nesting seagulls. The development included the construction of a food and market hall, flexible events space and association external public realm. The main contractors had been appointed and were to set up the compound adjacent to the site.

Item 13 – Gateway 1 & 2. The council acquired 131 and 123-129 High Street to create a green space / public realm. 123-125 High Street had recently been demolished as the building had been in an extremely dangerous condition. The road needed to be closed for the demolition to take place. Designs for the site were currently being developed.

Item 11 – Public Realm Strategy. This was part of the Levelling Up Fund and linked in to Item 9 – Reconnect the top of Rhyl High Street and the Beach.

There was still a large amount of work to be undertaken regarding shop fronts and the Enforcement Team were involved.

During discussions, the following points were raised –

- The former Woolworth's building at the top of the High Street was mentioned as an eyesore site. Officers confirmed the owner of the property had been contacted and he was keen for work to be done. There had also been issues with the glazing in the windows which had been a danger to pedestrians and the owner was tackling that issue.
- Issue with cars parking on the pedestrian only part of the High Street as the barrier was no longer working. It was confirmed that a temporary barrier would be put back in place and a consultant had been contacted for a more permanent solution. Parking Enforcement officers were also increasing patrols in the area.
- It was confirmed that the Levelling Up Fund bid by Denbighshire was a strong bid but the Council was waiting to hear whether it had been

successful or not. If that bid was unsuccessful WG would be approached as it was a key partner in the regeneration programme for Rhyl and other sources of funding would be explored.

- Some of the points put forward were not appropriate for discussion at the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting and members were advised to raise them at a meeting of the Rhyl Member Area Group.
- The PPR&EDM undertook to circulate more detailed information on the different types of rental properties that would be developed as part of the programme, including Intermediate Rental Apartments.
- It was suggested that the item be reviewed annually but if any member of Scrutiny wished to scrutinise any area of the regeneration plan they could put the proposal form forward for consideration prior to the 12-month period.
- It was confirmed that there was a monthly update to Cabinet as part of the regular Finance report which detailed spending on Major Schemes report. All members were welcome to attend that meeting to monitor the major schemes for the regeneration of Rhyl.

Councillor Brian Blakeley proposed the agreement of the report including an annual review be presented to Communities Scrutiny Committee, seconded by Councillor Michelle Walker. The Committee:

RESOLVED *subject to the above:*

- (i) to receive and agree the report; and*
- (ii) request that a further monitoring report be presented to the Committee on an annual basis.*

7 SECOND HOMES AND SHORT-TERM HOLIDAY LETS

At this juncture, the Chair informed the Committee that the Lead Member, Councillor Win Mullen-James was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

The Strategic Planning and Housing Manager, Angela Loftus, introduced the Planning Requirements in Relation to Second Homes and Short-Term Holiday Lets Report (previously circulated), to provide information on the current planning requirements and controls available in relation to second homes and short term holiday lets.

The report was confined to consideration of the use of market properties for second homes or short term holiday lets. A second home was defined for council tax purposes, as a dwelling which was not a person's sole or main home and was substantially furnished. A short term holiday let was generally considered to be where a property was let for the purposes of a holiday only; the guest would have a main home elsewhere and the let was for less than 3 months.

The Welsh Government had been reviewing the situation regarding second homes and short term holiday lets, addressing the impact on Wales' communities. The Welsh Government approach was to focus on:-

- Support – addressing affordability and availability of housing;

- Regulatory framework and system – covering planning law and the introduction of a statutory registration scheme for holiday accommodation; and
- A fairer contribution – using national and local taxation systems to ensure second home owners make a fair and effective contribution to the communities in which they buy.

There was to be a pilot area in Wales, to be decided over the summer, where the new measures would be trialled and evaluated before being considered for wider rollout.

Other supporting actions, including the work on a registration scheme for all holiday accommodation and a consultation on changes to local taxes to manage the impact of second homes and self-catered accommodation, were also to commence over the summer.

A Welsh Language Community Housing Plan, to protect the particular interests of Welsh language communities, would be published for consultation in the autumn.

Last year, Wales became the only country in the UK to give local authorities the power to charge 100% council tax increase on second homes. The Welsh Government (WG) introduced this in 2017 and it was approved by Council at DCC in 2018.

The WG had undertaken a consultation exercise, which had closed in February 2022, on 'Planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets'. Whilst the results of the consultation were yet to be fully published, the three-pronged approach outlined in the WG's press release formed part of the Government's response to the findings of that consultation exercise.

During discussions the following points were raised:-

- Concern was raised that some holiday homes were left empty during the winter months and this was frustrating as so many local people and families were looking for homes.
- It was confirmed that Council Tax was an unhypothecated tax and therefore could not legally be earmarked/ring-fenced for specific purposes. Currently, Council Tax for second homes in Denbighshire was charged at 150% but after April 2023 the local authority would be permitted to take a decision on whether to increase to 300%.
- The decision as to whether a property was a second home or a holiday-let property and whether it was liable for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) or Council Tax was determined by the Valuation Office and not the local authority. Owners of properties that may qualify for registration as NNDR properties would have to apply to the Valuation Office for a determination, otherwise they would be liable to pay Council Tax. The introduction of a licensing scheme for these types of properties may help reduce the number of properties that registered as NNDR properties and subsequently benefited from the Small Business Rate Relief provision which meant that they would not be paying any taxes despite the fact that people who stayed at the accommodation were able to access local services.

- It was agreed there needed to be a fair process as tourism was extremely important to the area but there was a need for local housing.

Councillor Brian Blakeley proposed the report, seconded by Karen Edwards.

Members unanimously:

RESOLVED: *subject to the above observations -*

(i) to receive the report; and

(ii) to request that an update report be presented to the Committee when the full results of the Welsh Government consultation were published.

At this juncture, the Chair thanked the officers for all their good work.

8 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

Discussion focussed on the following:–

- The Scrutiny Coordinator informed members that this agenda item was a standard item on the agenda for every meeting.
- Appendix 1 was the forward work programme for the next meeting which would take place on 8 September. There were 2 substantial items on the forward work programme.
- Two items from this meeting has been added to a future meeting – Rhyl Regeneration Programme and Second Homes & short-term holiday lets.
- Prior to Covid, it had been usual practice to hold a pre-meeting. This could now be held virtually a few days prior to the meeting if Committee members were in agreement. It was agreed to discuss further at the next Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.
- There was a process in place contained in Appendix 2 which included a form for completion if members wished for an item to be considered for presentation at Scrutiny Committee. The form would be submitted to the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs group for consideration at which they would go through the test which was on the reverse of the form, and a decision would then be made whether the item was suitable for Scrutiny and which Committee would be asked to consider it.
- Appendix 3 was the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for information.
- Appendix 4 was an update on recommendations from the last meeting.

There would usually be a further standard item on the agenda which was feedback from members who serve as Committee representatives on various boards or groups. This item would be reinstated once the allocation of members to those groups has taken place.

All members present agreed to the items listed on the forward work programme.

At the conclusion of the discussion Members:

RESOLVED *subject to the above additions to receive and confirm the Committee's forward work programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.*

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11.50 A.M.

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	8th September 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport / Tony Ward, Head of Highways and Environmental Services
Report author	Wayne Hope, Flood Risk Manager
Title	Proposed Central Rhyl and Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Schemes

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is about two potential coastal flood risk management schemes for Central Rhyl and Central Prestatyn.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide an update to the Committee regarding the development of the schemes and the next steps involved.
- 2.2. To give the Committee an opportunity to scrutinise both schemes before they go to the Strategic Investment Group (SIG), Cabinet & Council (where a decision to deliver the schemes will be sought). Full Business Cases for both schemes are in development, and will be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) by the end of September 2022, but draft Business Cases are attached at Appendix 5 & 6 to provide further details of the rationale for taking both schemes forward to construction stage (Appendices 5 & 6 are exempt from public disclosure by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972).

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the value and benefits from investing in both of these schemes to the communities in Rhyl and Prestatyn and to the county in general.

- 3.2. That the Committee recommends that the schemes be taken to Strategic Investment Group (SIG), Cabinet and Council successively for their respective approval (meeting dates shown in Appendix 4).
- 3.3. That the Committee confirms that, as part of its consideration, it has read; understood; and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment.
- 3.4. That the Committee supports the progression of both schemes to construction, subject to funding approval.

4. Report details

4.1. Prestatyn

The existing coastal defences along Rhyl Golf Course frontage are about 70 years old and in poor condition, which means they could be breached in the next 30 years.

If the existing defences fail in this location, the flood risk to over 2,000 properties in the Prestatyn area will increase significantly. This is because low land elevations behind the defences will allow any tidal flood water to spread and flood a wide area.

After an appraisal of options, the preferred option (indicative cost £26m, with 85% of the costs funded by the Welsh Government) is an earth embankment that follows the boundary of Rhyl Golf Club and is set back from the front-line defences. As the current front line defences become increasingly overtopped during storm events, flood water will be contained within the golf course until it can discharge back to the sea. The extent of the scheme and an image of the design can be seen in Appendix 1.

The scheme was brought to this Committee on 9th December 2021, in particular regarding the stakeholder and community engagement that had been carried out and plans for future engagement. At that meeting, the Committee resolved that it was “*satisfied with the approach taken for the consultations and their findings*”.

The scheme was taken to Planning Committee on 13th July 2022, at which planning permission was granted. There were a number of pre-commencement conditions set, which the project team are confident can be discharged. A marine licence for the scheme was granted by Natural Resources Wales on 9th November 2021.

A Full Business Case for the scheme will be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) by the end of September 2022. The Council has worked closely with WG throughout the development of the scheme and anticipates WG approval to be granted by the end of October 2022.

A carbon impact assessment has been carried out which shows that, over the lifetime of the scheme, the carbon impacts are very similar to the carbon benefits, which means that the scheme is carbon neutral.

The scheme has an impact on Rhyl Golf Club, which leases Rhyl Golf Course from the Council. Negotiations with the club are ongoing and proceeding in a positive manner.

4.2. Central Rhyl

The central area of Rhyl (between Splash Point and the Drift Park) is currently protected by sea defences that are deteriorating. The Council wants to ensure that existing defences are replaced well ahead of time, to protect this popular part of Rhyl's coastline from flooding and coastal erosion. If the existing defences fail in this location, the flood risk to over 600 properties in the Rhyl area will increase significantly. The scheme is expected to cost in the order of £58m, with 85% of the costs funded by the Welsh Government. The scheme consists of:

- Rock armour scour protection, buried beneath the existing sand level, and concrete repairs to the existing sea wall, towards the eastern end of the proposed scheme area.
- Concrete stepped revetment to absorb energy from the waves, incorporating beach access steps and a large beach access ramp, between the Drift Park and Rhyl SeaQuarium.
- A new raised promenade and back of the promenade sea defence wall, between the Drift Park and Rhyl SeaQuarium.
- Widening the promenade adjacent to the Children's Village.

The extent of the scheme and an image of the design can be seen in Appendix 2.

The scheme was brought to this Committee on 9th December 2021, in particular regarding the stakeholder and community engagement that had been carried out and plans for future engagement. At that meeting, the Committee resolved that it was *“satisfied with the approach taken for the consultations and their findings”*

The scheme was taken to Planning Committee on 13th July 2022, at which planning permission was granted. There were a number of pre-commencement conditions set, which the project team are confident can be discharged. A marine licence for the scheme was granted by Natural Resources Wales on 9th November 2021.

A Full Business Case for the scheme will be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) by the end of September 2022. The Council has worked closely with WG throughout the development of the scheme and anticipates WG approval to be granted by the end of October 2022.

A carbon impact assessment has been carried out which shows that, over the lifetime of the scheme, the carbon impacts are very similar to the carbon benefits, which means that the scheme is carbon neutral.

The Council has been involved in positive discussions and negotiations with businesses affected by the scheme.

The project team is working closely with the Rhyl Regeneration project team, to make certain that the coastal defence scheme and regeneration scheme are closely co-ordinated to ensure that the inevitable disruption of these significant construction projects is kept to a minimum.

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

- 5.1. Denbighshire Council's Corporate plan (2017-22) has two priorities that are relevant in this case; Environment and Younger People. Progression of the schemes will meet an ambition under the Environment priority to protect residents from flooding. Work experience and work opportunities for younger people should be available during future construction phases.

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

- 6.1. The combined cost of both schemes is approximately £84m. Of this cost, 85% is funded by the Welsh Government as grant in aid, paid to the Council over a 25-year period through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

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

- 7.1. Prestatyn Summary: The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Prestatyn. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire. See Appendix 3a for the full assessment.
- 7.2. Central Rhyl Summary: The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Central Rhyl. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire. See Appendix 3b for the full assessment.

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

- 8.1. Extensive consultation has taken place for both schemes, including that carried out as part of the formal planning process. Consultees include local residents and businesses, county councillors, town councillors and statutory bodies.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 If approved this would be a significant financial commitment by the council at a time of huge economic uncertainty. The scheme proposed requires a contribution from the Council of £12.6m based on the information provided in Section 6. The Welsh Government funding model for such schemes is for councils to borrow the money to pay for the entire scheme and the government reimburses the annual cost of borrowing 85% of it to councils via the RSG. The revenue cost to the council of borrowing its proportion would be approximately £0.7m in a full year

post completion The actual cost will depend on the final contract sum and interest rates at the time (which are currently predicted to continue to rise). This constitutes a huge commitment at this very uncertain time and, if approved, would therefore increase the savings or cuts the council has to make in each of those years or require a further Council Tax increase to that already assumed of approximately 1.2%.

10. Risks

10.1. The most significant risk associated with the project is that the terms of the WG loan will result in a long term (25 year) revenue burden for the Council, which would have an impact on the delivery of other services. Also, there is a risk that the Welsh Government will not increase the grant award to cover any cost increases during construction. This risk has been mitigated by choosing a procurement option that has resulted in a high level of cost certainty.

10.2. The size and location of the Central Rhyl scheme means that there is likely to be significant disruption during the construction period of approximately two and a half years. Every effort will be made to manage and minimize disruption as much as possible and communication and engagement plan with stakeholders will be put in place. Whilst the scheme will inevitably be disruptive, the long term benefits by far outweigh the short-term impact.

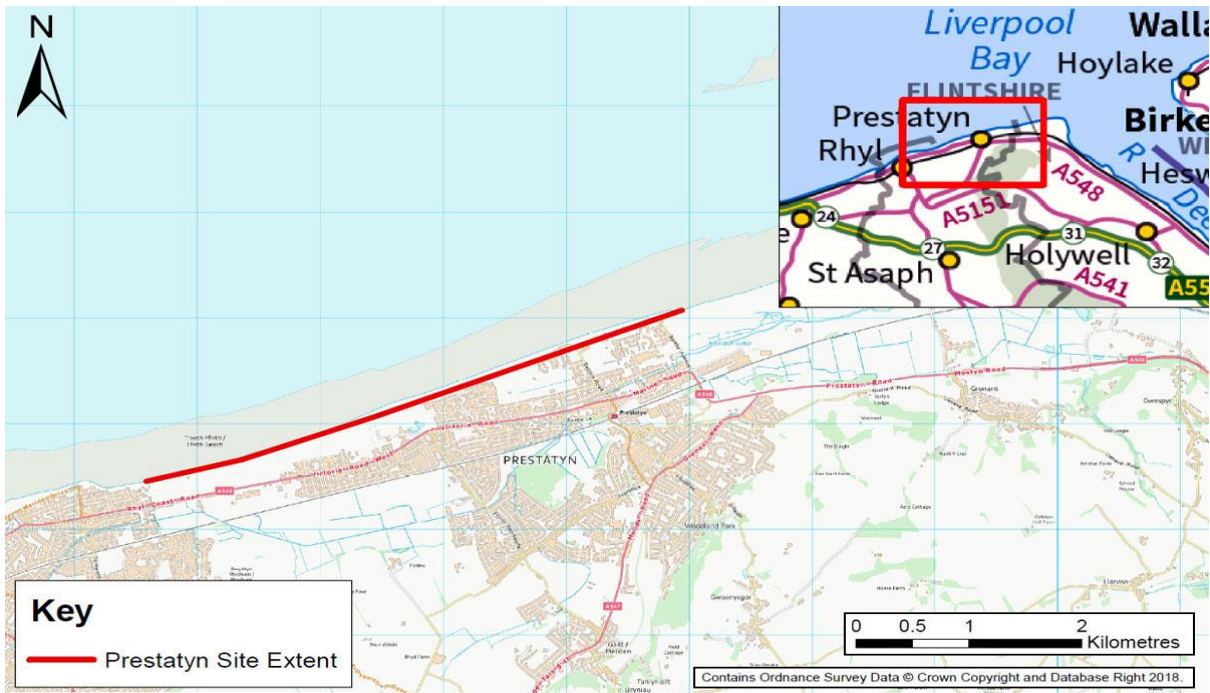
11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Scrutiny's power to make the recommendation in relation to this matter to Cabinet is as per Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and as outlined in Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4.2(d) of the Denbighshire Council Constitution.

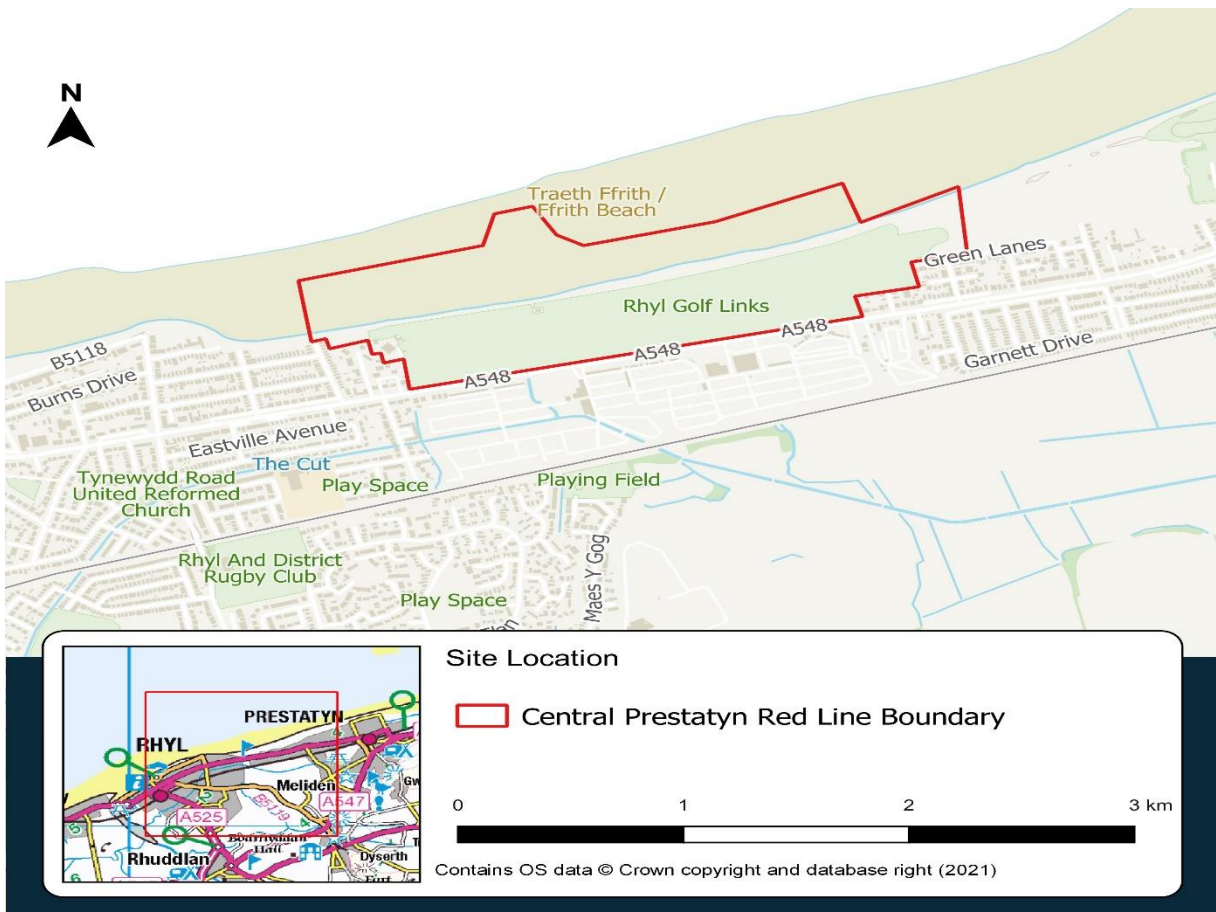
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Appendix 1: Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme - Location and Design

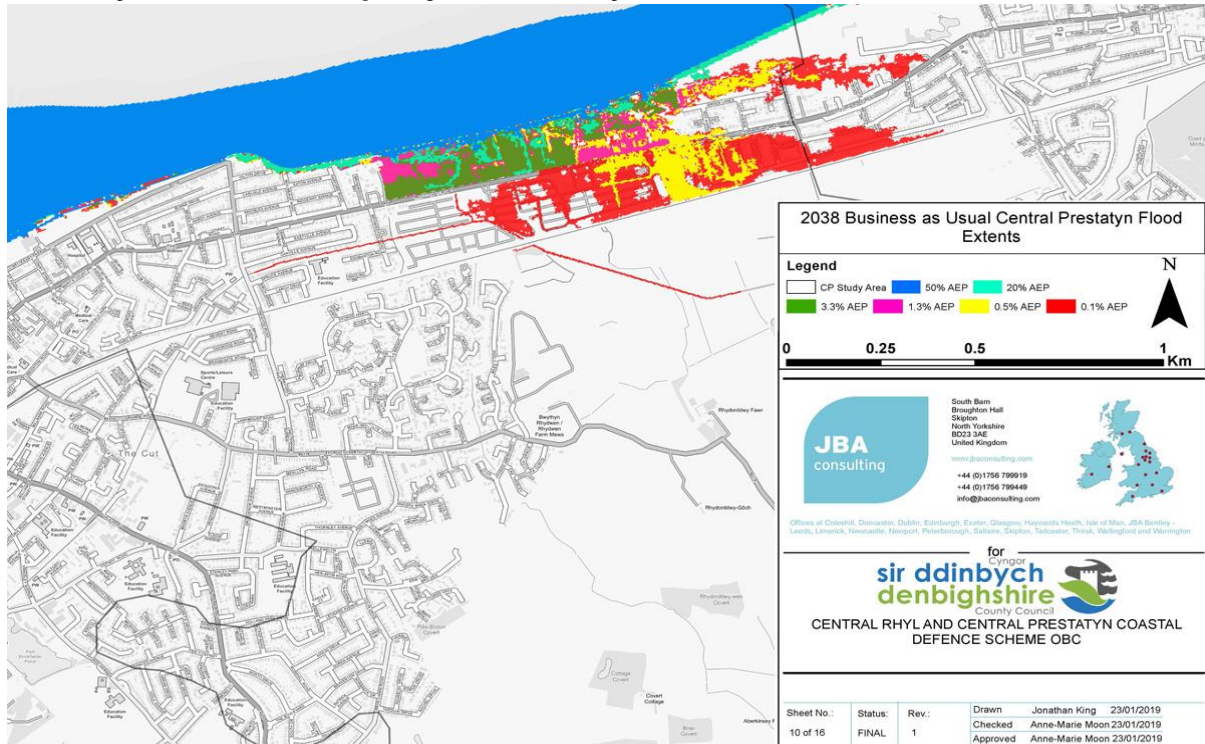
Prestatyn frontage



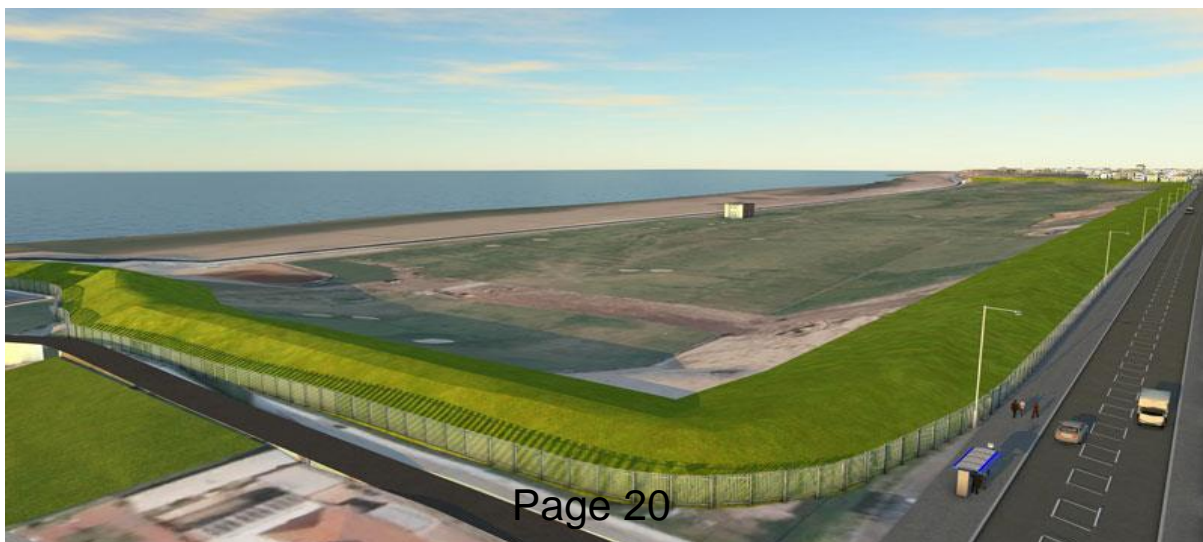
Although the entire frontage (shown by the red line in the location plan above) will eventually need improvements, the Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme focuses on the area of most immediate concern, adjacent to Rhyll Golf Club: see below



Prestatyn flood risk map adjacent to Rhyll Golf Club



Prestatyn coastal flood alleviation design (earth embankment location indicitave)



Appendix 2: Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme – Location and Design
Central Rhyl frontage and location of the 3km+ scheme (blue / green below)



Central Rhyl design comparing existing infrastructure with proposed visualisations of the scheme



Looking east towards SeaQuarium

Existing



Proposed



Looking east at the transition to existing West Rhyl Coastal Defences

Existing



Proposed



Looking east past SC2

Existing



Proposed



Looking west past the Children's Village

Existing



Proposed



Access from the High Street to the beach

Existing



Proposed



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Appendix 3a

Coastal defence works at Prestatyn

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:	983
Brief description:	Coastal defence works at Prestatyn to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Prestatyn,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	The residents and business owners of Prestatyn will be positively impacted as the proposed flood defence scheme will safeguard their homes and businesses.
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 : 29 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

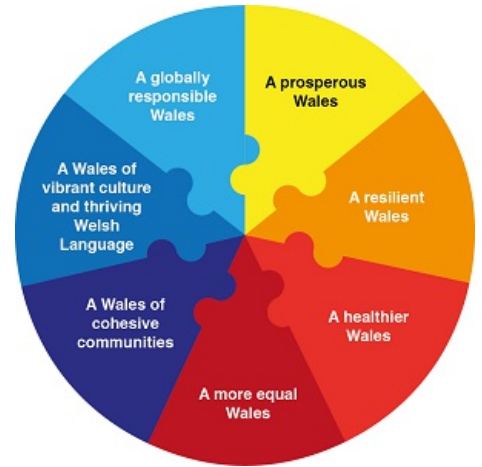
Long term	<p>The project will be carried out in a way that ensures that are minimal negative impacts on the natural environment. There may be opportunities to improve biodiversity in the built environment. Flooding of properties creates a large amount of contaminated, non-recyclable waste. Post flood clear up operations use a considerable amount of energy/fuel, therefore this project will reduce this risk. There are strong links between flooding and climate change (sea level rise). The project will draw these issues to the attention of Denbighshire residents. Flood risk is understood to have a negative impact on the economic prosperity of communities, Therefore, reducing flood risk will have a positive impact. The project involves heavy civil engineering work which will provide an opportunity for local employment in that sector. Reduced flood risk will encourage potential future employers to invest in the area. Coastal engineering is a specialism and the project has the potential to enable to development of local skills in this field. By developing this scheme it will protect as many properties as possible to the highest economically achievable standard.</p>
Prevention	<p>Coastal defence works at Prestatyn will reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. The project will make Prestatyn more resilient to future flood events. The current and ongoing risk of flooding of properties has a significant negative impact on the prosperity of the county, as demonstrated by the floods that affected the region in 2012 and 2013. Therefore, the project will have a positive impact on the community. The project will have the greatest positive impact on the most vulnerable members of the community. People with protected characteristics are our most vulnerable residents during a flood event. Reducing the risk of flooding will improve their well-being. One of the consequences of flooding is high insurance costs, which could result in poverty. The project could make properties cheaper to insure for residents.</p>
Integration	<p>The existing beach at this location is sometimes floods the coastal path and over onto the Golf Course. Whilst the project won't stop this happening it should reduce this likelihood of flooding the surrounding properties. Peoples concerns and fears of being flooded have a significant impact on their emotional and mental well-being. The project will significantly reduce this likelihood.</p>
Collaboration	<p>We have consulted with the Council's Countryside Service team and Natural Resources Wales. We have consulted with Local councillors, Prestatyn Golf Club, MAG and the community. The project involves heavy civil engineering work which will provide an opportunity for local employment in that sector. Reduced flood risk will encourage potential future employers to invest in the area. Coastal engineering is a specialism and the project has the potential to enable to development of local skills in this field. By reducing the risk of flooding it will reduce the need to drain resources from the emergency services once a flood clean up is needed.</p>

Involvement	We have consulted with local members in Prestatyn, Prestatyn Golf Club, community groups, local businesses and are keeping the public up to date with regular communications in the local newspapers.
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Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

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



Main conclusions

The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Prestatyn. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

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

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The positives to this proposal way outweighs any short terms negatives. The opportunities for work experience, training, apprenticeships and the use of local businesses is positive.
Further actions required	The main negative in this proposal is the need to use lorries for transporting the materials to site. Although we cannot mitigate these impacts as the lorries are not Electric, the need to use them is relatively short lived.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	If there is less risk of flooding then more people can cycle, walk. Reducing the risk of flooding will reduce the need to use emergency services and their large fire engines/ambulances/boats etc reducing the carbon emissions.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Our project will put Denbighshire in better stead for operating in more extreme and frequent weather events as it will reduce the risk of flooding due to rising sea levels.
Economic development	The project could help lower house insurance premiums for residents. Through community benefits, there will be a number of work experience places to be taken by local young adults who may want a career within civil engineering.
Quality skills for the long term	As young adults have work experience opportunities then hopefully they will go on to qualify in their chosen fields and take forward quality skills for their futures, and possibly for their families futures. A positive outlook on employment will bring positive health and well being.
Quality jobs for the long term	Local community benefits will see the need for local young adults to engage with work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.
Childcare	The Welsh Government have a scheme called Childcare Offer in Wales which financially helps parents of 3/4 year olds with childcare needs. Some employers offer childcare voucher schemes in which the government help with childcare costs.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The initial use of lorries transporting materials to site will necessitate the need to use roads and carbon emissions from the lorries.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	

Childcare	More young adults who gain employment may need access to affordable childcare.
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A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will make Prestatyn more resilient to future flood events.
Further actions required	Through consultation with the Council's Countryside Service team and Natural Resources Wales.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The project will be carried out in a way that ensures that are minimal negative impacts on the natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	There may be opportunities to improve biodiversity in the built environment.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Flooding of properties creates a large amount of contaminated, non-recyclable waste. The project will reduce this likelihood.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Post flood clear up operations use a considerable amount of energy/fuel, this project will reduce that.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	There are strong links between flooding and climate change (sea level rise). The project will draw these issues to the attention of Denbighshire residents.
Flood risk management	The project will reduce the likelihood of flooding in Prestatyn.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will have a beneficial impact on the mental well-being of residents currently at risk of flooding.

Further actions required	By working with local residents and community groups as the project develops to ensure that residents fears and concerns are recognised and addressed.
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Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	The coastal path will be re routed if it is subject to flooding to take it around the Golf Course then back on to the Promenade. This is used for walking and cycling etc.
Access to good quality, healthy food	N/A
People's emotional and mental well-being	Peoples concerns and fears of being flooded have a significant impact on their emotional and mental well-being. The project will significantly reduce this likelihood.
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	If there is a future need to re-route the coastal path around the current Golf course then this will continue the coastal path for residents that use it for physical activity.

Negative impacts identified:

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

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will have the greatest positive impact on the most vulnerable members of the community.
Further actions required	n/a

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>People with protected characteristics are our most vulnerable residents during a flood event. Reducing the risk of flooding will improve their well-being.</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>Reducing the risk of flooding will improve their well-being. Even if the coastal path has to be re-routed in the future then it will still be able to be used for physical exercise and mental well-being</p>
<p>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</p>	<p>One of the consequences of flooding is high insurance costs, which could result in poverty. The project could make properties cheaper to insure.</p>
<p>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Protecting Prestatyn from possible flooding will help the area's businesses and keep access to services open</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>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	
<p>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</p>	
<p>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</p>	

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Reducing flood risk will improve the strength and long term viability of the community.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Following previous flood events, crime e.g., burglary, has been an issue during the recovery phase. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will have a positive impact.
Community participation and resilience	There is already a strong community in Prestatyn, with a good knowledge of flood risk. The community will be engaged with as the project develops.
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	Any flooding could disrupt the connectivity to broadband and travel infrastructure, therefore reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce this issue.
Rural resilience	Reducing the likelihood of flooding will help build a resilient rural community.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	The 3m high bund may be seen as slightly unsightly
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	n/a
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	n/a
Promoting the Welsh language	Welsh policy will be implemented on the construction site
Culture and heritage	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	

Culture and heritage	
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A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	n/a
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	It's likely that the project will maximise the use of the local supply chain.
Human rights	Procurement will be carried out with due cognisance of human rights law.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	n/a
Reducing climate change	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

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

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Appendix 3b

Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Works

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:	982
Brief description:	Coastal defence works at Central Rhyl to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Rhyl,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	The residents and business owners of Rhyl will be positively impacted as the proposed flood defence scheme will safeguard their homes and businesses.
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 : 33 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term	The project will be carried out in a way that ensures that are minimal negative impacts on the natural environment. There may be opportunities to improve biodiversity in the built environment. Flooding of properties creates a large amount of contaminated, non-recyclable waste. Post flood clear up operations use a considerable amount of energy/fuel, therefore this project will reduce this risk. There are strong links between flooding and climate change (sea level rise). The project will draw these issues to the attention of Denbighshire residents. Flood risk is understood to have a negative impact on the economic prosperity of communities, Therefore, reducing flood risk will have a positive impact. The project involves heavy civil engineering work which will provide an opportunity for local employment in that sector. Reduced flood risk will encourage potential future employers to invest in the area. Coastal engineering is a specialism and the project has the potential to enable to development of local skills in this field. By developing this scheme it will protect as many properties as possible to the highest economically achievable standard.
Prevention	Coastal defence works at Central Rhyl will reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. The project will make Central Rhyl more resilient to future flood events. The current and ongoing risk of flooding of properties has a significant negative impact on the prosperity of the county, as demonstrated by the floods that affected the region in 2012 and 2013. Therefore, the project will have a positive impact on the community. The project will have the greatest positive impact on the most vulnerable members of the community. People with protected characteristics are our most vulnerable residents during a flood event. Reducing the risk of flooding will improve their well-being. One of the consequences of flooding is high insurance costs, which could result in poverty. The project could make properties cheaper to insure for residents.
Integration	The project is likely to result in improved opportunities for beach based leisure activities and local businesses will also benefit from the project, it will also have a beneficial impact on the mental well-being of residents currently at risk of flooding. The existing beach at this location is occasionally stripped of sand due to coastal erosion. The project should reduce this likelihood and will conserve a sandy beach. There's an opportunity to improve the quality of the existing beach at Central Rhyl, with an access point for all users, which will encourage greater use by residents and tourists. Peoples concerns and fears of being flooded have a significant impact on their emotional and mental well-being. The project will significantly reduce this likelihood.

Collaboration	We have consulted with the Council's Countryside Service team and Natural Resources Wales. We have consulted Rhyl Town Council, Rhyl MAG and the community. We are working with other council projects (Central Prom project) to provide access onto the beach. The project involves heavy civil engineering work which will provide an opportunity for local employment in that sector. Reduced flood risk will encourage potential future employers to invest in the area. Coastal engineering is a specialism and the project has the potential to enable to development of local skills in this field. By reducing the risk of flooding it will reduce the need to drain resources from the emergency services once a flood clean up is needed.
Involvement	We have consulted with local members in Rhyl, community groups, local businesses and are keeping the public up to date with regular communications in the local newspapers and online / paper based consultations.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

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



Main conclusions

The aim of the project is to reduce flood risk in Central Rhyl. Provided this aim is fulfilled, the result will be a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal and globally responsible Denbighshire.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

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

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The positives to this proposal far outweighs any short terms negatives. The opportunities for work experience, training, apprenticeships and the use of local businesses is positive.
Further actions required	The construction emissions for the proposed scheme are estimated to be 7,800tCO ₂ e. This includes the embodied carbon within the proposed construction materials, transport of materials to site, and the use of plant on-site. Materials were estimated to account for 86% of these emissions with concrete being the largest contributor (45% of the total construction emissions). Mitigation to reduce the emissions associated with the proposed scheme include the use of standardised precast concrete elements and the reuse of existing infrastructure (including the sky tower and children's village walls). In addition, the use of 85% recycled steel rather than world average steel throughout the proposed scheme could result in additional savings of up to 1,000tCO ₂ e. The existing coastal defences between Splash Point and the Events Arena are also to be retained instead of being replaced as part of the scheme. The works to the coastal defences Splash Point and the Events Arena are limited to repairs and rock scour protection. Further work is ongoing to investigate the potential to reduce the overall extent of rock scour protection for the proposed scheme, which would if realised would likely introduce further construction emission savings. It's worth noting that although there will be a significant upfront carbon cost due to the construction works (mostly quantities of concrete and rock/fill) the scheme itself is a response to the effects of climate change in order to protect nearly 600 properties from flooding and coastal erosion; and safeguard the future of the town's tourist economy. A negative in this proposal is the need to use lorries. Main issues might be access into the town and foot access to business during construction. A park and ride alternative will be looked into . Although we cannot mitigate these impacts, the need to use them is relatively short lived.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	If there is less risk of flooding then more people can cycle, walk. Reducing the risk of flooding will reduce the need to use emergency services and their large fire engines/ambulances/boats etc reducing the carbon emissions.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Our project will put Denbighshire in better stead for operating in more extreme and frequent weather events as it will reduce the risk of flooding due to rising sea levels.
Economic development	The project could help lower house insurance premiums for residents. Through community benefits, there will be a number of work experience places to be taken by local young adults who may want a career within civil engineering. The project will safeguard future tourism opportunities in Rhyl.
Quality skills for the long term	As young adults have work experience opportunities then hopefully they will go on to qualify in their chosen fields and take forward quality skills for their futures, and possibly for their families futures. A positive outlook on employment will bring positive health and well being.

Quality jobs for the long term	Local community benefits will see the need for local young adults to engage with work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.
Childcare	The Welsh Government have a scheme called Childcare Offer in Wales which financially helps parents of 3/4 year olds with childcare needs. Some employers offer childcare voucher schemes in which the government help with childcare costs.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The main negative in this project is the significant upfront Carbon impact due to the the construction works (mostly quantities of concrete and rock/fill) Some other issues might be access into the town and foot access to business during construction. A park and ride alternative will be looked into .
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	Some disruption to local businesses but the scheme will work with businesses to limit disruption
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	More young adults who gain employment may need access to affordable childcare.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will make east Rhyl more resilient to future flood events.
Further actions required	Through consultation with the Council's Countryside Service team and Natural Resources Wales , DCC Climate change project team and the local community of Rhyl .

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The project will be carried out in a way that ensures that are minimal negative impacts on the natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	There may be opportunities to improve biodiversity in the built environment.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Flooding of properties creates a large amount of contaminated, non-recyclable waste. The project will reduce this likelihood.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Post flood clear up operations use a considerable amount of energy/fuel, this project will reduce that.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	There are strong links between flooding and climate change (sea level rise). The project will draw these issues to the attention of Denbighshire residents.
Flood risk management	The project will reduce the likelihood of flooding in Central Rhyl.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project is likely to result in improved opportunities for beach based leisure activities for all users as an access ramp is proposed to be constructed onto the beach is part of the design and will have a beneficial impact on the mental well-being of residents currently at risk of flooding.
Further actions required	By working with local residents and community groups as the project develops to ensure that residents fears and concerns are recognised and addressed.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	A promenade that has less likelihood of flooding will encourage physical activity on it ie walking, cycling etc.
Access to good quality, healthy food	N/A
People's emotional and mental well-being	Peoples concerns and fears of being flooded have a significant impact on their emotional and mental well-being. The project will significantly reduce this likelihood.
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	There's an opportunity to improve the access onto the existing beach at Central Rhyl, which will encourage greater use for physical activity by residents and tourists.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	

People's emotional and mental well-being	
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will have the greatest positive impact on the most vulnerable members of the community.
Further actions required	n/A

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	People with protected characteristics are our most vulnerable residents during a flood event. Reducing the risk of flooding will improve their well-being.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	They will be able to use the promenade and live in Rhyl without fear of flooding.
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	One of the consequences of flooding is high insurance costs, which could result in poverty. The project could make properties cheaper to insure.
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	Tourism will be better protected without the fear of flooding therefore helping the area of Rhyl's businesses and residents working in Rhyl.

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	
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Reducing flood risk will improve the strength and long term viability of the community.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Following previous flood events, crime e.g., burglary, has been an issue during the recovery phase. Reducing the likelihood of flooding will have a positive impact.
Community participation and resilience	There is already a strong community in Central Rhyl, with a good knowledge of flood risk. The community will be engaged with as the project develops.
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	Any flooding could disrupt the connectivity to broadband and travel infrastructure, therefore reducing the likelihood of flooding will reduce this issue.
Rural resilience	Reducing the likelihood of flooding will help build a resilient rural community.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
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Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	n/a
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	Welsh policy implemented on the construction site
Culture and heritage	

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will maximise the use of the local supply chain, including employment, skills and materials.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	It's likely that the project will maximise the use of the local supply chain.
Human rights	Procurement will be carried out with due cognisance of human rights law.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	
Reducing climate change	

Negative impacts identified:

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

Appendix 4 – Governance Timeline

Strategic Investment Group	12 th May 2020
Cabinet	20 th May 2020
Cabinet Briefing	6 th December 2021
Communities Scrutiny Committee	9 th December 2021
Planning Committee	13 th July 2022
Communities Scrutiny Committee	8th September 2022
Strategic Investment Group	20th September 2022
Cabinet Briefing	3rd October 2022
Cabinet	18th October 2022
Full Council	6th December 2022

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	8 September 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Barry Mellor / Emlyn Jones
Report author	Joel Walley
Title	The Denbighshire Wildflower Project Update Report

1. What is the report about?

The Denbighshire Wildflower Project Overview

1.1. The Wildflower Project is a collaborative project between Biodiversity Team, Streetscene and other sections, that aims to create urban and peri-urban local provenance meadows through a reduced 'cut-and-collect' mowing regime. This project is vital to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, and tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Denbighshire Wildflower Project: Update

2.1. To provide information regarding the effectiveness of the steps taken to improve engagement and increase publicity with all stakeholders of the Wildflower Project.

2.2. Highlight the progress made to date in delivering its expected benefits.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Committee confirms it is happy with steps taken to improve engagement and increase publicity, the progress made to date in delivering the project benefits, and continues its support for the project.

4. Report details

- 4.1. Prior to the intake of new sites at the beginning of each season a full list of sites is put forward to Councillors and Community Councils for feedback. The report is accompanied by detailed online maps which allows Councillors and Community Councils to see the location of each site. Feedback from Councillors and Community Councils is encouraged before the sites are finalised.
- 4.2. A comprehensive ranking system has been established which identifies residential properties which require letters to inform them of the change of management on new sites. The letter includes information on the management regime as well as the Biodiversity Team email address.
- 4.3. The Biodiversity Team and the Communications Team work together to produce regular informative posts for social media, to ensure residents are kept well informed about the project. Since 10th May 2022 there have been 30 Facebook posts seen by 83,867 people and of those 4,369 people have directly engaged with the posts. During that same time, Twitter has had 20 tweets seen by 13,708 people and had 460 people directly engage with the posts.
- 4.4. Regular press releases highlighting the project are published. Many of these are distributed further afield by local, regional and national news outlets – since April 2022 there have been 18 articles published by other outlets.
- 4.5. The Biodiversity Team has presented the Council's Wildflower Project at national and regional conferences as well as to town councils, community councils, community groups and universities. Presentations uploaded to YouTube have currently been viewed a total of 1,146 times.
- 4.6. The Bee Friendly project has engaged with 55 schools in Denbighshire. During this time there have been 16 school visits, 5 Bee Friendly educational school days undertaken and 3 school trips to the county tree nursery.
- 4.7. The Biodiversity Team have undertaken 4 wildflower plug planting days which engaged county and community councillors, community groups and schools. Roughly 7,000 plug plants have been planted during these days.
- 4.8. There are 24 volunteers registered for weekly volunteering and who have attended 13 volunteer days at the county tree nursery as of 01/08/2022.

- 4.9. A Denbighshire County Council staff wildflower identification training day was hosted and well received. This is to be an annual event.
- 4.10. Two wildflower walks were conducted for officers and members. An additional 2 guided tours were undertaken for both the Wales and Britain in Bloom judges.
- 4.11. The project has attracted the attention of local experts from the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland who have been eager to contribute towards the record gathering. A tailored version of the project's surveying App was created which allows the recorders to conduct surveys on Wildflower Project sites.
- 4.12. Seed gathering across North East Wales has been possible through positive collaboration with colleagues in the Dee Valley and Clwydian Range AONB, Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.
- 4.13. The Biodiversity Team continue to share our methodology and surveying template with community groups, councils, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Plantlife and the Cairngorms National Park. Knowledge sharing has taken place with roughly half of all Welsh county councils and the project continues to be at the forefront of Welsh grassland restoration.
- 4.14. All records gathered during the monthly surveys are forwarded to Cofnod, the Local Environmental Records Centre. These are shared the largest national biodiversity database in Britain, the National Biodiversity Network Atlas. The records are available globally and give insight of species distribution and restoration ecology.
- 4.15. Restor is an online hub for nature restoration which has the largest network of conservation and restoration sites across the globe. Restor connects thousands of local communities, NGOs, governments, enabling the sharing and monitoring of projects. We received a personal invitation from Restor's creator (raised in Prestatyn) to host the Wildflower Project data on its website.
- 4.16. There are currently 101 Wildflower Project meadows (including our Roadside Nature Reserves) which contribute 56.9 acres of wildflower habitat.
- 4.17. A total of 420 surveys were conducted between April and July 2022. Total number of surveys conducted since 2020 – 789.

- 4.18. A total of 4,830 individual botanical records were gathered between April and July 2022. Individual records gathered since 2020 – 10,157.
- 4.19. A total of 253 different wildflower species were recorded across all project sites in 2022. Total species count since 2020 – 340
- 4.20. Notable species records for Denbighshire - 44 scarce, 7 scare/rare and 9 rare (including Hound's-Tongue, a nationally declining species, only recorded 18 times in 116 years in Denbighshire).
- 4.21. The average height of vegetation on new sites (2022) is 18.76cm, while the average vegetation height on established sites (1 year and older) is 20.81cm.
- 4.22. A new 4-acre local provenance wildflower meadow has been established at the County Tree Nursery. This meadow will provide a seed source for the project.
- 4.23. A total of 60 project sites have been identified as suitable local provenance seed sources and will be harvested for seed over the coming years.
- 4.24. An estimated 8,000 local provenance plants have been grown in 2022 at the county tree nursery. Roughly 40 sites have been allocated plug planting over the coming years. Planting days will be used to engage local communities, schools, community groups, Councillors and Community Councils.
- 4.25. A successful trial was undertaken at a site in Denbigh using yellow rattle seed (a hemi-parasitic plant which feeds off grasses). The results saw a decrease in grass abundance and density by ~30%. Building on the positive results 8kg of local yellow rattle seed has been acquired to improve additional sites.
- 4.26. 14 seed pods from the only known population of Bithynian vetch growing in Wales (located on a Denbighshire Roadside Nature Reserve), have been harvested to grow on at the county tree nursery.

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

- 5.1. The project supports biodiversity targets in the Council's Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022, which has identified bees as a priority species and aims to increase the biodiversity value of the county by protecting vulnerable species and habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and all the people who live and visit Denbighshire.

5.2. Additionally, the Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency which is focused on undertaking immediate action to slow and reverse climate change and the devastating loss of biodiversity. A key area identified for increasing biodiversity is to increase the total area of the verge habitat within the biodiversity cut and to expand on the council's roadside nature reserve network, which represents some of the best habitats for rare species.

5.3. Since 1930 the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows. England and Wales have less than 1% of the pre-war total area of unimproved lowland meadow remaining and Wales remains 16th from the bottom, in a survey of 240 countries for nature loss. Urgent and immediate work is required to restore nature and the project has shown that rapid restoration can take place through the creation of roadside meadows whilst also lowering the Council's carbon footprint.

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

6.1. The work associated with the project has been absorbed in existing workloads and budgets. Equipment has been funded via Welsh Government grants.

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

7.1. See Appendix 1 for full WIA provided to Communities Scrutiny Committee in 2021.

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

8.1. This is an update report, following attendance at Communities Scrutiny in 2021.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Not Applicable - there are no direct financial implications of this report.

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

10.1. The main risk is public perception and criticism of the Council if residents don't understand or support this project – the work to address this is outlined above.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2021

11.2. Sections 7.2.3, 7.3, 7.4.1(e), 7.4.2(b) and (c) of the Council's Constitution.

Appendix 1

Wildflower Meadow Project

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:	966
Brief description:	The creation of Wildflower Meadow Sites across the County. The sites are left uncut between March and August each year, except a small border mown around each site cut on a fortnightly schedule and a litter pick undertaken during this time too. This management regime allows the flowers to set seed, and ensures that the meadow provides the greatest benefit to wildlife. At the end of the season, the whole site is then cut with specialist mowing equipment, and the cuttings are removed. This helps to lower the richness of the soil, and create the low-nutrient ground that our native wildflowers and grasses need to thrive. If necessary, we plant native wildflowers grown from local seeds or sow seeds collected from our other sites, to increase the species richness. This is primarily within sites managed by Street Scene but hopes to be extended to more areas the Council owns or manages e.g. more public realm sites, community housing sites, care home sites etc.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Internally - Street Scene - Site grounds maintenance providers (various) - Biodiversity Team - Communication and Web team - Councillors Externally - Wildlife - Species richness - Residents - Visitors - Regulators
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 : 30 / 36.

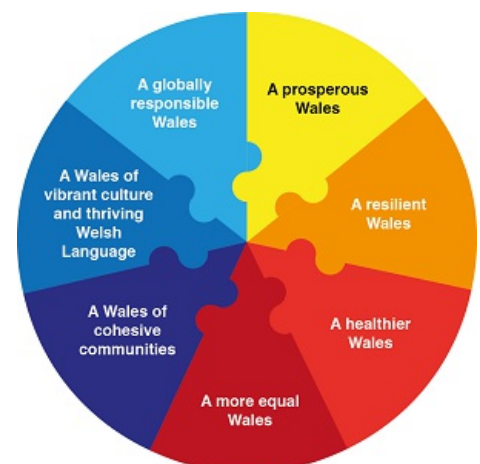
Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term	This project has the long term at its heart, building resilience of natural assets and promoting natures recovery. How to secure the legacy of the proposal in particular the sustainable management of these sites has been a consideration from the get go and funding from Welsh Government secured to procure pieces of equipment to help ensure the manageability of these sites.
Prevention	The project is about encouraging less human intervention in a number of sites across the County, thus reducing reliance on public service at these sites and giving space and time to nature to recover and prevent the further decline in species.
Integration	The aims of the Wildflower Meadow Project have been stated objectives of the council for many years now. The project was included in our Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2016-2019, forms an important part of our strategy to achieve the biodiversity targets set out in our Corporate Plan 2017-22, and our ambition to become an Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 in Climate and Ecological Change Strategy. This project also contributes to the Council's Bee Friendly status.
Collaboration	The Wildflower Meadow Project is a joint project between Highways & Environmental Service and Planning and Public Protection & Countryside Service and project managed by the Climate Change team. Biodiversity team and Street Scene teams have worked together on the project and project endorsed by external bodies such as Plantlife and Bionet.
Involvement	We continue to evolve the project in light of resident and councillor feedback as we build on the number of sites year on year.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

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



Main conclusions

As a local authority we have a statutory duty to function sustainably and lead by example when it comes to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. To meet the challenge of reversing the decline in biodiversity it is essential that we act now and ensure as a local authority we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This project outlines how, as an organisation, it can contribute to address its biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and consequently help achieve its Well-being and Nature Recovery Plan objectives over the period 2016-19. In addition to delivering on the Council's Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration and achievement of the Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 goal within our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.

The Wellbeing Impact Assessment has shown that the adoption of this document will align the council with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Although largely an internal document, the benefits will be felt by residents throughout the county.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

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

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Greener and more attractive environments in both towns and villages. Increased tourism potential. Especially as more rare species become present again within Denbighshire which may not have been recorded elsewhere in UK for decades.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	n/a
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	n/a
Economic development	Greener and more attractive environments in both towns and villages. Increased tourism potential. Especially as more rare species become present again within Denbighshire which may not have been recorded elsewhere in UK for decades.
Quality skills for the long term	Increased opportunities to develop skills in the outdoor environment sector, with opportunities for staff throughout the authority to volunteer.
Quality jobs for the long term	A greener, more attractive county offers a more attractive place to work.
Childcare	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	n/a
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	n/a
Economic development	n/a
Quality skills for the long term	n/a
Quality jobs for the long term	n/a
Childcare	n/a

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This project is all about increasing the resilience of our ecosystems and in supporting natures recovery.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The focus of this project is to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	n/a
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Removal of arisings from sites for use as feed for animals and creation of composting material
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	n/a
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	The project will engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity in peoples thinking.
Flood risk management	Restoring degraded habitats within the water catchment areas will help to slow the flow of water and reduce the likelihood of flooding. Removing arisings from sites will reduce likelihood these make there way to ditches, gullies and rivers which would prevent reduction of capacity in water routes.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	n/a
Biodiversity in the built environment	n/a
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	n/a
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	n/a
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	n/a
Flood risk management	n/a

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	
Justification for impact	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to good quality, healthy food	n/a

People's emotional and mental well-being	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to healthcare	n/a
Participation in leisure opportunities	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

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

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The project isn't focused on creating a more equal Denbighshire but is being delivered in a way that doesn't prevent equality.
Further actions required	n/a

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	Any planting days or communication material will be planned and created to enable access for all.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	n/a
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	n/a

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	Some areas for wildflower meadows will be in areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage. The benefit of nature's recovery will be felt in these areas.
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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	n/a
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	n/a
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	n/a
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	n/a

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	It is important to remember that we are not doing this for aesthetic reasons; we are doing it for the environmental benefits. However, our wildflower meadows often do still look beautiful.
Further actions required	Increasing and continual education and awareness campaigns on what wildflower meadows look like and how they develop over time.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	n/a
Community participation and resilience	Arrangement of planting days and/or wildflower identification training, as appropriate, with local residents.
The attractiveness of the area	It is important to remember that we are not doing this for aesthetic reasons; we are doing it for the environmental benefits. However, our wildflower meadows often do still look beautiful
Connected communities	n/a
Rural resilience	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	n/a
Community participation and resilience	n/a
The attractiveness of the area	Wildflower meadows sites are not pictorial meadows. Pictorial meadows are made up of mixes of plants and are often referred to as 'wildflower meadows'. Usually pictorial meadows include many non-native species, and no grasses. Pictorial meadows provide less benefits to biodiversity and need regular, costly maintenance.
Connected communities	n/a
Rural resilience	n/a

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This project has a positive contribution to make to securing a vibrant culture in Denbighshire based on survival of species of Welsh and UK importance. That heritage of nature's survival and encouragement is something that can be built on and marketed to celebrate locally and nationally.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	n/a
Promoting the Welsh language	All signage and promotion material bilingual with Welsh featuring first
Culture and heritage	After just one year of changing management at these sites, we have recorded common spotted orchids in Stryd y Brython, Ruthin, as well as Hound's-Tongue and Toothed Medick at two of our Prestatyn sites. Toothed Medick has never had a confirmed record in Wales and Hound's-Tongue is a near-threatened plant on the GB red list, and has only been recorded 18 times in Denbighshire in the last 116 years. We also have a suspected record of sea-clover at Plas Lorna, which is a nationally scarce plant recorded just once before in North Wales, and recorded several hornet hoverflies at another site in Rhuddlan.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	n/a
Promoting the Welsh language	n/a
Culture and heritage	n/a

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Project has a positive contribution to make because of its explicit intervention in reducing nature's decline.
Further actions required	Use local stockist or suppliers for specialist equipment who source equipment from further afield.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Local plants and seeds of local provenance will be used as supplementary planting/support to the development of the sites.
Human rights	n/a
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	n/a
Reducing climate change	The project is specifically about slowing and reversing nature's decline

Negative impacts identified:

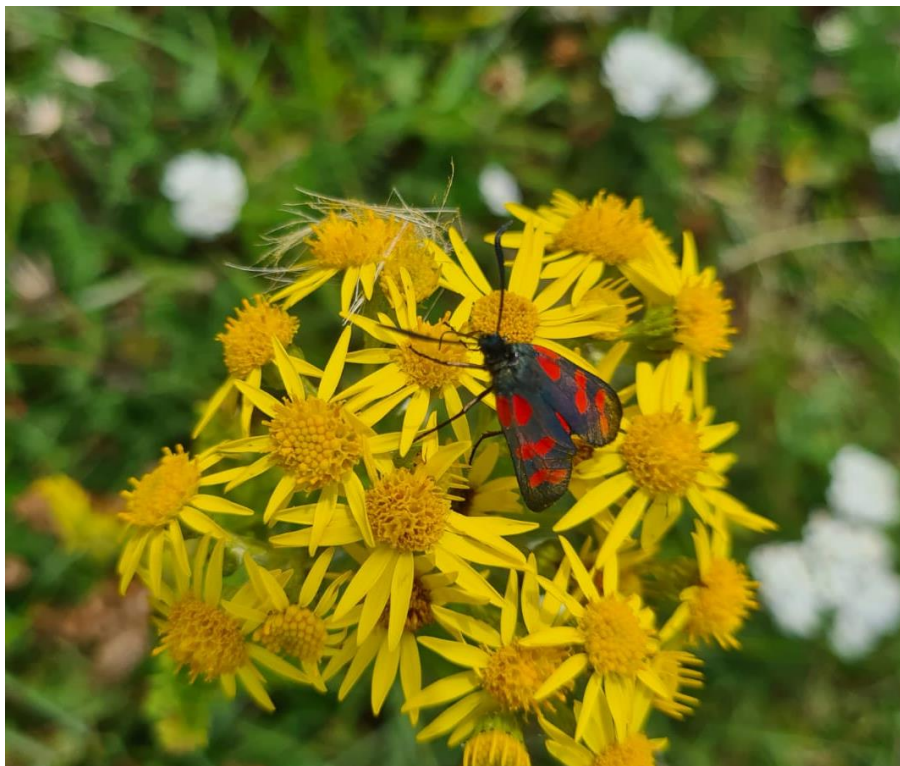
Local, national, international supply chains	Specialist equipment required tends to not be manufactured in Wales/UK, rather on mainland Europe
Human rights	n/a
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	n/a
Reducing climate change	n/a

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Appendix 2

Wildflower Project: Report to Scrutiny Committee for species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959



Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
Injurious Weeds on Wildflower Project Sites 2022.....	5
Assessing the Risk Posed by Common Ragwort (and Other Species Listed on the Weeds Act, 1959).	7
Controlling Common Ragwort (And Other Species Listed on the Weeds Act, 1959).....	18
When will action be taken?.....	18
What action will be taken?.....	18

Introduction

The control and reporting of injurious weeds is subject to the Weeds Act, 1959.

There are five weeds classified as injurious under the Weeds Act 1959. These are:

- Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobae*)
- Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- Creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)
- Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*)

It is not an offence to have injurious weeds growing on our land. The Weeds Act, 1959, states the following:

"(1) Where the minister of Agriculture fish and food (in this act referred to as ' the Minister') is satisfied that there are injurious weeds to which this act applies growing upon any land he may serve upon the occupier of the land a notice, to take such action as may be necessary to prevent the weeds from spreading."

Unless served with a notice, there is no requirement to control or remove any of the species listed above.

These are common and widespread species, found throughout Denbighshire. They all have significant biodiversity benefits, and support a wide range of species. The Code of Practice to Prevent and Control the Spread of Ragwort (November 2011) states

*"This guidance does not seek to eradicate ragwort because as a native plant it is very important for wildlife in the UK. It supports many species of wildlife, including Common broomrape (*Orobanche minor*), 14 species of fungi and many different invertebrates, such as moth caterpillars, thrips, plant bugs, flies, beetles and mites. With the decline in flowering plant diversity in the countryside, ragwort has assumed an increasing importance as a source of food for generalist nectar feeding insects in the late summer.*

Ragwort is the food plant of at least 77 species of foliage eating insects, including five 'Red Data Book' and eight 'nationally scarce' species. The most well known is the cinnabar moth (Tyria jacobaeae). At least 30 species of insects are confined to ragwort and some species use the ragwort flowers as territory markers or vantage points to find passing prey or mates. Others are more closely associated with taking ragwort pollen, and more than 170 species have been recorded feeding on ragwort nectar. This important source of insects is exploited by many species of birds and mammals."

Additionally, the Ragwort Control Act 2003 has updated the guidance on control required for this plant. This updated guidance recommends ragwort control only when there is a risk to grazing horses and livestock, such as in grazing paddocks.

Ragwort requires bare ground for seeds to germinate, and the management of the Wildflower Project Sites does not generally provide the conditions for the species to proliferate. Caution is required, as many of the control measures which could be used (such as cutting and pulling) can increase the abundance of ragwort.

It is therefore imperative that we follow a scientific approach to the control of these species, on a case by case basis, and only act where they pose a risk.



Photo 1: Common Ragwort providing nectar for pollinating insects.

Injurious Weeds on Wildflower Project Sites 2022.

As stated above, the species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959 are common and widespread species, found throughout Denbighshire. It is, therefore, no surprise that they have been recorded on a number of sites included in Denbighshire County Council's Wildflower Project. There are over 100 sites included within the Wildflower Project and the total number of sites where each species has been recorded is included in the table below.

Injurious Weed Species	Number of Wildflower Project Sites Where Recorded
Common ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobae</i>)	56 (rare), 9 (occasional), 1 (frequent)
Spear thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	22 (rare), 2 (occasional), 1 (frequent)
Creeping or field thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	12 (rare), 6 (occasional)
Broad-leaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>)	18 (rare), 2 (occasional), 1 (frequent)
Curled dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>)	41 (rare), 8 (occasional), 2 (frequent)

Table 1: Number of sites where Injurious Weeds Act species were recorded, and their abundance using the DAFOR scale.

As expected, these species are found in a number of Wildflower Project Sites. However, the abundance at the vast majority of sites is relatively low and in line with their natural occurrence in unimproved and semi-improved grassland systems.

It should be noted that many of the species are perennial or biennial, and were recorded in flower on sites during their first year in the project. This indicates that the species were already present, but likely suppressed by the frequent mowing schedules previously in place.

The Code of Practice to Prevent and Control the Spread of Ragwort states *“In many situations ragwort poses no threat to horses and other livestock. It is a natural component of many types of unimproved grasslands. It is necessary to prevent its spread where it presents a high risk of poisoning horses and livestock or spreading to fields used for the production of forage”*

The Code of practice provides the following risk categories as guidelines, for assessing the risk posed by common ragwort:

Medium Risk:

Ragwort is present within 50m to 100m of land used for grazing by horses and other animals or land used for feed/forage production.

High Risk:

Ragwort is present and flowering/seeding within 50m of land used for grazing by horses and other animals or land used for feed/forage production.

The Code of Practice to Prevent and Control the Spread of Ragwort states *“The distances given above are guidelines only and when assessing risk, account should also be taken of particular local circumstances and other relevant factors such as prevailing winds, topography, shelter belts, natural barriers, and vegetation cover of receiving land. Whether or not the density of ragwort is high or low, the risk factor will be determined by the likelihood of it spreading to land used for grazing and/or feed/forage production.”*

Assessing the Risk Posed by Common Ragwort (and Other Species Listed on the Weeds Act, 1959).

As outlined above, our aim is not to eradicate common ragwort (or other species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959), but to ensure we assess the risk posed by these species on a site by site basis and act accordingly.

The majority of these sites are located in urban and peri-urban settings, well away from land used for livestock grazing and horse pasture. Furthermore, many of the sites are separated from nearby agricultural land by physical barriers such as hedging, fencing, buildings. The vegetation cover of the land on the wildflower sites, and the agricultural land near to these sites, also reduces the risk.

Regular surveys are undertaken at each site, and the presence and abundance of common ragwort, along with other species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959 is recorded. This provides accurate information on these species at Wildflower Project Sites.

Using the risk categories, and taking into account local conditions, we have been able to categorise the sites as low, medium and high risk. This is shown in the table below. This methodology has been extended to include all species listed on the Weeds Act 1959.

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Wildflower Project Site Risk Categories			
Site Name	Notes	local circumstances and other relevant factors	Assessed Risk
Green Lane 2	A small corner of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	A footpath, road and a metal fence	High
Green Lane 1	Around a quarter of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field. Barrier	A footpath, road and a metal fence	High
Green Lane / B5437	Most of the 50m buffer extends into neighbouring fields.	A footpath, road, a small hedge and a fence	High
B4401 Embankment	A small amount of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	A safety swathe, footpath, road, short wall and trees	High
ATS Roundabout	A small amount of 100m buffer extends into neighbouring fields.	Site well separated from grazing land by a safety swathe, main road, grass verge, footpath, grass verge and a high hedge with stands of trees.	Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Ffordd Y Graig	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field use for growing crops.	No grazing land within 50m. Site is well separated from neighbouring farmland by an 8ft hedge	Low
Parc Alafowlia Fields	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land by a border cut around the site, 8ft+ hedge, a wide grassed verge, A525, large grassed embankment verge with +8ft hedgerow and trees	Low
Dalar Wen	Urban		Low
Y Maes Playing Area	Urban		Low
Y Maes Walkway	Urban		Low
Cysgodfa Walkway	Urban		Low
Ffordd Colomendy	Urban		Low
Llys Gwydyr Field	Urban		Low
Lon Cerys	Urban		Low
Cysgod y Graig 3	An area of the 100m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	Site well separated from grazing land by residential properties, roads, footpaths and a large hedgerow	Low
Cysgod y Graig 2	A very small area of the 100m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	Site well separated from grazing land by residential properties, roads, footpaths and a large hedgerow	Low
Cysgod y Graig 1	Urban		Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Accar-Y-Forwyn	Urban		Low
Stryd-Y-Dyffryn	Urban		Low
Denbigh High Active Travel	The 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	A large hedge and some mature trees	High
Lon Tywysof Corridor	Urban		Low
A525 End of Bypass	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land. Border cut around site, footpath, A525, footpath, grassed verge and hedgerow	Low
Ruthin Road roundabout	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land. Border cut around site, footpath, A525, footpath, grassed verge and hedgerow	Low
Llys Catrin	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land. Border cut around site, footpath, A525, footpath, grassed verge and hedgerow	Low
Ruthin Road	An area of the 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land. Border cut around site, footpath, A525, footpath, grassed verge and hedgerow	Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Weavers Lane	A small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	Site well separated from grazing land. Inclined site with a footpath, road and a row of 2 story homes with large rear gardens above	Medium
A5151 Newmarket Road	The 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	High steep embankment topped with large established hedgerow	Medium
Llindir Street	The 50m bufer extends into a neighbouring field.	A safety cut on site, a road, a pub carpark and a steep inclined embankment topped with a hedgerow	Medium
B5428 Triangle	The 50m bufer extends into a neighbouring field.	A safety cut on site, a road, a pub carpark and a steep inclined embankment topped with a hedgerow	Medium
Henllan Top Park	The 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	An inclined slope with hedgerow	High
Parc-Y-Llan	A very small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	Site well separated from grazing land by residential properties, a road and a large treeline/hedgerow	Medium
The Bridges	Urban		Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Druid Inn A494	A very small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	Site well separated from grazing land by land gradient, with very large border cut around site, A494, footpath, mature treeline and narrow woodland	Medium
Cae'r Felin	A very small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	Site well separated from grazing land by a large mature hedge approximately 15ft, a grassed verge, footpath, grassed verge, A525, footpath and a range of commercial businesses, car parks, a hedgerow with mature trees and approximately 8 residential properties	Low
Llanrhaeadr A525	The 50m buffer extends into neighbouring fields.	Site well separated from grazing land to rear by high hedgerow.	High
Meliden Embankment	The 50m buffer extends into nearby fields.	An inclined site with a border cut around site, footpaths, Meliden Road, high established hedgerows with mature trees and multiple large residential properties	Medium
Maes Lliwen	The 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	A border cut around site, footpath, road, a small stream and a high hedgerow with mature trees - gaps in hedgerow	High
Beach Road West	Urban		Low
Bastion Road Crazy Golf Field	Urban		Low
Bastion Road Park	Urban		Low
Coed Mor drive	Urban		Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Plas Uchaf Avenue	Urban		Low
Ffordd Parc Bodnant Field	The 50m buffer extends into nearby fields.	Site well separated from grazing land by a large mature treeline, border cut around site, footpath, Prestatyn Road, Ffordd Parc Bodnant and hedgerows	Medium
Beach Road East	Urban		Low
Llys Aled	Urban		Low
North Wales Bowls Centre	Urban		Low
Ceg-Y-Ffordd	Urban		Low
Ffordd Penrhwylyfa	Urban		Low
Cardiff Way	Urban		Low
Deva Evangelical church	Urban		Low
Heather Crescent	The 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	A small stream bordered by mature treeline	Medium
Rhyd Y Byll Embankment	The 50m buffer extends into neighbouring fields.	A large wall topped with vegetation, mature hedgerow and farm hardstanding - small farm gate and entrance	Medium
Abergele Road	The 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	A safety swathe cut around site, Ffordd Abergele, a small ditch and a mature hedgerow	Medium
Vicarage lane	Urban		Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Plas Lorna	A small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	An inclined site, A547, grassed verges, footpath and cycle path, mature hedgerow and trees - low fence line	High
Ffordd Nant	Urban		Low
Glos Gladstone	Urban		Low
Pavilion and Splash Point Promenade	Urban		Low
Hilton Drive/Splashpoint	Urban		Low
Rugby Club Walkway	Urban		Low
Walnut Crescent 1	Urban		Low
Walnut Crescent 2	Urban		Low
Llys Brenig Park	Urban		Low
Maes-Y-Gog	Urban		Low
Violet Grove Park	Urban		Low
Cambrian Walk	The 100m buffer extends into a nearby crop field.	Site well separated from grazing land by mature woodland, footpaths, a large number of detached residential properties, mature high hedgerows and a stream	Low
Bryn Cwnin	The 50m buffer extends into a neighbouring field.	Site well separated from grazing land by a mature tree lined hedgerow which becomes a narrow woodland in places	Medium
Coronation Gardens	Urban		Low
Marine Lake	Urban		Low
County Hall	Urban		Low

Wildflower Project: Weeds Act, 1959 Scrutiny Update

Station Road	Urban		Low
Pen Y Maes	Urban		Low
Bro Deg	A small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby crop field.	A site border, footpath, 13 detached residential properties, mature trees and a large mature hedgerow	Low
Erw Goch	Urban		Low
Stryd Y Brython Park	Urban		Low
Stryd y Brython	Urban		Low
Tesco roundabout	Urban		Low
Glasdir A525 Verge 2	The 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	The site is roughly 1ft wide, Ruthin North Link Road, footpath and cycle path, a mature hedgerow and has a small woodland running along it between the site and one of the fields.	Low
Glasdir A525 Verge 1	Urban		Low
Glasdir roundabout	A very small area of the 50m buffer extends into a nearby field.	Safety swathe cut around the site, the Ruthin North Link Road, footpath, grassed verges and a woodland consisting of mature trees and shrubs	Low
Cae Ddol	The 50m buffer extends into neighbouring field.	A wire fence line. * Neighbouring field is currently showing an abundance of nearly all mentioned weed species and is most-likely sending seeds into Cae Ddol	Low
Roe Parc	Urban	N/A	Low

Nant-Y-Patrick	A small area of the 50m buffer extends into nearby fields.	An inclined site, border cut around site, hedgerows, mature trees and a residential property - fence line and field entrances	High
Upper Denbigh Road	The 50m buffer extends into neighbouring fields.	High mature hedgerows, footpath, mature trees and Upper Denbigh Road	Medium

Table 2: Wildflower Project Risk Categories.

The five sites which had frequent abundances of species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959, were not recorded as high risk sites. These were:

- Y Maes Walkway, Denbigh
- Llindir Street, Henllan
- Rhyd Y Byll Embankment, Rhewl
- Splash Point, Rhyl; and
- Rugby Club Walkway, Rhyl.

This risk table will be updated on an annual basis, as new projects are added to the site local conditions (land use, natural barriers, etc) change.

The abundance of plants on sites is recorded using the DAFOR scale:

- D = Dominant (more than 75% of the plants are this species)
- A = Abundant (50-75%),
- F = Frequent (25-50%),
- O = Occasional (10-25%) and;
- R = Rare (less than 10% of the plants are this species).

Common ragwort and other injurious weeds will be accepted on all sites, at levels recorded as occasional and rare. Above this, control will be implemented at high risk locations, as outlined in Table 2.



Photo 2: Hoverfly feeding on Common Ragwort.

Controlling Common Ragwort (And Other Species Listed on the Weeds Act, 1959).

Using the approach outlined above, we are able to identify the risk posed by the presence of common ragwort and other injurious weeds, on a site by site basis.

When will action be taken?

Where a low risk is identified:

No immediate action is required.

Where a medium risk is identified:

Continue to monitor, and take action to control the spread of the species in question should the risk change from medium to high.

Where a high risk is identified:

Take action to control the spread of ragwort (or other species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959) using an appropriate control technique, when they appear at greater abundance than “occasional”.

What action will be taken?

As a biennial plant, common ragwort dies after it has set seed in its' second year. Allowing this process to take place is likely to be one of the most effective ways to control the abundance of the species on Wildflower Project sites. These sites have permanent grass cover, and lack the bare ground to allow the seeds to germinate. While it is accepted that some action may be required on some sites, it should be noted that control methods such as cutting/pulling have the potential to extend the life of the plant, or allow it to regenerate from root cuttings left in the soil. As all of these sites fall within Denbighshire County Council's “Bee Friendly” project, the use of herbicides is not acceptable.

Where a high risk has been identified, and abundance of ragwort (or other injurious weeds act species) is “frequent” or greater, plants will be levered or pulled by hand. This will take

place once or twice in the early summer, when the ground is moist, to ensure that the roots are removed intact. Ragwort will be double bagged, and disposed of at landfill.

Conclusion

Common ragwort (and the other species listed on the Weeds Act, 1959) are native species, and key components to unimproved grassland habitats. They support a wide range of important and declining wildlife, some of which rely solely on these species for their survival.

Whilst there are limited circumstances where these species may need to be controlled, our aim is not to eradicate these species from Wildflower Project Sites. This is in line with the guidance set out in the code of practice.

We have outlined the approach we will take to assess sites, how they will be monitored, and the measures which will be taken should action be required. This is an evidence based approach, which will ensure that wildlife and livestock are protected and the Wildflower Project

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	8 September 2022
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 Communities Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme (see Appendix 1). As part of its review 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 work underway under the recovery phase, whilst also prioritising matters which the Committee deems important to scrutinise.

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 Scrutiny's business agenda they have to submit a formal request to the SCVCG seeking Scrutiny to consider 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.

- 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 held its first meeting of the new Council term on 28 July 2022.
- 5.2 A number of requests for items to be scrutinised were considered by the Group during the above meeting. Consequently, the Group asked this Committee to consider two matters. It has extended an invitation to representatives from the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) to attend a meeting to discuss the Service's response times to emergency callouts. It also requested this Committee to consider a report on the Introduction of the 20mph Speed Limit on the County's Road Network. Both items have been listed for presentation to the Committee at its meeting on 8 December 2022. Further information on the purpose of the discussions and the expected outcomes of scrutinising the matters can be found in Appendix 1 attached.
- 5.3 The Group's next meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of 8 September 2022.

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's 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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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
20 October	Cllr. Win Mullen-James	1. Mistreatment of Dogs	To examine the extent of legal and illegal dog sales within Denbighshire (particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic) – including the number of complaints received, investigated and substantiated and how various agencies work together to tackle any problems are reported	Determination of whether working relationships need to be strengthened or improved in order to deal with any problems or deter future problems in relation to this matter with a view to supporting the viability of properly licensed traders to operate thus reducing the suffering of the animals	Emlyn Jones/Gareth Roberts/Glesni Owen	By SCVCG September 2021 (rescheduled Feb 2022)
	Cllr. Barry Mellor	2. <i>New Waste and Recycling Model (timing tbc)</i>	<i>To detail the outcomes of the pilot projects in West Rhyl (use of microchips in waste containers), Bron y Crêst (communal bin service change) and the Elected</i>	<i>Following assessing the lessons learnt from the pilot projects and initiatives to make recommendations that will support the effective roll-out and delivery of the new waste and recycling with a view to enhancing the benefits of the project for the Council and for local residents</i>	<i>Tony Ward/Tara Dumas</i>	<i>December 2021</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				<i>Members Recycling Experience initiatives (tbc)</i>			
	Cllr. Win Mullen-James	3.	<i>Second Homes and Short-term Holiday lets (timing tbc – once the details of the WG proposals are known and their impact have been fully assessed)</i>	<i>To report the findings and conclusions of the Welsh Government's study in relation to addressing the impact of second home ownership in Wales, including its proposals for reviewing the regulatory framework and system as they apply to holiday accommodation, along with national and local taxation systems (the WG's "three-pronged approach to address [the] second homes crisis"</i>	<i>(i) An assessment of the proposals' anticipated impact on Denbighshire County Council, residents, businesses and local economy (ii) Formulation of recommendations with a view to realising maximum benefits for the Council, residents businesses and the economy, or for mitigating the impact of any risks that may arise from any proposals</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Angela Loftus/Lara Griffiths/Paul Barnes/Gareth Roberts</i>	<i>June 2022</i>
8 December	Cllr. Elen Heaton	1.	Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	To discuss ambulance response times to	Identify potential solutions that can be delivered via effective partnership	WAST/Denbighshire Social Services	By SCVCG July 2022

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Jason Killens (Chief Executive) and Estelle Hitchon (Director of Partnerships and Engagement) from WAST (attending via Zoom – attendance confirmed)			emergency callouts and understand the reasons for extended delays	working that will improve outcomes for residents and service providers		
	Councillor Barry Mellor	2. Introduction of 20mph speed limit on the county's road network	To examine the potential impact of introducing the new 20mph speed limit on the county's road network and any discretion available to the authority in relation to its implementation	A detailed understating of the extent and impact of the new statutory speed limit to be introduced on sections of the Council's road network in order to ensure that the authority has a robust and effective communication strategy to inform residents of the changes and the reasons behind them.		By SCVCG July 2022
	Cllr. Win Mullen-James	3. Draft Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire (tbc)	To examine the draft Tourism Signage Strategy for the county developed by the	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	Mike Jones/Peter McDermott	March 2020 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 Sept & Dec 20, Sept 2021

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
				<i>Working Group including potential funding sources and the anticipated timescale for the Strategy's delivery</i>	<i>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>& Jan 2022 by SCVCG)</i>
19 January 2023							
9 March							
4 May							
29 June	Cllr. Barry Mellor	1.	<i>Llangollen Car Park Tariff Pilot Scheme</i>	<i>To outline the effectiveness of the pilot scheme for varying car park tariffs in Llangollen</i>	<i>Identification of lessons learnt from the pilot scheme's implementation and operation in readiness for the introduction of similar schemes in other areas in future</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Mike Jones/Peter Lea</i>	<i>January 2021</i>
	Cllr. Barry Mellor	2.	<i>Flood Risk Working Group</i>	<i>To consider a report on the work of the multi-agency and riparian landowners information sharing working group</i>	<i>Ensuring: (i) all communication channels are open and being used effectively to inform and advise residents and stakeholders alike; (ii) that all information on relevant developments and proposals are being shared between flood risk authorities and stakeholders in a timely manner</i>	<i>Tony Ward/Wayne Hope</i>	<i>March 2022</i>
	Leader	3.	<i>Rhyl Regeneration</i>	<i>To examine the effectiveness of the Programme</i>	<i>Identification of any barriers or slippages and the formulation of recommendations to try and address</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Nicola</i>	<i>June 2022</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			Programme and Governance	Board's work in delivering the regeneration programme to date	them and sustain the delivery of the programme to secure the regeneration of Rhyl to benefit the economy and the lives of the town's residents and the county in general	<i>Kneale/Lois Lambie</i>	
7 September							
19 October							
7 December							

Future Issues

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

For future years

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Information/Consultation Reports

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author(s)	Date Entered
INFORMATION (for circulation autumn 2022 <i>once work has been undertaken</i>)	Community Impact Assessment on the communities of Rhewl and Llanynys	To present the findings of the community impact assessment undertaken following the closure of Ysgol Rhewl as agreed as part of the modernising education programme	Geraint Davies/James Curran	December 2020

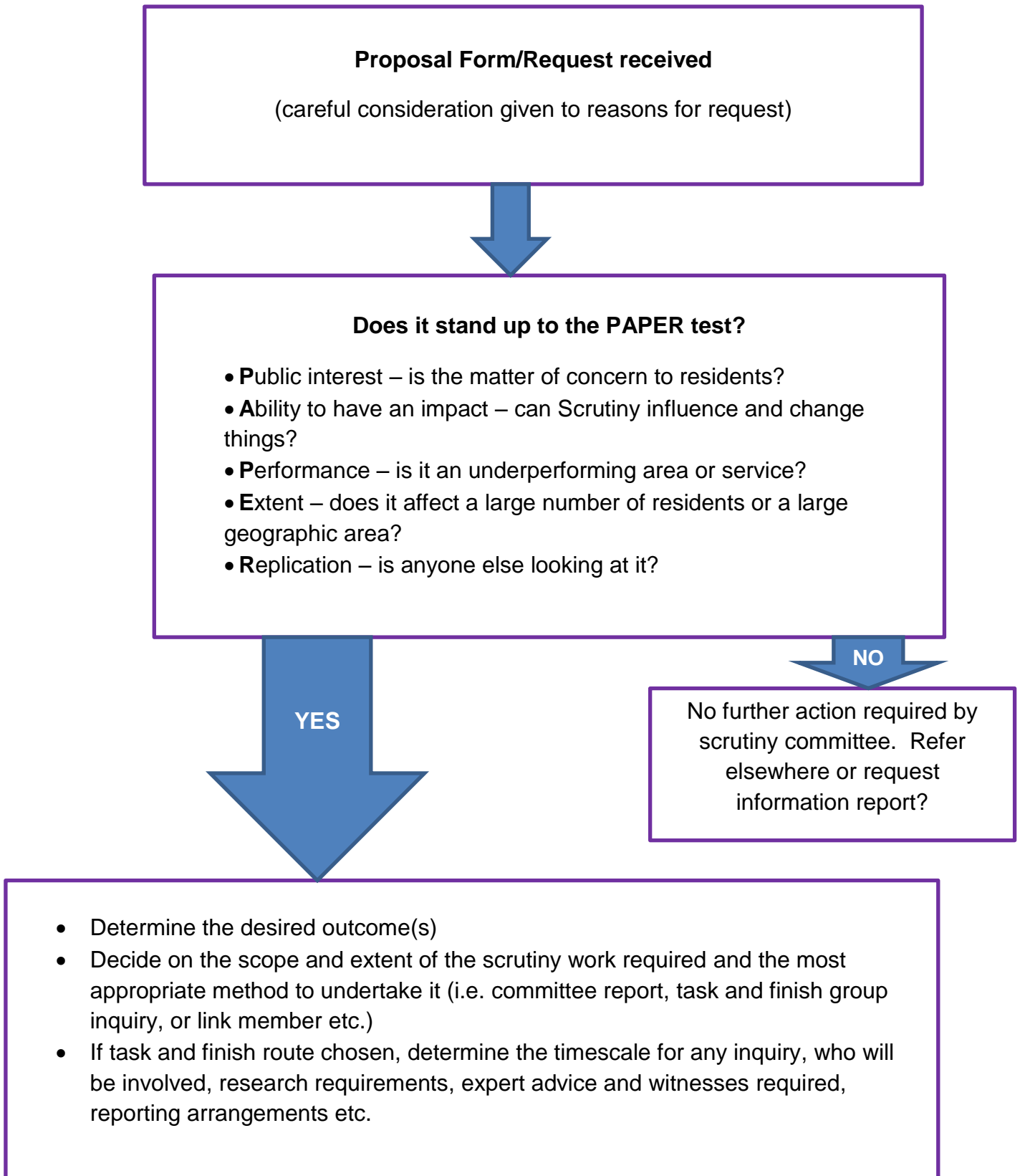
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
20 October	6 October	8 December	24 November	19 January 2023	5 January 2023

22/08/2022 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
20 Sept	1	Annual Treasury Management Report 2021-22	To give a review of the Treasury Management activities over the previous financial year (2021-22)	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer Steve Gadd Report Author Rhys Ifor Jones
	2	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	To review the findings of the consultation and to consider the publishing of the statutory notice	Tbc	Cllr Gill German Geraint Davies / James Curran
	3	North Wales Market Stability Report 2022	To provide an overview of the Market Stability Report, which has been produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and assesses the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demands as set out in the Population Needs Assessment and the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support	Tbc	Cllrs Elen Heaton and Gill German Lead Officers Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd / Rhian Morrille
	4	Creation of a Nutrient Management Board for the	To provide an update on the proposal to create a Nutrient	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer Emlyn Jones

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		River Dee catchment area	Management Board and agree member representation on the Board		Report Author Angela Loftus
	5	Council Housing Major External Repairs – Decarbonisation Works Rhydwen Drive Phase 2	To award the contract for the continuation of the decarbonisation works along the street without losing continuity	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer David Lorey Report Author Katrina Allen
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
18 Oct	1	Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme and Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme	To seek endorsement to proceed with the schemes	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer Tony Ward
	2	District Heating System Proposal Betws Gwerfil Goch	To present the outcome of the consultation and engagement exercise DCC have carried out with the owner occupiers and council tenants of Betws GG, with regard to a district heating	Tbc	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer David Lorey Report Author Mark Cassidy

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			system proposal.		
	3	Queen's Market: Operator Contract Award	Following the culmination of the procurement process to appoint an operator for the Queen's Market in Rhyl, approval is sought from Cabinet to award a contract to the preferred tenderer	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer Emlyn Jones Report Author Russ Vaughan
	4	Review of Cabinet Decision relating to the Proposed Scheme of Delegated Decision Making for Land Acquisition (Freehold and Leasehold) for Carbon Sequestration and Ecological Improvement Purposes	To reconsider Cabinet's original decision, with a view to expediting the decision making process for purchasing land, taking into account the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations thereon	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Report Author Jane Hodgson
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
22 Nov	1	Council Performance Update – July to September	To consider the Council's performance in delivering	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer Nicola Kneale

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			against the council's strategic plan and services		Report Author Iolo McGregor
	2	Temporary Accommodation Support Project	To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the project	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer Ann Lloyd Report Author Hayley Jones
	3	Draft Sustainable Transport Plan	To seek Cabinet approval of the draft Sustainable Transport Plan for consultation	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer/Report Author Mike Jones
	4	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
13 Dec	1	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/24	To seek approval for the proposed annual rent increase for council housing and to approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2023/24 and Housing Stock Business Plan	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Geoff Davies
	2	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	To consider the final OBC /	Tbc	Cllr Gill German

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		FBC for the proposed new building for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn		Lead Officer Geraint Davies Report Author James Curran
	3	Finance Report	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>20 September</i>	<i>6 September</i>	<i>18 October</i>	<i>4 October</i>	<i>22 November</i>	<i>8 November</i>

Updated 23/08/2022 – KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
30 June 2022	6. Rhyl Regeneration Programme	RESOLVED subject to the above: <i>(i) to receive and agree the report; and (ii) request that a further monitoring report be presented to the Committee on an annual basis.</i>	Lead Member and officers advised of the resolution and a further monitoring report has been scheduled into the Committee's forward work programme for its meeting on 29 June 2023 (see Appendix 1).
	7. Second Homes and Short-Term Holiday Lets	RESOLVED: subject to the above observations - <i>(i) to receive the report; and (ii) to request that an update report be presented to the Committee when the full results of the Welsh Government consultation were published.</i>	Lead Members and officers informed of the recommendations. An update report has been scheduled for presentation to the Committee at its meeting on 20 October 2022 (see Appendix 1)

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