

To: Members of the Partnerships
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7 December 2023

Direct Dial: 01824 712554

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Monitoring Officer

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 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR (Pages 5 - 6)

To appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

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

5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 7 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 October 2023 (copy attached).

6 SETTING OF AFFORDABLE RENT LEVELS (Pages 17 - 36)

To consider a report from the Senior Strategy Officer- Strategic Planning and Housing, on the Setting of Affordable Rent Levels.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 37 - 58)

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

8 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Joan Butterfield (Chair)

Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones
Kelly Clewett
Pauline Edwards
Bobby Feeley
Brian Jones

Terry Mendies
Raj Metri
Arwel Roberts
David Williams
Elfed Williams

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

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'.

This page is intentionally left blank

Role Description for the **Chair/Vice-Chair of Scrutiny and Scrutiny member** (as detailed in the Council's Constitution)

Role: Scrutiny Member/Chair

Salary: Band 3 (Chair only)

Please note: items highlighted are specific to the role of Chair (and in their absence the Vice-Chair)

1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- To Full Council

2. PURPOSE OF ROLE

- **Providing leadership and direction**
- To participate fully in the activities of the Scrutiny Committee, the development and delivery of its work programme and any associated task and finish groups.
- To assist in the development and monitor impact of Council policy
- To hold the executive to account, monitoring performance and service delivery and challenge decisions through the call in arrangements where appropriate.
- To develop a forward work programme of the committee.
- To report on progress against the work programme to Council, and others as appropriate
- **To provide confident and effective management of meetings to facilitate inclusivity, participation and clear decision making ensuring that meeting objectives are met, and the code of conduct, standing orders and other constitutional requirements are adhered to.**
- **To act as a focus for liaison between the council, community and external bodies in relation to the scrutiny function.**
- **To encourage effective contributions from all committee members in both committee and task and finish groups**
- **To assess individual and collective performance within the committee and liaise with the relevant Group Leader to progress training and development opportunities.**
- Fulfil the accountabilities of the elected member role.

3. VALUES and EXPECTATIONS

- To be committed to the values of Denbighshire County Council and the following values in public office:
 - Pride
 - Integrity
 - Respect
 - Unity
 - Attend all relevant meetings

- Carry out business electronically i.e. meetings and communication, wherever possible
- To attend mandatory training as specified in the code of conduct and the constitution.
- To participate in an annual development review to continually improve the performance of the member and the Council.
- To explain and account for personal performance as a County Councillor on a regular basis, particularly through the publication of an Annual Report on the Council's web site.

PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and by Video Conference on Thursday, 26 October 2023 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Joan Butterfield (Chair), Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Kelly Clewett, Pauline Edwards, Brian Jones, Terry Mendies, Arwel Roberts, David Williams and Elfed Williams

Lead Member- Lead Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Rhys Thomas was in attendance at the Committee's invitation.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director- Governance and Business (GW), Head of Corporate Support Services - Performance, Digital & Assets (HVE), Strategic Planning Team Manager (NK), Community Safety Partnership Manager (ST), Scrutiny Co-ordinator (RE), and Committee Administrators (SJ and NH).

North Wales Police Representative: Kevin Smith (KS), District Inspector for business items 5 and 6.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bobby Feeley.

Apologies were also received from the Corporate Director: Social Services and Education, Nicola Stubbins. Gary Williams, Corporate Director: Governance and Business was therefore in attendance in the role of Corporate Executive Team's (CET) advisor to the Committee.

The Committee was notified that Councillor Peter Scott had resigned his position on the Committee to fulfil his role as Vice-Chair of County Council, following the untimely passing of the Council's elected Chair, the late Councillor Peter Prendergast. The Conservative Group had appointed Councillor Brian Jones to replace Councillor Scott as one of its representatives on the Committee. As a consequence of Councillor Scott's resignation, the office of Committee Vice-Chair was vacant. However, as the notification of the change in membership had been received after the publication of the meeting's business agenda, an item of business to appoint a new Vice-Chair would therefore be included on the Committee's December 2023 business agenda.

The Committee Chair thanked Councillor Peter Scott for his diligent work as Vice-Chair and for all his support to her as Chair. She also extended a warm welcome to Councillor Jones as a member of the Committee.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests of a personal or personal and prejudicial interest were declared.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No matters of an urgent nature had been raised with the Chair or the Scrutiny Coordinator prior to the commencement of the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday, 14 September 2023 were submitted. The Committee:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 be received and approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Matters arising:

Page 9, Business item 5, 'North Denbighshire Community Hospital Project' – the Scrutiny Coordinator confirmed that enquiries had been made with the Monitoring Officer on whether any statutory rules existed compelling Welsh Government Ministers to respond to business cases or funding requests within a specific timeframe. The Monitoring Officer had advised that he was not aware of the existence of any statutory timeframes relating to such matters.

Prior to proceeding with the next items of business the Scrutiny Coordinator advised members that:

The Committee would be discussing business items 5 & 6 in its capacity as the Council's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the requirements of sections 19 and 20 of the Police & Justice Act 2006.

5 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL UPDATE FOR 2022/23

The Chair welcomed the Lead Member and officers to the meeting. The Scrutiny Co-ordinator introduced each officer present at the meeting.

The Lead Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Rhys Thomas introduced the annual Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) Annual Report for 2022/23. He welcomed the North Wales Police representative, District Inspector Kevin Smith, to the meeting who was in attendance at the request of the Committee. He reminded Members it was a statutory requirement that an annual report be presented to the Committee.

The Head of Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital & Assets thanked the Lead Member for the introduction and expanded by saying that the report fell under Section 6 of the Crime Disorder Act for an annual report to be prepared, to demonstrate the achievements of the Local Community Safety Partnership.

She introduced Sian Taylor, the Community Safety Partnership Manager to the Committee. Sian worked for Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council.

Three elements were included within the report. Those were:

- To look at the previous year, to provide a performance update and crime statistics.
- To provide information for the current year 2023/24.
- To provide information on the finance and funding of the Conwy and Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership.

It was highlighted to Members the resources for the CSP were very limited. The Head of Service offered her thanks to Sian and the officers for the work done under the constraints of limited resources.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager thanked the Committee for inviting her to present the paper. She guided members to appendix 1 which detailed the performance report for April 2022- March 2023 for Denbighshire. Members were reminded that there were 3 priority areas that were monitored. With specific targets to achieve. Of the three main priority areas of work for the Community Safety Partnership at the end of March 2023 two were acceptable and the third was good. The reason two had been set as acceptable had been due to an increase in the number of theft and handling, vehicle crime, sexual offences and the youth reoffending rate. It was noted a reduction in all other types of crimes had been recorded.

A brief summary of each priority was provided. The first priority had been to work collectively as a partnership to reduce crime and disorder. Work on victim based crime and community based issues had taken place. Representatives from partners from those areas met to discuss concerns and agree actions. Officers encouraged participation in the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) that discussed the high level domestic abuse in order to put in place mitigating actions to safeguard individuals.

The second priority focused on working collectively to reduce the level of reoffending. Partnership working with the Police and Probation Service was vital for this priority to progress. Members were informed of a cross county organised crime group (OCG) which was a partnership group that met monthly to discuss issues such as County Lines crime and ways of combating organised crime in the area.

The third priority looked at the local and regional priorities. Collective working took place when there was a need to manage anti-social behaviour. Often the CSP brought teams together to discuss any joint working that would benefit partners and communities.

Work collectively to raise domestic abuse and sexual abuse awareness continued. Including press releases and initiatives like lighting up local landmarks in white to provide a visual to engage with individuals and raise awareness. Third sector colleagues often attended sports clubs to encourage white ribbon day to gain support for domestic violence not being acceptable.

Members were provided with further detail around some of the key areas of statistics noted in the papers. Members were guided to the data around adult reoffending in Denbighshire, the data showed a reduction in the number of reoffending recorded during the last year. Officers attended offender management partnership meetings. This enabled officers to gain information at those meetings on any emerging issues which would help shape the CSP's approach going forward. 15 less adult repeat offences were recorded during the period. Conwy County Borough Council had seen a greater reduction, Members heard further information had been sought on the type of offence that had been recorded to gain a better understanding of the reduction in Conwy.

A large increase in youth reoffending had been recorded. Members were aware of issues in communities around anti-social behaviour which had in turn reflected on the numbers. Officers had been in contact with the Youth Justice Service to gain further information. Officers were aware of the issues. The yellow card system was still in place, with officers now contacting parents/guardians following the issuing of the first yellow card, not the second card as in previously. Further work around further interventions were ongoing.

It was stressed the team were involved in a wide area of work and attended numerous conferences and partnership meetings. Members were provided with information on some of the work the team were involved in. Members heard a new officer had been employed utilising funds provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Crime Stoppers work called the Fearless Arm of Crime Youth Outreach Worker. His role was aimed at young people having the confidence to report incidents of crime without fear of reprisal, with an emphasis around knife crime. Officers had made contact with the new individual to work with them to look at concerns in the county.

Members were guided through the data chart of the statistics recorded for 2021/22 and 2022/23. Overall the chart was positive. It highlighted some key areas that required further work including sexual offences, vehicle crime, and theft and handling. The two areas of greatest concern were vehicle crime and theft and handling. The current economic pressures were having an impact on the numbers. It was stressed a great deal of work was needed in these fields. Details of the work in each area of increased crime was provided to members, including the work that was being done to reduce the levels of crime in Denbighshire. It was stressed work to educate people and businesses on ways to reduce numbers of crime was ongoing.

The Chair thanked the officers for the detailed introduction and guidance through the comprehensive report. Members were invited to raise any concerns or questions and the following points were discussed in more detail:

- Acquisitive crime did include shop lifting. The cost of living and current economic situation could cause an increase in that sort of crime being committed. The increase in shop theft had often been found in the larger supermarket stores. Work was on going to educate the staff of those stores for best placement of attractive products. It was stressed the increase in theft was seen on a national level with an increase seen across the country. High value thefts had been more frequent with the cost of products rising. Work had been focused to reduce these occurrences. A new initiative named 'we don't buy crime' had been introduced to support the community to reduce acquisitive crime.
- The CCTV Partnership Board was very grateful for the work of the City, Town and Community Councils and support provided towards the Board's work. Police access to the CCTV cameras had to be sought through the current contracted CCTV control room. An application form had to be completed for the footage. Work was currently taking place on a new CCTV Service contract which would be funded using various sources of funding, including, Safer Streets Funding, PCC and Levelling Up monies etc.
- School police officers attended all schools and had a curriculum they adhered to. This was centred around acquisitive crime. Information was provided and contact information of local policing teams and neighbourhood policing teams and youth justice service to support schools and young people.
- Members noted the increase in theft from shops including charity shops and associated the rise with the changes to the current economic climate.
- Members were pleased to hear that the joint working was successful. Members asked if there was any intention to hold a forum in Denbigh to engage with local Councillors and residents. It was an ambition of officers to arrange other forums, it was explained it was often time consuming to find a suitable date and time when majority of partners were available to attend.
- The contract with Cheshire West and Chester County Council for CCTV was on the agenda for the CCTV Partnership Board group meeting. The group was due to discuss the best contract for Denbighshire CCTV. Funding had been sought for a new server in Rhyl which would be of great benefit to Denbighshire. Funding to replace some older cameras had also been pursued.
- The Conwy and Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership received no direct grants to allocate. Funding was received from the Home Office to the Welsh Government, it was then awarded to North Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate to projects across North Wales. Regional bids were submitted to receive funding. Officers felt it was right to raise funding as a possible risk going forward. Assurance were provided that the CSP bid for any available funding to support projects and initiatives across the counties. Reliance on close working relationships between partners was vital and officers were grateful for the support they received from partners especially the close working with the Police.
- The District Inspector offered to collate information on various grants and funding awarded by North Wales Police and Community Trust (PACT) charity to projects in Denbighshire during the past twelve months. All external funding and partner support for crime reduction initiatives were

extremely valuable tools with a view to reducing youth crime and engaging with young people.

- Sharing information between the partners and authorities would support the work completed by the Board. The risk would be increased if information was not shared. In Denbighshire a Community Safety and Safeguarding Strategic Group had been implemented to discuss concerns and strengthen partnerships to mitigate risks.
- Good strong relationships between organisations supported the partnership. Community safety incorporated a diverse field of partners and organisations therefore close working between each partner was vital.
- The Lead Member encouraged Members to request presentations and reports at each Member Area Group from local police staff and other partners to discuss projects taking place in each area.
- Members were supportive of data and information of the agencies, organisations and partners being pulled together to provide information quickly and easily.
- Close communication between groups and third sector organisations to ensure clear understanding and support was provided and understood.

The Corporate Director: Governance and Business, offered his thanks to the officers and to Kevin Smith for his attendance. He emphasised how fortunate the authority was to have Sian working in the Community Safety Team.

At the conclusion of an in-depth discussion the Chair and members thanked the Lead Member, the Community Safety Partnership Manager and North Wales Police's representative for an overall positive report and for answering the Committee's questions. It was:

Resolved: subject to the above suggestions and observations, along with the provision of the additional information requested, to -

- (i) acknowledge the Community Safety Partnership's efforts and activity in addressing and reducing crime rates in Denbighshire; and***
- (ii) receive the Partnership's Annual Performance and Statistical Update Report for 2022 to 2023, along with the details provided on its ongoing work, initiatives and funding sources for 2023/2024.***

At this juncture (11.40 am) the meeting paused for a 5 minute comfort break.

The meeting reconvened at 11.45 am.

6 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH WALES POLICE IN DENBIGHSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES

North Wales Police's representative, Kevin Smith provided members with a verbal update on partnership working with North Wales police within Denbighshire communities.

He provided Members with information on some of the key changes that had taken place in North Wales Police recently. Since the new Chief Constable had taken up position she had been keen to have a restructure of the organisation in relation to how officers worked with partners and engagement with the public. She instigated a review of positions and responsibilities individuals held. He informed members his new role would fall under the title of Neighbourhood Partnerships Inspector. The Chief inspectors had also had a restructure from being County Chief Inspectors to a Patrol Chief Inspector and Neighbourhood and Partnership Chief Inspector. The focus and drive for the team was to demonstrate a commitment to neighbourhood policing and partnership working. It was hoped the new structure would add benefit to the community.

The current neighbourhood policing team which consisted of a number of officers working in rural areas of the authority and more urban areas. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) played a large role in supporting community policing and partnership working. Community police officers could perform any action that any member of the public was permitted to but would act as a professional witness. They also had professional detention powers and their role included work in a wide range of areas.

The Chair thanked the District Inspector for the verbal report. On behalf of Councillor Feeley who was unable to attend the meeting, the Chair asked would the structuring improve the continuity of the officers out in the community. The District Inspector confirmed there was always succession planning for future changes. With the current national operational uplift to increase the number of police officers, an impact had been noted on the police community schemes. A number of community officers had joined the police organisation to pursue a police career. He stressed the importance of recruiting individuals to replace those that move on. Thanks were given to the long standing community officers who acted as a support for new officers joining.

Members heard North Wales Police had a policy in place with unauthorised encampments. It was stressed procedures had to be followed in the correct timely manner. The police were reliant on the joint working with partners such as Denbighshire County Council to assist with supporting the individuals on the site. It was stressed the importance of having a designated area for travellers to accommodate them when moving through North Wales to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments. Members appreciated the complexity of the issues and the sensitivity around the subject.

Agencies worked successfully together to address neighbourhood crime. There were always areas that could be improved but on the whole agencies worked well in the community. Dysfunctional families were sometimes difficult to manage as they require a wide range of support from a number of different teams. Communication with agencies and families was vital to ascertain an outcome for families. Numerous meetings took place between teams in the police to work in partnership to support families in the community.

The Public Space Protection Order in Rhyl High Street, was due for renewal. The police were working in partnership with Denbighshire County Council Officers to

collate the evidence to re-establish the order in Rhyl. That evidence would be sent to the authority as soon as possible. The reason it had ceased had been due to a misunderstanding on the timing around resubmitting evidence to have it renewed. The order had been in place in Rhyl for 6 years, alongside the order the police researched what further actions could be implemented to protect the area. Officers stressed they were working as hard as possible to reinstate the order as quickly and swiftly as possible. Members were pleased to hear the application was in hand.

The Chair asked if on behalf of the Committee, thanks could be passed on to those involved in issuing the North Wales County Alerts. They were very beneficial and very informative for Members.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Inspector Kevin Smith of North Wales Police's Local Policing Services Division for attending the meeting to share information on the neighbourhood policing model in Denbighshire, and for his willingness to answer members' questions about the various services and initiatives provided across Denbighshire. In response to a request from the Chair, Inspector Smith agreed to pass on members' appreciation to North Wales Police staff involved with the provision of Community Alert bulletins to local elected members. It was:

Resolved: to acknowledge the information imparted and to thank Inspector Smith for his contributions under both agenda items 5 and 6 on the meeting's business agenda.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator introduced the report and appendices (previously circulated) seeking Members' review of the Committee's work programme which provided and update on relevant issues.

The next Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting was scheduled for the 14 December. There was one item listed for the next meeting:

- Setting of Affordable Rent Levels – Members were informed the item had been deferred due to a delay in receiving guidance from Welsh Government.

The Scrutiny Chair's and Vice Chair's Group next meeting was scheduled to be held on 28 November 2023 and Members were encouraged to complete the relevant form attached (appendix 2) if there were any items Members wanted to be considered at the meeting. No items had been added to the Committee's work programme at the previous Scrutiny Chair's and Vice Chair's Group meeting.

Appendix 3 was the Cabinet's Forward Work Programme for Members reference. Appendix 4 provided the Committee with further information regarding recommendations from the previous meeting.

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator highlighted following the resignation of Councillor Peter Scott, the Committee was required to nominate a replacement on two Service

Challenge groups and the representative on the Capital Scrutiny Group. The Chair Councillor Joan Butterfield agreed to attend the Capital Scrutiny Group on behalf of the Committee. The two Service Challenge Groups that required a representative were:

- Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
- Corporate Support Service: People

Members heard the Service Challenge Group meetings were held virtually, once a year. She encouraged Members who had an interest in a particular area put their names forward as representatives. Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones agreed to represent the Committee on the Corporate Support Service: People and Councillor Brian Jones was nominated to attend the Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services Service Challenge Group.

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones enquired on the outcome of her proposal for a report on tree maintenance. She enquired if a decision on the subject had been reached. The Scrutiny Co-ordinator confirmed the proposal had been discussed and a report had been included on the Communities Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for its meeting in May 2024. The Committee:

Resolved: to –

(i) confirm its forward work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and

(ii) appoint the following representatives to serve on the Groups detailed below –

- ***Capital Scrutiny Group – Councillor Joan Butterfield***
- ***Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services – Councillor Brian Jones***
- ***Corporate Support Services: People – Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones***

8 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair informed the Committee that she had recently attend the Housing and Communities Service Challenge Group meeting and would be reporting on its proceedings to the Committee at its next meeting in December.

Councillor Bobby Feeley had recently attended a meeting of the Bwthyn y Ddôl, Sub-Regional Children's Residential Assessment Unit Project Board. In her absence Councillor Feeley had provided the Scrutiny Coordinator with the main points stemming from the meeting. These included:

- that building work had started on the site and was progressing well, with an expected completion date of late August 2024
- until the new building was available a temporary residential centre, recently approved by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), had opened with a full complement of staff
- staff were also undertaking outreach work with families referred to the Service; and
- some vacant health posts were currently undergoing a recruitment process.

Meeting concluded at 12.25pm

Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	14th December 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Rhys Thomas, Lead Member for Housing & Communities/Angela Loftus, Strategic Planning & Housing Manager
Head of Service	Emlyn Jones, Head of Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services
Report author	Jane Abbott, Senior Strategy Officer – Strategic Planning & Housing
Title	Setting of Affordable Rent Levels

1. What is the report about?

1.1. A report on the setting of Affordable Housing Rents

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To provide information regarding the criteria and mechanism for setting 'affordable' rent levels in Denbighshire (including for Council, Registered Social Landlords (RSL) & private rented sector housing stock).

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

3.1. confirms that it has read and understood the process of setting intermediate rents, and comments accordingly.

- 3.2. supports the continuation of the work with Private Landlords and RSLs to strategically implement intermediate rents where appropriate to ensure the development of sustainable communities and maintain affordable tenancies.

4. Report details

- 4.1. Affordable Rent is split into two categories, social rent, and intermediate rent. Social rent is the lowest most affordable kind of rent and most Council & Housing Association properties have rent pitched at this level. All Local Housing Authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Wales must comply with the Social Housing Rent & Service Charge Standard. The Standard was brought in as part of The Housing (Wales) Act 2014¹.
- 4.2. This report is concerned with intermediate rent as social rent is dealt with through a separate process and is already reported to the Council through the mechanisms of Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council.
- 4.3. The definition of Intermediate Rent is set by the Welsh Government (WG) as rent which is pitched at either Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate (determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to be the lowest third of open market rents)², up to a maximum of 80% of market rent; the figure is inclusive of service charges. Intermediate Rent is market led rather than income led and therefore is affected by the rent increases seen recently in the private rented sector. More information on this can be found in this BBC report³
- 4.4. Intermediate Rent is an option available to private developers alongside assisted home ownership, when considering planning obligations on new development sites. In Denbighshire we have 15 dwellings owned by 3

¹ The Standard is a framework which applies to all RSLs and reflects the variations in size, type quality and location for each landlord's housing stock. Any increases in the rent are set by Welsh Government in its annual statement.

² Table in Appendix (iii) illustrates Private Rent Data April 2022- 2023

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-65252376>

different private developers, which are rented out as intermediate properties.

- 4.5. Since 2017 there have been 157 properties brought forward as intermediate rental; 155 of these belong to RSLs including Denbighshire County Council (DCC)⁴.
- 4.6. The methodology for calculating Intermediate Rent is detailed in appendix (i) varies slightly between RSLs and Private Landlords. RSLs follow a slightly different process, this is because most RSL development led sites, need to ascertain the intermediate rent before any development takes place, so that they can assess the viability of the site.
- 4.7. RSL development proposals are scrutinised by their own Housing Boards and by WG when awarding grant funding (intermediate rent attracts lower levels of grant funding than social rent) and all aspects of governance of an RSL are overseen by Welsh Government's Regulator of Social Housing.
- 4.8. Sites need to meet identified local housing needs and be viable, to be developed. Grant funding is determined using WG's Standard Viability Model⁵ (SVM) and the tenure mix is agreed using housing need identified by DCC's Strategic Planning & Housing Strategy team to inform the tenure of the site.
- 4.9. Intermediate Rent information for RSLs is contained in the document *Rent First Intermediate Rent Guidance* published in 2011⁶. The guidance has been ambiguous as to whether service charges should have been included in the rent envelope of 80%. It has been established that two RSLs had calculated some of their intermediate rent exclusive of service charges, due to issues with viability or because service charges were out of their control as they were levied by developer. Following concerns

⁴ 12 are in DCC's housing portfolio.

⁵ The formula behind Standard Viability Modelling is determined by Welsh Government

⁶ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/rent-first-intermediate-rent-guidance.pdf>

raised by DCC with WG regarding this, WG issued a statement with the Rent Settlement Notification Letter in October 2023 (Appendix iv).

- 4.10. In this letter WG explicitly states that Intermediate Rents should include the service charges and should be pitched as close to the LHA figure as financially possible, however they recognise that LHA rates have been frozen since 2020 and will only start to increase again in April 2024. All the RSLs have agreed that going forward all intermediate rent will be in accordance with the new WG policy statement. WG have also assured DCC that they will be issuing updated policy guidance regarding Intermediate Rent, but this will take longer for their policy team to develop.
- 4.11. RSLs have advised that integrating service charges into the overall 80% rent envelope will affect viability of schemes, and less properties with this tenure may come forward as a result.
- 4.12. Information on the role of Tai Teg and Intermediate Rent can be found in Appendix (ii) alongside the analysis conducted for this report. It is illustrated in the appendix that intermediate rent is a growing tenure, very much in demand and far outstripping the demand for assisted home ownership.
- 4.13. In conclusion, Intermediate rents are being calculated in accordance with the guidance as defined by Welsh Government, with a few exceptions which have now been addressed however rental market rates have increased particularly over the last year. There is no scope to change the way in which Intermediate Rents are calculated, however it is possible to control where they are introduced on new developments through the planning process. Strategic Planning & Housing recommends the affordable housing mix on planning proposals based on census and waiting list information, to ensure that evidence-based decisions are made, a mix of tenures of affordable housing is recommended to meet a range of housing needs and maintain sustainable communities, which is in accordance with DCC's Corporate Plan aims.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. Affordable housing provision contributes to the Corporate Plan aim of 'A Denbighshire of quality housing that meets people's needs'. Affordable housing provision is brought forward through new development and as such the properties must meet stringent criteria regarding energy efficiency and therefore have a positive contribution to the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero & Ecologically Positive by 2030.

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

6.1. The cost to Council is limited to officer time in checking and assessing rents where necessary. The Council has 12 dwellings at Intermediate Rent tenure within its portfolio and the rent income generated from these dwellings has been calculated and forms part of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan.

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

7.1. There is no Well-Being Impact Assessment associated with this report as it is for information only and no decision is required or applicable.

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

8.1. Affordable Rent is one of the tenures of Affordable Housing and as such is included in Supplementary Planning Guidance as part of the suite of guidance which underpins the existing Local Development Plan (LDP) which has had significant consultation with Scrutiny, Cabinet, Full Council, Town, City & Community Councils, General Public, Third Sector organisations and RSL partners.

8.2. The replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) is currently being progressed and affordable rents will form part of the housing tenures and be included in the consultation work again.

8.3. Discussions with all the RSLs offering intermediate tenure and Welsh Government have informed the development of this report

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The report explains the process for setting affordable rent levels in Denbighshire for Members. Income derived from affordable rents is calculated in accordance with the report and accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account.

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

10.1 Ensuring that people are supported to live in homes that meet their needs is a key priority for the Council. A range of mechanisms are in place to monitor progress, including regular reports to the Corporate Plan Housing Board and reports as and when required by Scrutiny.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Local Government Act 2000, Housing Act 1985 (S8), Housing Act 2004 (S8), Local Government Act 2003 (S87), Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

11.2. Scrutiny's powers in respect of this matter are laid out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7 of the Council's Constitution.

Appendix (i)

Methodology for setting Intermediate Rents

Private Developers

1. The process for private developers is set out in the relevant S106 Agreement whereby they engage a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Surveyor to prepare a report advising of the open market rent. We accept three RICS surveyor reports or a RICS surveyor report and in addition two written reports from estate agents who operate in the area (not agents who have a purely online presence) and who are members of the National Association Estate Agents (NAEA). In the case of private developers, the information is submitted to DCC, who if satisfied the reports are correct and have no anomalies, will average the prices quoted in the reports and set the rent at 80% of this. Rent can be increased by the lesser of September CPI or RPI¹ on an annual basis.

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

2. RSL sites do not tend to have S106 Agreements for affordable housing, as this affects the level of funding, they are able to obtain from WG. RSLs need to have an indication of rent levels prior to development of a site whereas private developers have the benefit of ascertaining rent levels once the site is substantially built.
3. A review of the process which RSLs undertake to establish their intermediate rents, established that North Wales Housing, Cartrefi Conwy, Denbighshire County Council and Grŵp Cynefin all carried out desktop research using Zoopla and Rightmove to set their rents, although in areas where there was limited data, they would also commission a RICS report. Adra and Clwyd Alyn commission a RICS report on all new developments and Wales & West and First Choice Housing Association do not offer Intermediate Rent as a tenure option on their developments.

¹ In line with UK uprating of benefits and private pension increases

This page is intentionally left blank

Tai Teg

1. An affordability test is undertaken by Tai Teg when assessing applicants for Intermediate Rent, to ensure that in accordance with WG guidelines, the rent is a maximum of 30% of the applicant's outgoings. Benefits and income from wages are considered as income (this includes Universal Credit). Some income is excluded from an assessment such as fostering allowance, war pensions etc.
2. The Tai Register currently has 960¹ unique applicants requesting Intermediate Rental accommodation and 484² applicants for assisted home ownership. In 2017 these figures were 119 and 244 respectively. Intermediate Rent has been gaining in popularity year on year due to uncertainty in the job market through pressures such as Brexit and Covid-19 and the buoyant housing market which has seen property prices increase dramatically in Denbighshire. The buoyant housing market and changes in legislation for landlords has led many private landlords to sell their properties, which has meant an increase in people applying for accommodation through the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) and Tai Teg.

Tai Teg Lettings 2022-2023

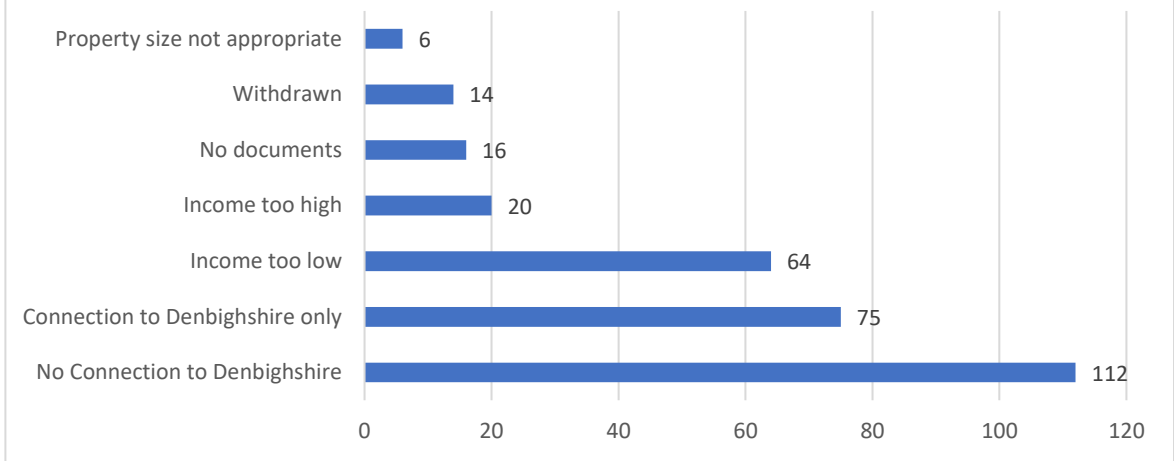
3. 56 properties marketed through Tai Teg. 672 applications for these properties were assessed and 307 were found to be non-qualifying³.
4. The chart below illustrates the reasons for not qualifying for a property applied for advertised on the Tai Teg website.
5. The most common reasons being no local connection to Denbighshire, or the connection is to the County of Denbighshire but not the specific area that the property is located in accordance with the Local Connection Policy. i.e. Applicant has lived and worked in Denbigh for 10 years but applies for a property in Prestatyn with no housing need for doing so, for example family and work connection remain in Denbigh.
6. The minimum income required for each property is quoted on the advertisement however some applicants still apply for a dwelling despite not meeting the minimum criteria.
7. The minimum income is determined by calculating that no more than 30% of the applicants income would be spent on housing costs

¹ November 2023

² Some applicants may have registered for both types of accommodation.

³ There have been 20 refusals due to income being too high to qualify for the Tai Teg Register, the income band is £16,000 to £45,000.

Reasons for not qualifying on Tai Teg



Appendix (iii)

Private Sector Rents by Local Authority: April 2022-March 2023

Local Authority	Type of accommodation	Units of accommodation for which rental data was provided	Mean Rent	Rent at median (50th percentile)	Rent at lower quartile (25th percentile)	Rent at upper quartile (75th percentile)
Conwy	Room	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Conwy	Studio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Conwy	1 Bedroom	391	417.72	420.00	350.00	470.00
Conwy	2 Bedrooms	909	564.45	550.00	500.00	600.00
Conwy	3 Bedrooms	438	656.81	650.00	591.25	725.00
Conwy	4 Bedrooms	100	861.44	825.00	698.75	956.25
Denbighshire	Room	56	288.77	261.79	261.79	317.50
Denbighshire	Studio	13	336.44	346.67	346.67	346.67
Denbighshire	1 Bedroom	240	402.40	395.00	350.00	427.05
Denbighshire	2 Bedrooms	649	531.80	535.00	473.60	590.00
Denbighshire	3 Bedrooms	365	627.66	625.00	560.00	675.00
Denbighshire	4 Bedrooms	76	814.67	795.00	700.00	900.00
Flintshire	Room	89	418.16	390.00	357.50	465.83
Flintshire	Studio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Flintshire	1 Bedroom	134	472.28	450.00	425.00	500.00
Flintshire	2 Bedrooms	543	571.18	575.00	525.00	615.00
Flintshire	3 Bedrooms	535	652.81	650.00	595.00	700.00
Flintshire	4 Bedrooms	69	941.85	850.00	795.00	995.00

The information shown in the table is based on rental data provided to Valuation Office Agency by individual private landlords and letting agents. The information is based only on transactional data where rent has been paid and excludes cases where housing benefit was known to be in payment.

n/a – no data supplied or insufficient data for calculation to be made.

This page is intentionally left blank

Atodiad/Appendix (iv)

Tai ac Adfywio
Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cadeiryddion Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig
Cyfarwyddwyr Cyllid Awdurdodau Tai Lleol
Cyfarwyddwyr Tai Awdurdodau Tai Lleol
Prif Weithredwyr Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig
Cyfarwyddwyr Cyllid, Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig

27 Hydref 2023

Annwyl Gydweithwyr,

Rhenti a Thaliadau Gwasanaeth Tai Cymdeithasol 2024-2025

Diben y llythyr hwn yw rhoi gwybod i landlordiaid cymdeithasol beth yw'r cynnydd mwyaf yn y rhent y gellir ei chodi ar denantiaid tai cymdeithasol o 1 Ebrill 2024.

Mae fforddiadwyedd wrth wraidd ein safon rhent. Er gwaethaf yr heriau a achoswyd o ganlyniad i anwadalrwydd economaidd ehangach y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gallwn oll fod yn sicr bod ein gweithredoedd ar y cyd wedi arddangos ein hymrwymiad i sicrhau na roddir pwysau ariannol gormodol ar denantiaid cymdeithasol yn ystod y cyfnodau anodd hyn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n parhau i fod yn bwysig inni gydbwysio anghenion tenantiaid â gallu landlordiaid cymdeithasol i barhau i ddarparu gwasanaethau di-graidd ychwanegol a'r pecyn ehangach o gymorth sydd wedi bod yn allweddol i nifer o denantiaid wrth i'r argyfwng costau byw barhau.

Byddwch yn ymwybodol mai 6.7% oedd Mynegai Prisiau Defnyddwyr (CPI) mis Medi, sy'n golygu o dan y safon rhent, nad yw'r codiad blynyddol o CPI +1% yn gymwys ac mai'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd felly fydd yn penderfynu ar newid priodol i renti'r **flwyddyn ganlynol**.

Mae'r Gweinidog wedi penderfynu:

1. Uchafswm y codiad rhent blynyddol fydd 6.7% yn unol â ffigur CPI Medi 2023.
2. Mae'n hanfodol fod landlordiaid cymdeithasol yn ystyried fforddiadwyedd rhenti i denantiaid wrth wneud penderfyniadau ynghylch rhent.

3. Gellir gostwng a rhewi rhent unigol a'i chodi hyd at £2 yr wythnos, **cyn belled nad yw cyfanswm yr incwm rhent a gesglir ar draws y stoc gyfan yn cynyddu mwy na 6.7%**. Nod hyn yw galluogi landlordiaid cymdeithasol i ailstrwythuro'u rhenti lle bo hynny'n briodol. Yn ymarferol, os byddwch yn penderfynu y dylai rhent unigol gynyddu hyd at £2.00 yr wythnos dros y 6.7%, bydd angen rhewi neu ostwng rhenti eraill er mwyn sicrhau nad yw'r cynnydd cyffredinol ar gyfer eich stoc gyfan yn codi dros 6.7%.
4. Dylai landlordiaid cymdeithasol roi gwybod i Lywodraeth Cymru os oes ganddynt bryderon ynghylch effaith y safon rhent ar eu cynllun busnes, eu hyfywedd ariannol neu eu gallu i gyflawni eu rhwymedigaethau i denantiaid a benthydwyr.
5. Fel rhan annatod o'r safon rhent pum mlynedd, mae disgwyl i landlordiaid cymdeithasol bennu polisi rhent a thâl gwasanaeth sy'n sicrhau bod tai cymdeithasol yn fforddiadwy ac yn parhau'n fforddiadwy i denantiaid heddiw ac yfory. Fel rhan o'r penderfyniad blynyddol i godi/gostwng y rhent, rhaid i landlordiaid cymdeithasol asesu cyfleoedd i arbed costau ar draws y sylfaen costau gweithredu a gwerth am arian yn ogystal â fforddiadwyedd i denantiaid.

Atal Bandiau Rhenti Targed

Er i fandiau rhenti targed chwarae rôl bwysig pan gawsant eu cyflwyno, mae'r sefyllfa erbyn heddiw wedi newid yn fawr ac i'r rhan fwyaf o landlordiaid nid ydynt yn arwyddocaol o ran pennu rhenti lleol. Yn dilyn trafodaethau â chynrychiolwyr y sector, ataliwyd y defnydd ohonynt. Bydd yr ataliad yn parhau yn 2024-25, a bydd rôl y bandiau rhenti targed yn cael ei adolygu'n llawn fel rhan o'r gwaith ar ddatblygu ein polisi rhenti i Gymru yn y dyfodol.

Rhenti Canolradd

Byddwn hefyd yn adolygu'r defnydd o gynnyrch rhenti canolradd fel rhan o'n rhaglen waith ar bolisi rhenti'r dyfodol.

Mae tenantiaethau rhenti canolradd yn cael eu llywodraethu gan '*Rhent yn gyntaf Rhent canolradd – Canllawiau*', sydd yn dal i fod yn gymwys. Mae'r canllawiau hyn yn glir: "*mae rhenti canolradd i'w codi o fewn amlen rhent y farchnad, wedi eu cyfrifo fel swm y taliadau gwasanaeth a rhenti, y mae'n rhaid iddynt fod ar 80% o renti cyfartalog y farchnad breifat yn ardal yr awdurdod lleol hwnnw, neu'n is na hynny. Dylent hefyd gael eu targedu i fod yn is na'r Lwfans Tai Lleol*" (cyfieithiad).

Rydym yn cydnabod bod y bwlch sy'n ehangu rhwng rhenti marchnad cynyddol a chyfraddau'r Lwfans Tai Lleol, sydd i bob diben wedi eu rhewi ers 2020, yn golygu bod cydymffurfio gyda Chanllawiau Rhent yn Gyntaf yn heriol. Felly, mae'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd wedi cytuno ar sefyllfa dros dro sef y caiff landlordiaid gynnig tenantiaethau rhenti canolradd ar 80% o werth y farchnad cyn belled eu bod yn parhau i ystyried a thalu sylw dyledus i gyfraddau'r Lwfans Tai Lleol. Rhaid i'r amlen 80% gynnwys taliadau gwasanaeth y dylid eu nodi ar wahân i elfennau rhent y tâl. Ym mhob achos, rhaid i landlordiaid fod yn fodlon bod y tenantiaethau hyn yn dal i fod yn fforddiadwy i denantiaid.

Monitro Cydymffurfiaeth

Fel rhan o'i benderfyniad ynghylch codi rhent bob blwyddyn, mae gofyn i bob landlord cymdeithasol gynnal asesiad blynyddol o fforddiadwyedd i denantiaid; cyfleoedd i arbed costau; a sicrhau bod eu cartrefi a'u gwasanaethau'n cynnig gwerth am arian, gyda thystiolaeth i gefnogi hynny.

Dylai pob landlord cymdeithasol gofio mai'r safon rhent yw'r cynnydd **mwya**f y gall ei godi. **Nid yw'n rhent targed**.

Er mwyn ei helpu i roi'r sicrwydd sydd ei angen, bydd gofyn i bob landlord cymdeithasol lenwi ffurflen fonitro hunan-ardystio a fydd yn cael ei defnyddio i fonitro cydymffurfiaeth â Safon Rhent Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r ffurflen wedi'i chynnwys yn y [Safon Rhent](#) ddiwygiedig, a gaiff ei chyhoeddi cyn diwedd Tachwedd. Rhaid ei llenwi a'i dychwelyd erbyn diwedd Chwefror 2024.

Nodwch y cynhelir asesiadau manwl o ran cydymffurfio â'r safon rhent, ac y gellir gofyn am ragor o wybodaeth/sicrwydd pan fo unrhyw bryderon.

Ymrwymadau a Mentrau'r Cytundeb Rhentu

Fel mae landlordiaid wedi ei weld, mae'r pecyn ehangach o gymorth i denantiaid y cytunwyd arno â'r sector y llynedd fel rhan o'r setliad rhent ehangach wedi bod yn allweddol o ran galluogi pobl i ddod i ben drwy'r cyfnod heriol hwn.

Mae gallu landlordiaid i barhau i ddarparu'r cymorth hwn yn ffactor allweddol o ran y codiad rhent o 6.7%. Felly, fel y cytunwyd gyda'r sector, bydd landlordiaid yn parhau i weithredu'r ymrwymadau a'r mentrau presennol hyn wrth symud ymlaen, sy'n cynnwys y canlynol:

- Dim troi allan oherwydd caledi ariannol am dymor y setliad, (blwyddyn ariannol 2024/25), cyn belled â bod tenantiaid yn cysylltu â landlordiaid.
- Darparu help wedi'i dargedu i'r rhai sy'n profi caledi ariannol i gael cymorth.
- Gwneud y defnydd gorau o'r holl stoc tai cymdeithasol addas, gan ganolbwyntio ar helpu'r rhai sydd yn y llety dros dro o'r ansawdd isaf i symud i gartrefi mwy hirdymor sy'n diwallu eu hanghenion.
- Parhau i gyfathrebu er mwyn annog tenantiaid i siarad â'u landlord os ydyn nhw'n cael trafferthion ariannol ac i fanteisio ar y cymorth sydd ar gael.
- Adeiladu ar y trefniadau presennol i denantiaid drafod y penderfyniadau pennu rhenti, gan gynnwys egluro sut mae incwm rhent yn cael ei fuddsoddi a'i wario.
- Parhau â'r ymrwymiad i fuddsoddi mewn cartrefi presennol i'w cadw'n ddiogel, yn gynnes ac yn fforddiadwy.
- Gweithio mewn partneriaeth â thenantiaid, Llywodraeth Cymru, cyllidwyr a phartneriaid eraill i ddatblygu dull cyson o asesu fforddiadwyedd ar draws y sector tai cymdeithasol yng Nghymru.
- Parhau i gryfhau trefniadau ar gyfer sicrhau bod cyn lleied yn cael eu troi allan â

phosibl a'ch bod yn gweithio'n effeithiol gyda phartneriaid i gyflawni'r ymrwymiad i beidio â throi pobl allan i fod yn ddigartref

- Cynnal arolwg o fodlonrwydd tenantiaid safonol a chyhoeddi'r data ar wefan ganolog er mwyn i denantiaid gael gweld a chymharu perfformiad landlordiaid. Dyddiad yr arolwg nesaf, ar sail cwestiynau craidd newydd, yw 28 Chwefror 2024 i'w gyhoeddi ym mis Ebrill.

O fis Ebrill nesaf ymlaen, byddwn yn symud i flwyddyn olaf ein safon rhent pum mlynedd presennol. Diolch ichi am gymryd rhan ac am eich adborth o'r ymarfer sicrwydd, sydd wedi bod yn hanfodol o ran llywio'n rhaglen waith i ddatblygu polisi rhenti'r ar gyfer y dyfodol yng Nghymru. Edrychwn ymlaen at gydweithio â chi er mwyn datblygu ein rhaglen waith, a fydd gobeithio yn ymdrech ar y cyd er mwyn sicrhau ein bod gyda'n gilydd yn dod i'r canlyniad cywir ar gyfer polisi rhenti cymdeithasol yng Nghymru.

Yn y cyfamser, os oes gennych gwestiynau neu bryderon ynghylch pennu rhenti a disgwyliadau Llywodraeth Cymru, mae croeso ichi gysylltu â'r tîm trwy'r e-byst isod.

Awdurdodau Tai Lleol – HousingQualityStandards@gov.wales

Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig – HousingRegulation@gov.wales

Yn gywir

EMMA WILLIAMS



Cyfarwyddwr Tai ac Adfywio / Director of Housing and Regeneration Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

C.C. Arweinwyr Cyngorau Lleol
Prif Weithredwyr Awdurdodau Lleol
Cysylltiadau Cynllun Busnes Awdurdodau Tai Lleol Awdurdodau Lleol
Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru
Tai Cymunedol Cymru
Sefydliad Siartredig Tai
Cymru
Gwasanaeth Cyngori ar Gyfranogiad
Tenantiaid Tai Pawb
UK Finance
Cydgysylltydd Abbeyfield Cymru
Yr Athro Mark Stephens, Prifysgol Heriot Watt



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Caerdydd • Cardiff CF10 3NQFfôn • Tel 03000256560

www.llyw.cymru www.gov.wales

Tai ac Adfywio
Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chairs of Registered Social Landlords
Director of Finance of Local Housing Authorities
Director of Housing of Local Housing Authorities
Chief Executives of Registered Social Landlords
Directors of Finance, Registered Social Landlords

27 October 2023

Dear Colleagues

Social Housing Rent and Service Charges 2024-2025

The purpose of this letter is to advise social landlords of the maximum rent increase which can be applied to social housing tenancies from 1st April 2024.

Affordability is at the heart of our rent standard. Despite the challenges inflicted by the wider economic volatility of recent years we can take reassurance that our collective action has demonstrated our commitment to ensuring excessive financial burdens are not placed on social tenants during these very tough times. However, it remains important that we balance the needs of tenants together with the ability of social landlords to continue to provide the additional non-core services and wider package of support that have proved vital for many tenants as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

You will be aware the September Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.7%, which means under the rent standard the annual uplift of CPI+1% does not apply and that the Minister for Climate Change will determine the appropriate change to rent levels which will apply **for the following year**.

The Minister has determined:

1. The maximum annual rent uplift will be 6.7% as per the September 2023 CPI figure.
2. It is imperative that social landlords' decisions on rent take into account the affordability of rents for tenants.
3. The level of an individual rent can be reduced, frozen or can rise by up to an additional £2 per week, **on condition that the total rental income collectable across the whole stock increases by no more than 6.7%**. This provision is designed to enable social landlords to restructure rents where appropriate. In effect, if you decide an individual rent(s) should increase by up to £2.00 per week on top of 6.7%, other rent(s) will need to be frozen or reduced to ensure the overall increase for the whole stock does not exceed 6.7%.
4. Social landlords should advise the Welsh Government if they have concerns about the impact that the rent standard has upon their business plan, financial

viability or on their ability to meet their obligations to tenants and lenders.

5. As an intrinsic part of the five-year rent standard, social landlords are expected to set a rent and service charge policy which ensures social housing is and remains affordable for current and future tenants. As part of the annual decision on the level of rent uplift/reduction to be applied, social landlords must assess cost efficiencies across the operating cost base and value for money as well as affordability for tenants.

Suspension of Target Rent Bands

Whilst target rent bands played a valuable role when they were introduced, the landscape today is very different and for most landlords they do not play a significant role in local rent setting. Following discussions with sector representatives, their use was suspended. This suspension will continue in 2024-25, and the role of target rent bands will be fully reviewed as part of the work on developing our future rent policy for Wales.

Intermediate Rents

We will also look to review the use and application of intermediate rent products as part of our future rent policy work programme.

Intermediate rent tenancies are governed by the *Rent First – Intermediate Rent Guidance*, which still applies. This guidance is clear that “*intermediate rents are to be charged within the Market Rent Envelope, calculated as the sum of service charges and rent, which must be at or below 80% of average private market rents for that local authority area and should also be targeted to be below the Local Housing Allowance (LHA)*”.

We recognise that the widening gap between escalating market rents and LHA rates, which have effectively been frozen since 2020, makes compliance with the *Rent First Guidance* challenging. Therefore, the Minister for Climate Change has agreed the interim position that landlords may offer intermediate rent tenancies at 80% of market value as long as they continue to take into account and have due regard to LHA rates. The 80% envelope must be inclusive of service charges which should be identified and itemised separately to the rental element of the charge. In all cases, landlords must satisfy themselves that these tenancies remain affordable for tenants.

Monitoring Compliance

All social landlords are required to make, and evidence, an annual assessment of affordability for tenants; cost efficiencies; and to demonstrate their homes and services represent value for money as part of their decision on the rent uplift to be applied each year.

Social landlords should remember the rent standard is the **maximum** increase which can be applied. **It is not a target rent.**

To assist with providing the necessary assurance, each social landlord will be required to complete a self-certification monitoring form which will be used to

monitor compliance with the Welsh Government Rent Standard. The form is included in the revised [Rent Standard](#), which will be published before the end of November, and must be completed and returned by the end of February 2024.

Please note that detailed assessments of compliance with the rent standard will be undertaken and further detailed information/assurance may be requested where there are any concerns.

Rent Agreement Commitments and Initiatives

As landlords have evidenced, the wider package of support and assistance to tenants which was agreed with the sector last year as part of the wider rent settlement, has proved critical in enabling people to manage through these challenging times.

The ability of landlords to continue to provide this support is a key factor for the rent uplift of 6.7%. Therefore, as agreed with the sector, landlords will continue to implement these existing commitments and initiatives going forward which include:

- No evictions due to financial hardship for the term of the settlement, (financial year 2024-25), where tenants engage with landlords.
- Provide targeted support to those experiencing financial hardship to access support.
- Maximise the use of all suitable social housing stock, with a focus on helping those in the poorest quality transitional accommodation move into longer term homes that meet their needs.
- Continue focused communication to encourage tenants to talk to their landlord if they are experiencing financial difficulties and access support available.
- Build on existing engagement with tenants in rent setting decisions, including explaining how income from rent is invested and spent.
- Continued commitment to invest in existing homes to keep them safe, warm and affordable to live in.
- Work in partnership with tenants, Welsh Government, funders and other partners to develop a consistent approach to assessing affordability across the social housing sector in Wales.
- Continue to strengthen approaches designed to ensure you minimise all evictions and work effectively with partners to deliver on the commitment not to evict into homelessness.
- Undertake a standardised tenant satisfaction survey and provide the data for publication on a central website to assist tenants in scrutinising and comparing landlord performance. The next submission date, based on the revised core questions, is 28 February 2024 for publication in April.

From April next year, we move into the final year of our current five-year rent standard. Thank you for your participation and feedback from the assurance exercise, which has been instrumental in informing our work programme to develop future rent policy in Wales. We look forward to working with you in taking forward our work programme, which we hope will be a collective endeavour to ensure together we reach the right outcome for social rent policy in Wales.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns about rent setting and Welsh Government's expectations, please feel free to contact the teams through the email addresses below.

LHA's –

HousingQualityStandards@gov.wales

RSL's – HousingRegulation@gov.wales

Yours faithfully



EMMA WILLIAMS

Cyfarwyddwr Tai ac Adfywio / Director of Housing and Regeneration
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

C.C. Local Authority Council
Leaders Local Authority
Chief Executives
Local Authority HRA Business Plan contacts
Welsh Local Government Association
Community Housing Cymru
Chartered Institute of Housing
Cymru Tenants Participation
Advisory Service Tai Pawb
UK Finance
Abbeyfield Co-ordinator
Wales Prof Mark Stephens,
Heriot Watt University



Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Ffôn • Tel 03000256560
www.llyw.cymru
www.gov.wales

Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	14 December 2023
Head of Service	Catrin Roberts, Head of Corporate Support Service: People
Report author	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report seeks Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme (see Appendix 1). As part of its review the Committee is asked to reflect on how Scrutiny can support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and its aim of becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030, whilst also prioritising matters which the Committee deems important to scrutinise.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 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;
- 3.2 determines whether any key messages or themes from the current meeting should be publicised via the press and/or social media; and
- 3.3 appoints a substitute representative to deputise on the Capital Scrutiny Group (CSG) as and when the current representative (the Chair) is unable to attend.

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 themes (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 met on 28 November 2023. At that meeting no items were referred to this Committee for examination. The Group's next scheduled meeting is on the 29 January 2024.

6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 6.1 Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its Corporate Plan 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 themes, improve outcomes for residents whilst also managing austere budget and resource pressures.
- 6.2 Whilst the decision on the Committee's forward work programme itself will have a neutral contribution on the Council's aim of becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030, the Committee by effectively scrutinising all matters examined by it can help support the delivery of this ambition.

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

- 7.1 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?

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

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

9.1. 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?

10.1 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

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
8 February 2024	<i>Cllr. Elen Heaton</i>	1. <i>North Denbighshire Community Hospital Project</i> <i>(TBC once WG decision is known)</i>	<i>To consider the current position with regards to the project's delivery, including support in principle from the RPB & WG, identification of potential funding streams along with the expected timescale for various phases involved with its delivery</i>	<i>An understanding of current timescales and project brief to support the Council to plan its services for residents across the county</i>	<i>BCUHB</i>	<i>September 2023</i>
21 March						
16 May						
4 July	Leader (NWEAB Programme Office reps also to attend)	1. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2023/24	To consider the Board's Quarter4/Annual Report on its work and progress during 2023/24	To ensure that the Board delivers its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB/Tony Ward	July 2023

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
	Cllr. Elen Heaton	2. Annual Report on Adult Safeguarding 2023/24	To consider the annual report on adult safeguarding, and information in place to meet the statutory requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and an evaluation of the financial and resource impact of the Supreme Court's 2014 Judgement on deprivation of liberty on the Service and its work (data to include actual numbers in each category as well as % figures and the actual number of allegations proven)	An evaluation of whether the Authority is meeting its statutory duty with respect to adult safeguarding and has sufficient resources to undertake this work along with the additional work in the wake of the Supreme Court's judgement	David Soley/Alaw Pierce/Nerys Tompsett	July 2023
12 September	Cllr. Rhys Thomas	1. Community Safety Partnership [Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee]	To detail the Partnership's achievement in delivering its 2023/24 action plan and its progress to date in delivering its action plan for 2024/25. The	Effective monitoring of the CSP's delivery of its action plan for 2023/24 and its progress to date in delivering its plan	Helen Vaughan-Evans/Nicola Kneale/Sian Taylor	July 2023

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
			<p>report to include financial sources and the progress made in spending the allocated funding.</p> <p>(report to include actual numbers as well as percentages to enable the Committee to effectively evaluate the impact of measures put in place)</p>	for 2024/25 will ensure that the CSP delivers the services which the Council and local residents require		
	Cllr. Elen Heaton	2. North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2023/24	To provide an overview of the Regional Partnership Board's activities during 2023/24 and its priority areas for 2024/25	Ensure that the Board is working effectively to support the delivery seamless health, social care and well-being services for Denbighshire residents and the wider North Wales region	Nicola Stubbins/Head of Regional Collaboration	July 2023
7 November	Cllr. Barry Mellor	1. Blue Flag Status for Denbighshire's Beaches	To explore the work being undertaken with partner organisations in a bid to received blue flag status accreditation for	To seek assurances or make recommendations to ensure that all	Tony Ward/Emlyn Jones	By SCVCG July 2023 (in response to a Notice of Motion to

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		(Reps from NRW & Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to be invited to attend)	as many as possible of the county's beaches	partners are working effectively together to achieve the accreditation with a view to boosting the local tourism and recreational economy and ultimately lead to wider economic benefits and support the delivery of a greener, fairer, safer and more equal Denbighshire		County Council)
19 December						

Future Issues

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

For future years

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information Report (for circulation March 2024)	Quarterly Monitoring of External Care Providers	To provide details of the regular monitoring of external care service providers commissioned by the council for social care services, identifying any escalating concerns or other areas of concern	Ben Chandler	By SCVCG 2018
INFORMATION REPORT (for circulation in Sept (Q1), Nov/Dec (Q2) & February (Q3) each year) Feb, Sept & Nov 2024	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	To provide information on the Board's performance and progress in delivering its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB/Tony Ward	December 2021
INFORMATION REPORT (September 2024)	Collaborative Procurement Service's Annual Report	To receive information on the collaborative Service's activity and performance during 2023/24	Gary Williams/Lisa Jones/Karen Bellis	September 2023

INFORMATION REPORT (upon publication – late 2023?)	Welsh Government's report on mould & condensation in social housing in Wales	To circulate the Welsh Government's report on following its review of how social housing landlords in Wales respond and deal with reported incidents of mould & condensation in their housing stock.	Emlyn Jones/Angela Loftus/Geoff Davies	May 2023
--	--	--	--	----------

Updated 04/12/2023 – RhE

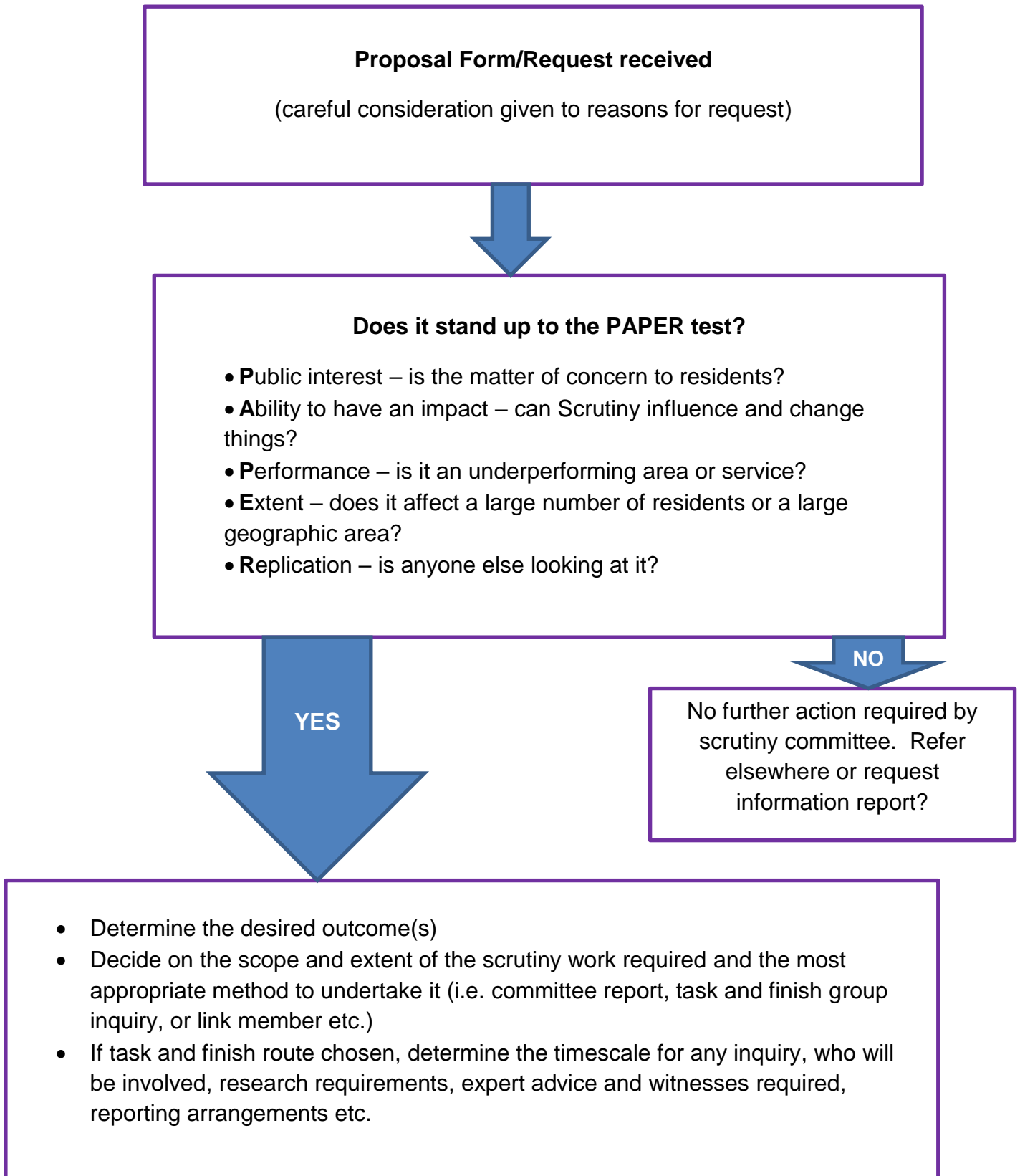
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
8 February 2024	25 January 2024	21 March	7 March	16 May	1 May (due to B/H)

Partnerships Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

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

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny



Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
19 December	1	Library Savings Proposal	To outline how savings could be achieved by reducing Library Services	Yes	Cllr Emrys Wynne Lead Officer/Report Author – Liz Grieve
	2	North Wales Construction Framework (NWCF) Phase 3	To approve the NWCF following the procurement exercise	Yes	Cllr Julie Matthews Lead Officer/Report Author – Karen Bellis
	3	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2024/25	To seek approval for the proposed annual rent increase for council housing and to approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 and Housing Stock Business Plan	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author Geoff Davies
	4	Contract for Haulage, Sorting and Brokerage of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)	To consider a contract variation/extension of DMR	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer/Report Author – Paul Jackson / Simon Lammond
	5	Keep my Home Project	To seek Cabinet approval to go out to tender for the project to support people living in Denbighshire to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author – Nigel Jones/Sharon Whalley/Hayley S Jones

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators
23 January	1	Budget 2024/25 - Final Proposals	To consider the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2024/25 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2024/25	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Head of Finance and Audit
	2	North Wales Velodrome Business Case	To consider the business case for the North Wales Velodrome Project	Tbc	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author Tony Ward / Jamie Groves
	3	Care Home Fee Setting 2024/25	To seek Cabinet approval for the Fee Structure 2024/25	Yes	Cllr Elen Heaton Lead Officer/ Report Author Nicola Stubbins/Ann Lloyd
	4	Fairer Council Tax Consultation	To approve the authority's response to Welsh Government consultation on fairer council tax	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Liz Thomas Report Author – Paul Barnes/Leah Gray

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators
20 February	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators
19 March	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
23 April	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators
21 May	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators
25 June	1	Performance Self-Assessment 2023 to 2024	To consider a report by the Strategic Planning Team for Council to approve the Performance Self-Assessment 2023 to 2024.	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans, Iolo McGregor, Emma Horan
	2	Reviewed and updated Denbighshire County Council's Climate and Ecological Change Strategy (2021-2030)	To present the reviewed and updated Climate and Ecological Change strategy	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor / Liz Wilcox-Jones / Helen Vaughan-Evans

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			document for Council to decide on whether to adopt it		
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators

FUTURE ITEMS

19 Nov	Council Performance Self-Assessment Update – July to September (QPR2)	To consider a report by the Strategic Planning Team for Council to approve the Performance Self-Assessment July to September	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans, Iolo McGregor, Emma Horan
---------------	---	--	---

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>19 December</i>	5 December	<i>23 January</i>	9 January	<i>20 February</i>	6 February

Updated 28/11/2023 – KEJ
 Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
26 October 2023	5. Community Safety Partnerships Annual Update for 2022/23	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>subject to the above suggestions and observations, along with the provision of the additional information requested, to -</i></p> <p><i>(i) acknowledge the Community Safety Partnership's efforts and activity in addressing and reducing crime rates in Denbighshire; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) receive the Partnership's Annual Performance and Statistical Update Report for 2022 to 2023, along with the details provided on its ongoing work, initiatives and funding sources for 2023/2024.</i></p>	Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee's recommendations
	6. Working in Partnership with North Wales Police in Denbighshire's Communities	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>to acknowledge the information imparted and to thank Inspector Smith for his contributions under both agenda items 5 and 6 on the meeting's business agenda.</i></p>	The Committee's observations were conveyed to the District Inspector
	7. Scrutiny Work Programme	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>to –</i></p> <p><i>(i) confirm its forward work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) appoint the following representatives to serve on the Groups detailed below –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Capital Scrutiny Group – Councillor Joan Butterfield</i> <i>• Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services – Councillor Brian Jones</i> <i>• Corporate Support Services: People – Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones</i> 	Relevant officers supporting the various Groups notified of the new appointments

