

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 15 February 2023

Direct Dial: 01824712568

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3 URGENT MATTERS

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

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 January 2023 (copy enclosed).

5 YSGOL PLAS BRONDYFFRYN PROJECT - SCHOOL ORGANISATION OBJECTION REPORT (Pages 17 - 42)

To consider a report by Councillor Gill German, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education, Children and Families (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's review of the Objection Report and whether or not to approve the proposal set out in the Statutory Notice to increase the capacity of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from 116 to 220.

6 NORTH WALES ENERGY STRATEGY, THE ASSOCIATED ACTION PLAN AND LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLANNING IN DENBIGHSHIRE (Pages 43 - 106)

To consider a report by Councillor Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's endorsement of the North Wales Energy Strategy, and to note the information provided regarding the commencement of Local Area Planning in Denbighshire.

7 COMMISSIONING ORGANISATIONS TO DELIVER A PROGRAMME UNDER THE SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (Pages 107 - 156)

To consider a report by Councillor Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval to commission Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC to deliver a programme of work (including a grant regime or 'Key Fund') under certain Shared Prosperity Fund interventions.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUDGET BOARD - CAPITAL (Pages 157 - 164)

To consider a report by Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's support of projects identified for inclusion in the 2023/24 Capital Plan and recommendation to full Council.

9 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 165 - 192)

To consider a report **(which includes a confidential appendix)** by Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 193 - 196)

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Gwyneth Ellis
Councillor Gill German
Councillor Elen Heaton
Councillor Julie Matthews
Councillor Jason McLellan

Councillor Barry Mellor
Councillor Win Mullen-James
Councillor Rhys Thomas
Councillor Emrys Wynne

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

This page is intentionally left blank

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

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and by video conference on Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation; Gill German, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Education, Children and Families; Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets; Elen Heaton, Lead Member for Health and Social Care; Julie Matthews, Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities; Barry Mellor, Lead Member for the Environment and Transport; Win Mullen-James, Lead Member for Local Development and Planning, Rhys Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities, and Emrys Wynne, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage

Observers: Councillors Karen Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Justine Evans, Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Alan James, Terry Mendies, Merfyn Parry, Peter Scott, Gareth Sandilands and Andrea Tomlin

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (GB); Corporate Directors: Communities (NS); Governance and Business/Monitoring Officer (GW), and Environment and Economy (TW); Head of Finance and Property (SG); Head of Customers, Communications and Marketing (LG); Interim Joint Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation (NK); Interim Head of Community Support Services (DS); External Funding Manager (AS); Business Coordinator: Leader's Office (SE), and Committee Administrators (KEJ & SJ [Webcaster])

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS

At this point, and following a late request from Councillor Peter Scott to ask a question, the Leader exercised his discretion and allowed the question to be put.

Councillor Scott put his question to the Leader as follows –

“Thank you Leader, for this opportunity. I know you have been in conversation with James Davies, MP; could I confirm that you will work with James to try and get this levelling up fund sorted for North Denbighshire for the interests of Denbighshire?”

The Leader responded to the question as follows –

“Thanks Peter. I haven’t spoken to James recently; I have exchanged emails with him. I will be meeting him later this week to discuss the levelling up fund agenda and round 3, full details of which we are unaware. As is known to everyone present, I’ve got views on how the levelling up agenda hasn’t worked for the Vale of Clwyd. James is aware of those views. I am quite sure we will have a candid exchange and move on to round 3.”

Councillor Scott thanked the Leader for his reply.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 December 2022 were submitted.

Accuracy – Page 12, Item 9 Recommendations of the Regional Fee Setting Group – Councillor Bobby Feeley referred to the following accuracy points in the second paragraph: “2023/34” should read “2023/24” and “Inform” should read “Infirm”.

Matters Arising – Page 12, Item 9 Recommendations of the Regional Fee Setting Group – The Corporate Director: Governance and Business advised that the decision was subject of a call in to scrutiny and had been considered the previous week by Communities Scrutiny Committee. The outcome had been not to refer the matter back to Cabinet meaning the decision would stand and be implemented.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above points of accuracy, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

5 YEAR 1 APPLICATIONS TO THE SHARED PROSPERITY FUND, AND A GENERAL UPDATE REGARDING THE PROCESS AND TIMESCALES FOR FUTURE APPLICATION ROUNDS

Councillor Jason McLellan presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund as recommended, and consideration of the information on processes and timescales for future applications and next steps.

The Shared Prosperity Fund was part of the UK Government’s Levelling Up suite of investment with £21.2m available to Denbighshire communities between 2022 and March 2025 across three investment priority themes (1) Communities and Place; (2) Supporting Local Business, and (3) People and Skills.

The Interim Joint Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation detailed the application process for spending year 1 funding which had been restricted to local authority only due to the tight timescales for delivery and funding terms between UK Government and local authorities not yet being agreed, thereby carrying some financial risk. In line with guidance, a Partnership Group had been set up to advise on strategic fit and deliverability, and projects recommended to receive funding had been detailed in Appendix A to the report with a breakdown of the allocation summary which equated to an underspend of almost £604k in 2022/23. That underspend could be reprofiled for years 2 and 3 and therefore would not be lost.

The Head of Customers, Communications and Marketing guided Cabinet through the process and timelines for further invitations to apply for funding as outlined in Appendix B to the report together with any risks and proposed mitigations. It was recognised that timescales were challenging and guidance was being issued beforehand to give prospective bidders time to start developing their bids prior to opening invitations for funding of £250k and above, to include bids to host Key Funds (through which smaller projects would be delivered) by the end of January, with a closing date of 24 February for stage 1 applications. The Partnership Group would review applications and make recommendations to Cabinet.

The Leader commended the recommended projects which were wide ranging in nature and would make a real difference to people across the county. In welcoming the report and investment opportunities, Cabinet elaborated on the value of specific projects within communities and different sectors of society, and the wealth of benefits they would bring, resulting in a real and positive impact in those areas, particularly with regard to tackling deprivation and improving wellbeing.

The following points were raised during the ensuing debate –

- technical discussions relating to memorandums of understanding between Gwynedd Council, who were leading on behalf of the region, and UK Government were ongoing but productive. It was important funding could be drawn down efficiently whilst also ensuring robust governance and monitoring arrangements were in place; there was no risk to project spend or delivery
- discussions with external partners relating to hosting Key Funds to ensure funding was available for smaller projects across the county were also ongoing, and the intention was to report back thereon to Cabinet the following month
- the prioritisation process for projects was discussed and it was noted that Denbighshire's priorities had been included in the Regional Investment Plan with further work undertaken locally and a thematic approach in line with the Corporate Plan to ensure bids were invited in line with those corporate priorities
- whilst year 1 funding had been restricted to the local authority due to timescales and financial risk, years 2 and 3 would also be opened up to external bidders and there would be a mix of internal and external applications considered by the Partnership Group with subsequent project recommendations to Cabinet; it was likely that some projects benefitting from year 1 funding would also submit bids for years 2 and 3 to continue and/or further progress the project in future years
- the need for full member engagement in the process was highlighted and Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts was keen for Member Area Groups (MAGs) to be involved, noting also there would likely be projects which could be replicated or relevant across different areas. The requirement for a robust needs and evidenced based methodology for prioritisation was also highlighted in order to respond to local need across the county and provide transparency in decision making linked to corporate priorities and corporate plan themes. Officers welcomed local member input and confirmed a member update was imminent
- officers elaborated on the support available to help applicants prepare bids and ensure effective project delivery, in particular the role of the Senior Leadership Team in engaging with local authority applications and supporting MAGs in that process. It was considered the open application bids for over £250k would be from organisations well-resourced in that regard and early conversations had

been held with likely candidates on the process with further work around due diligence. In terms of projects under £250k, funding would be available in those Key Funds to provide support for applicants and project delivery

- for prospective applicants for shared prosperity funding it was important to ascertain whether potential projects related to the investment priority themes and met the necessary criteria in that regard. However, the council wanted to engage and work closely with communities and community organisations to help applicants draw down appropriate and relevant funding, whether shared prosperity funding or other funding streams, in order to facilitate and maximise funding opportunities and successful project delivery across the county
- further details relating to the role of the Partnership Group was provided based on the UK guidance which included both core and advisory members to ensure a wide variety of organisations informed deliberations and recommendations to Cabinet. It was agreed that an overview of all applications should be presented to Cabinet, not just those projects recommended by the Partnership Group.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *approves the applications as detailed in Appendix A to the report, based on the recommendations from the Core Partnership Group, and*
- (b) *notes the information on processes and timescales for future applications as detailed in Appendix B to the report and next steps.*

6 DENBIGHSHIRE LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEMES

Councillor Elen Heaton presented the report seeking Cabinet approval to the temporary extension of contracts and the process for retendering of contracts in relation to Denbighshire Learning Disability Supported Living Schemes. The report also included a confidential appendix which contained information that could potentially lead to the identification of individuals and commercially sensitive information, and Cabinet was asked to move into private session in the event they were minded to discuss the confidential elements of the documentation.

Cabinet had approved similar extensions and a process for mini-tenders under the North Wales Regional Supported Living Framework for the contracts in September 2021. However, work had not progressed as quickly as anticipated, largely due to Covid-19, and further consultation was currently being carried out on the option of direct payments for citizens in supported living, with first tenders to be advertised in April 2024. For contracts where direct payments were not appropriate, mini tenders would be run on a patch basis between April 2024 and July 2026. A further contract extension had been requested to enable that work to be undertaken.

The Interim Head of Community and Support Services explained that citizens and carers, particularly in learning disabilities, found the regular retendering of contracts upsetting, and discussions were currently ongoing with citizens and carers around the option of commissioning care and support through direct payments resulting in contracts not having to be reviewed as regularly. Direct payments would not be insisted upon and schemes would be retendered as required. It was clarified that the retendering process would involve grouping care packages together where

appropriate to streamline the process and facilitate an easier and quicker process for citizens and carers. Councillor Julie Matthews highlighted the importance of continuity of care and familiarity for the wellbeing of residents, particularly in supported living, and was fully supportive of the approach and recommendations.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the issuing of temporary extensions to 41 learning Disability Supported Living contracts for a maximum period to 30 September 2026. The contract details and the proposed revised timetable for the retendering of the contracts had been attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

7 BUDGET 2023/24 - FINAL PROPOSALS

Councillor Gwyneth Ellis presented the report setting out the implications of the draft Local Government Settlement 2023/24 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2023/24, including the level of Council Tax. The Leader referred to the Council Budget Workshop held the previous week which had been well attended and Councillor Ellis added that members had worked well together on the budget setting process and commended the Head of Finance and his team on that work.

Councillor Ellis and the Head of Finance provided an overview of the budget process and latest financial position and elaborated on the proposals for consideration and recommendation to full Council in order to set the budget for 2023/24. The draft settlement had resulted in a positive settlement of 8.2% (compared to the Welsh average of 7.9%) with a final settlement expected early March 2023. The settlement included all pay increases for teaching and non-teaching posts and responsibility to pay social care staff the Real Living Wage. Pressures amounting to £25.116m had been detailed and the +8.2% settlement generated £14.231m leaving a funding gap of £10.885m with proposals to bridge that gap identified in the report and further explained at the meeting. A Council Tax rise of 3.8% had been proposed to generate £2.13m additional revenue. Due to the lateness of the final settlement it was recommended that authority be delegated to enable cash adjustments in the budget proposals of up to £500k. The draft settlement had also included an indicative average settlement increase of 3.0% for 2024/25. Finally, the extensive consultation on the budget setting process and involvement of all members in that process was reiterated.

Cabinet paid tribute to the work of the Head of Finance and his team on the budget and commended the wider engagement with all stakeholders and elected members as part of the budget setting process which had been clear, transparent and inclusive. The better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government was also welcomed to address some of the identified pressures and the effective budget management proposed to bridge the funding gap which enabled a proposed 3.8% Council Tax rise which was at the lower end of indicative increases across Wales.

During consideration of the report there was a lengthy debate on highways spend. Councillor Emrys Wynne sought assurances regarding the sufficiency of the £4m increased investment in the highways capital programme going forward as proposed by Council. Councillor Bobby Feeley referred to the severe damage caused to some of the county's roads as a result of the extreme adverse weather over recent months, which could not have been foreseen, and had created a huge

backlog of repair works that would require funding. Councillor Terry Mendies highlighted the impact of inflation on the £4m spend and the desperate need for investment in rural roads, providing examples of near impassable roads in the Alyn Valley ward, with some roads providing a single route, and therefore lifeline, for those communities. He suggested that the budget be revisited and, as a minimum, highway spend be increased by 3.8% in line with the proposed rise in Council Tax.

The Lead Cabinet Members and relevant officers responded to the issues raised, and subsequent questions and comments on highway maintenance as follows –

- the £4m investment in the highways capital programme proposed by Council had been included in the budget for 2023/24 in line with the original commitment to fund the investment over five years. However, that increased investment required approval on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process
- reported on the strategy and prioritisation of highway spend, with a draft capital highway programme for the next financial year being discussed with members in the current round of Member Area Group (MAG) meetings to gain feedback before the draft was finalised – whilst the rise in inflation had an impact on what could be achieved, the additional funding was already making a difference and if the increased investment was maintained over a number of years it would make a significant difference to the quality of the county's road network
- Councillor Barry Mellor acknowledged the poor condition of some of the county's roads and accepted an offer from Councillor Mendies to accompany him on a tour of his ward; any extra investment in highways would be welcomed but there was a need to balance the demands and pressures across all of the council's services when setting the budget and keep Council Tax rises to a minimum
- the increased investment of £4m in the highways capital programme was funded through additional borrowing, with an estimated additional borrowing of £235k capital funding in 2023/24; there was scope as part of the budget to use £131k to fund capital projects in year which would equate to capital investment of £2.2m – that mechanism could be used to bid for additional highway investment and would be subject to the usual decision making processes
- Councillor Gwyneth Ellis acknowledged the decline in road conditions in some areas but also the improvements as a result of the extra investment. Given the extensive process undertaken to inform budget setting and decision making she did not consider it appropriate to decide on allocating specific budget elements for services in this forum and at this stage, and had been disappointed the matter had not been raised previously as part of that comprehensive process
- it was acknowledged that the weather had an impact on road conditions and there were many roads across the county in poor condition. The £4m investment had not been a scientific calculation by the service to ensure all roads were in good condition, that would require significantly more funding. Whilst the service would clearly like more in terms of capital allocation it also understood the limitations of the council's overall budget situation. Prior to the £4m allocation the service received around £2.5m which meant that minor roads did suffer because the focus was on those roads that presented greatest risk and most used. The £4m allocation had enabled a greater focus on minor roads with around £1.5m earmarked for both rural and urban minor roads.

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts asked that, for clarity, it be recorded in the minutes that any levelling up funding awarded to the Council had no relevance to the budget setting for 2023/24 which was completely separate. In response to various other questions raised on the report, the Lead Member and officers clarified that –

- the increased pressures on the rollout of the Universal Primary Free School Meals programme related to the grant for those pupils not eligible for free school meals; due to the data lag that element could not be claimed back from the Welsh Government until the following year when the actual figure was known
- the increase in the daily recharge rate for project management was in line with the going rate and related mainly to one off costs across the council, mostly grant funded, and unlikely to impact the base budget
- right sizing care and support and the reduction in number of double-handed care calls was possible due to the use of equipment and adaptations which provided a more dignified and cost effective service; the increase in micro-providers and volunteers in the overall care system was also a positive step, providing greater choice for citizens and a good practice way of working
- housing benefit write offs generally related to overpayments where assumptions had been made upfront when someone entered the benefit system in order to avoid delays in payment pending data from the Department of Work and Pensions; the Revenues and Benefits Service had performed well under Civica and the Council would build on that work now the service was back in-house.

In closing the item, the Leader highlighted the good debate and contributions made to the budget setting proposals which would be considered by full Council on 31 January. He welcomed the better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government who had recognised the pressures on local government, and paid tribute to the work of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) in that lobbying process and also to the former Leader Councillor Hugh Evans from whom he had inherited, via the WLGA, an open dialogue with the Welsh Government.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- notes the impact of the Draft Local Government Settlement 2023/24;*
- supports the proposals outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, and detailed in Section 4 of the report, and recommends them to the full Council in order to finalise the budget for 2023/24;*
- recommends to Council the average Council Tax rise of 3.8% proposed;*
- recommends to Council that authority is delegated to the Head of Finance and Property in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance to adjust the use of cash included in the budget proposals by up to £500k if there is movement between the draft and final settlement figures in order to allow the setting of Council Tax in a timely manner, and*
- confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 5 to the report).*

At this point (12 noon) the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break.

8 FINANCE REPORT

Councillor Gwyneth Ellis presented the report detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

A summary of the Council's financial position was provided as follows –

- the net revenue budget for 2022/23 was £233.696m (£216.818m in 2021/22)
- an overspend of £2.305m was forecast for service and corporate budgets (£2.189m overspend last month)
- highlighted current risks and assumptions relating to corporate budgets and individual service areas together with the impact of coronavirus and inflation
- detailed service savings and fees and charges increases (£0.754m); no savings having been requested from Community Support Services or Schools
- provided a general update on the Housing Revenue Account, Treasury Management, Capital Plan and major projects.

Cabinet was also asked to approve plans to spend a capital grant (£1.107m) for a homelessness leasing scheme to acquire extra private rented sector properties.

The Head of Finance highlighted that the main movement since the previous month's report had been in Children's Services, with a slight increase in the overspend due to an increase in new residential placements. Since the report had been written he was pleased to report that the Welsh Government had confirmed a homelessness grant of £400k which would reduce the overspend by that amount. There were also indications from Welsh Government that more in year funding may be released over the next two/three months and any developments in that regard would be reported back to Cabinet. Finally, approval was sought for the business case relating to the Homelessness Wales Leasing Scheme which was 100% grant funded by the Welsh Government and would allow the lease of private properties for homelessness purposes. Councillor Rhys Thomas welcomed the grant funding for the scheme which he fully supported to benefit homeless people in the county.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) note the budgets set for 2022/23 and progress against the agreed budget strategy, and*
- (b) approve the plans to spend a capital grant (£1.107m) to implement a homelessness leasing scheme to achieve additional private rented sector properties as detailed in Section 6.9 of the report and Appendix 5 to the report.*

9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet forward work programme was presented for consideration.

RESOLVED that Cabinet's forward work programme be noted.

At this juncture, the Leader advised that it was the last Cabinet meeting to be supported by Sharon Evans, Business Coordinator: Leader's Office, who would be leaving her current post to work for another service in the Council. The Leader paid tribute to the valuable work and excellent support she had provided to both himself as Leader and the Cabinet as a whole. On behalf of the Cabinet, he thanked her for all her hard work and wished her all the very best for the future.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21/02/23
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr. Gill German/ Geraint Davies
Head of Service	Geraint Davies
Report author	Lisa Walchester/ James Curran
Title	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn Project - School Organisation objection report

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is to inform Cabinet Members of the objections received in regard to the Statutory Notice published by Denbighshire County Council proposing to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To review the objection report and consider the determination of the Statutory Notice.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Cabinet are asked:

- 3.1 To review the Objection Report attached as Appendix 2 to this report;
- 3.2 To consider whether it is satisfied that the statutory process set out in the School Organisation Code has been followed;
- 3.3 To consider whether or not to approve the proposal set out in the Statutory Notice in regard to increasing the capacity of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from 116 to 220;

3.4 That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment, Appendix 1, as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

4.1. This is a Band B project in the Welsh Governments Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, previously 21st Century Schools and College programme. Commitment to this proposal was outlined in a revised Strategic Outline programme, which was approved by Welsh Government in September 2020. The programme included an overall allocation of £23.8m for this project. As this project is for a special school Welsh Government, subject to the approval of the relevant Business Cases, will provide 75% of the funding with the remaining 25% to be provided by Denbighshire as per the Corporate Plan commitments.

4.2. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is a 3-19 school which provides specialist provision for pupils with autism. Last year Denbighshire County Council completed a period of formal consultation regarding the proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220. The school will move into a brand new purpose built facility to accommodate the increase.

4.3. On the 18th October 2022 the Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report and agreed to proceed with the proposal with a change in the implementation date from 1st September 2024 to 28th April 2025.

4.4. The Statutory Objection period opened on Tuesday 8th November 2022 for a period of 28 days, concluding on Monday 5th December 2022. During this time 2 objections were received via email.

4.5. The objections focus on the location of the new build, in particular the suitability of the site, traffic concerns and loss of green space, rather than the proposed increase in capacity. The Statutory Notice stated that 'the implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.'

4.6. In determining proposals the School Organisation Code states decision makers:

- must consider whether there are any other related proposals;

- must ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code;
- must ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and the notice contains all the required information;
- must consider the consultation document and consultation report;
- must consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals;

4.7. The School Organisation Code clearly states that “where a local authority’s proposals have received objections and require determination under section 53 of the 2013 Act, the local authority **must** not approach the determination of these proposals with a closed mind. Objections **must** be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in the light of the factors set out in section 1.3 – 1.14 of this Code.”

4.8. In considering the proposal Cabinet should take into account the factors highlighted within the code which include quality and standards in education, need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools, resourcing of education and other financial implications and the additional factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing, approving or determining proposals for the reorganisation of SEN (ALN) provision as detailed in the School Organisation Code.

4.9. In addition, in accordance with the 2013 Act Cabinet are required to give full consideration to the objections received by the Community to the proposal. The objections have been collated into an Objection Report which details the objections received and the response of the local authority to these concerns. This is attached as Appendix 2.

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

5.1. The project links with the “A learning and growing Denbighshire” theme in the newly adopted Corporate Plan 2022-2027- by providing high quality buildings and facilities, working in partnership with Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and to support schools to transition to being Community Focussed Schools, providing a range of services and

activities to help meet the needs of pupils, their families, and the wider community.

- 5.2. The proposed new build will have a positive contribution to the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero by 2030. Welsh Government announced that from 1st January 2022 all new build projects will be required to demonstrate delivery of Net Zero Carbon in operation. Welsh Government have stated that they will fund 100% of this in line with current benchmarks that they have detailed. This will form part of the business case as the design develops and costs become clearer.

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

- 6.1. There will be minimum costs to the Council via the publication of the Objection report.
- 6.2. In terms of the build at this stage of the project we are anticipating that the likely project costs will increase beyond the initial allocation of £23.8m. This is in line with the wider pressures on construction costs which has seen significant costs increase. Options for value engineering will be explored to minimise increases but these are unlikely to balance of inflationary pressures. The submission of the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case to the Welsh Government will need to reflect these pressures. This is likely to require the use of the current reserve of unallocated funding as part of Denbighshire's outline programme for Band B.

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

- 7.1. Please see attached Appendix 1- New build- Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.
- 7.2. The main conclusions of the report are:
- 7.2.1. The proposal scored 3 out of 4 stars and 28/36,
- 7.2.2. The proposal is considering the long term future of the school as demand for these types of school places will increase. The new build will allow the school to use the space flexible and bring all staff and pupils onto one site.

7.2.3. The build itself will help the local economy and will have a strong emphasis on community benefits.

7.2.4. As the project develops the assessment has been revisited and updated. The school and other officer within education have been consulted.

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

8.1. The project is on the Denbigh MAG agenda as a standing item and therefore updates are provided at every meeting.

8.2. The school staff and Governors are aware of the project and have engaged in the design meetings with Wates.

8.3. Internally highways, planning, leisure and ICT have all been made aware of the project and feedback received.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. As noted in section 6 there will be minimum costs to the Council via the publication of the Objection report. Although the programme has been approved in principle the wider cost implication and the Business Case for the final project (including funding implication for DCC and the wider programme going forward) will need to go through the new Capital Approval Process.

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

10.1. The formal consultation process needs to proceed alongside the new build design and funding approvals.

10.2. The mitigating risk is that formal appointment of the lead contractor for the build itself will take place following completion of the formal consultation process. Therefore, should there be significant opposition to the proposal at an early stage the Council could seek to delay the appointment of the lead contractor as appropriate.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides the legislative requirement for local authorities to review school proposals and to progress proposals to reconfigure school provision.

New build- Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

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:	860
Brief description:	The impact of bringing Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn together on one site in a new purpose built building in Denbigh. The school is currently over 3 sites in the town.
Date Completed:	15/10/2021 15:46:11 Version: 1
Completed by:	Lisa Walchester
Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Denbigh,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Staff and pupils at the school
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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

Score for the sustainability of the approach


 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 28 / 36.

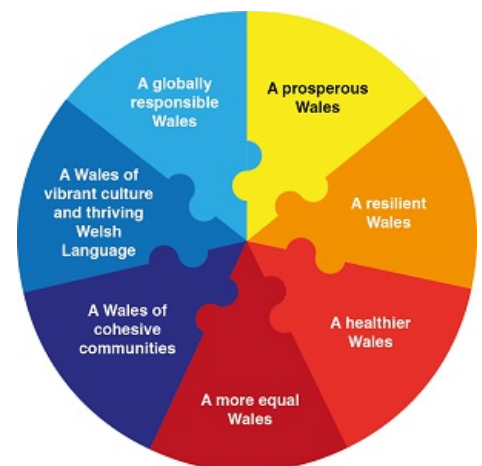
Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term	A new building for Ysgol Plan Brondyffryn will see its capacity increase by approx 100 places and will give the school an opportunity to design the school how they want to and ensure flexibility for the future in terms of the curriculum delivery and pupil numbers. It will bring all staff and pupils onto one site in a purpose build school fit for 21st Century learning.
Prevention	The increase in places at the school is needed- currently there is waiting list for the school and this September they Year 7 pupils were unable to move to the secondary due to lack of room and have and to remain in the primary site. As the proposal develops the impact of the build on the environment and on energy use moving forward will be considered.
Integration	We need to increase the capacity at the school significantly as demand increases for pupil places of this nature. If we do not local pupils will have to travel into other Local Authority areas to access these places or stay in unsuitable schools that cannot cater for their needs. By building a brand new build nearby to the current school- delivery on all current sites will not be disrupted.
Collaboration	We are already engaging with the school at a management level- with the senior staff and governors.
Involvement	As mentioned we are already engaging with the school and as we move forward parts, carers and pupils will be consulted in what they would like to see in the new school. As the project develops pre planning consultation will be undertaken with local residents.

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 project to bring together Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn on one site in a brand new building links with the Corporate priority of Young People and will enhance pupils learning. All the well being goals have

positive impacts except one which is neutral. As the business case for the proposal develop there will be a requirement for an on-going assessment process to ensure that potential impacts are appropriately addressed- i.e. if we need to undertake bat surveys for example. The build itself will help the local economy and will have a strong emphasise on community benefits. Once the school is completed the pupils and staff will have a modern purpose built facility that will match their needs and allow more pupils to access this type of school in the locality. The transition process for pupils will be managed in partnership with the school and staff and will be planned for in a detailed manner as will the decant of each site.

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 new build will bring all pupils of the school together on one site with improved facilities and outdoor areas. The project will also increase the schools current capacity- the school is currently over its capacity and demand for places continues to increase.
Further actions required	Work closely with the appointed contractor on how we can reduce any carbon emissions during the build stage.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Reduce the carbon footprint of the school as 3 buildings will be vacated and the new building will employ new technologies.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Utilise existing transport links. New build will have new ICT infrastructure which will improve the ICT delivery at the school.
Economic development	Building phase of the project will have Community benefits and use of local labour, apprentices etc.
Quality skills for the long term	The schools new facilities could provide pupils with opportunities to develop practical life and work skills- for example an operational cafe.
Quality jobs for the long term	The new provision will secure and increase the number of jobs at the school. Better facilities will also increase staff morale and improve staff retention.
Childcare	The new school will increase the amount of places available at this special school for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The construction of the new build will create carbon emissions.
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	The site of the new building will be on an existing playing field and therefore we do not see a major disruption to the eco system. As described above any issues will be mitigated for in the relevant manner.

Further actions required	Waste management plan will be requirement of the procurement process.
---------------------------------	---

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The project will ensure all relevant biodiversity studies are undertaken and any mitigation actions followed.
Biodiversity in the built environment	If required new habitat areas would be developed within the school grounds.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Appointed contractor will have a waste management plan.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	The new building will be designed to minimise energy costs. Consideration will be made on how the transportation of materials will be delivered to the site, sourcing locally where possible to reduce emissions.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Scope during the construction phase to involve the local community and the school.
Flood risk management	The issue of flooding will be examined during the design and planning stages.

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	Positive
Justification for impact	Improved facilities for the school will assist in pupil and staff overall emotional and mental wellbeing. The building will be fit for purpose and will be flexible enough to adapt when it needs to.
Further actions required	Ensure all residents are informed and kept up to date in regards to build progress by the contractor.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Improved facilities and learning environment will improve staff, pupil and community morale.
Access to good quality, healthy food	The school will have a dedicated dining area for all pupils.

People's emotional and mental well-being	Improved external areas for play and the new build could also house a hydro therapy pool to be used by pupils. All pupils on one site- no transition when pupils move from the primary to the secondary section of the school and any siblings at the school would be at the same site at all times.
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	Improved access to outdoor areas as well as improved external areas overall with more space and play equipment.

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	Disruption for residents living near the site during the construction of the new build.
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	N/A

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will provide facilities that will support better teaching and an improved learning environment.
Further actions required	None

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	Improve access to education for those pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	Improve access to education for those pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	N/A
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	Pupils with ASC will have first class facilities to develop life and work skills.

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	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposal would bring the school community of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn together in a brand new purpose built facility. The school already link in with Ysgol Tir Morfa and these links will be strengthened as facilities could also be accessed by these pupils. Facilities could also be offered out to community use where appropriate i.e. if there was a hydro therapy pool this could be available at weekends or evening to the health authority.
Further actions required	Keep residents informed of when any particular noisy works are to take place.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	All pupils will be educated at one site rather than 3 separate sites which is how the school currently operates. Safeguarding will be considered during the design stage to ensure clear demarcation between the public and private zones both within the new building itself and the overall site. The new building will be designed to ensure pupil and staff safety.
---	---

Community participation and resilience	Pre-planning consultation events will be held with the community so they can view the plans and ask any questions they may have. The facilities could include a cafe and more vocational opportunities that pupils from our other special school in Denbighshire Ysgol Tir Morfa can also utilise especially in the post 16 provision.
The attractiveness of the area	The design of the new build will look to enhance the area.
Connected communities	The new build will increase the capacity of the school which will ensure Denbighshire pupils will not need to go out of County to access this type of provision.
Rural resilience	N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	N/A
Community participation and resilience	N/A
The attractiveness of the area	Noise and disruption through the build process.
Connected communities	N/A
Rural resilience	N/A

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The majority of the children that attend are from English speaking homes and Welsh is taught as a second language, however education can be provided through the medium of Welsh if requested by the family. It will be important for the contractor to ensure all communications to residents are bilingual.
Further actions required	None

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Insisting the contractors use bilingual signs and newsletters when communicating to the public.
Promoting the Welsh language	N/A
Culture and heritage	The new facility could be used for community events and social activities linked to the Welsh culture.

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	Overall the impact will be positive through encouraging the use of local supply chains.
Further actions required	As the proposal develops further the impact of the works on carbon emissions will be more apparent and it possible mitigation actions will be put in place. We will work closely with the contractor in designing an energy efficient building as we can within the budget.

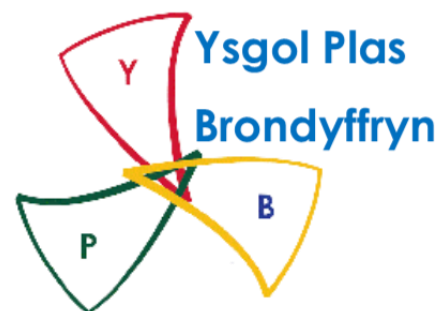
Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The procurement option for the project will allow access to local contractors. Community Benefits will be evaluated at tender stage and monitored throughout the project.
Human rights	Ensure the contractor is a 'Considerate Contractor' .
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	N/A
Reducing climate change	The building will be designed so it is as energy efficient as it possibly can be.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	N/A
Human rights	N/A
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	N/A
Reducing climate change	The constructions of a new build will create carbon emissions.

This page is intentionally left blank



Objection Report- Relating to the proposal to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

February 2023

Objection Report

Should you require a copy of this report in hard copy please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk with your name and postal address. Please indicate whether you would like to receive the document in Welsh, English or both.

Objection Report

Contents

Introduction	4
Formal Consultation	4
Statutory Notice	4
Publication of Objection Report	7
Cabinet Decision	7
Recommendation	8
Decision Notification	8
Appendix 1	9

Objection Report

Introduction

Denbighshire County Council completed a period of formal consultation regarding the proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220. The school will move into a brand new purpose built facility to accommodate the increase.

Formal Consultation

The formal consultation began on 17th May 2022 and closed on the 27th June 2022 in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018. The consultation document was distributed with links sent to all statutory consultees and a copy was also published on the Council's website at:

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/ysgol-plas-brondyffryn-denbigh>

The consultation report relating to these proposals was publicised on 22nd September 2022 and all Statutory consultees and interested parties were directly informed of its publication on the Denbighshire website as above. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix 1**.

Statutory Notice

On the 18th October the Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report and agreed to proceed with the proposal with a change in the implementation date from 1st September 2024 to 28th April 2025.

The Statutory Objection period opened on Tuesday 8th November 2022 for a period of 28 days, concluding on Monday 5th December 2022.

During this time 2 objections were received via email. The majority of the points raised in the objections received related to the proposed location of the new build rather than the proposal under consideration, the increase in capacity from 116 pupils to 220 pupils. The

Objection Report

Statutory Notice stated that “implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.” These issues will be considered fully as part of these approval processes.

A summary of these objections together with the Council’s response can be found within the table below:

Objection Point	Local Authority Response:
<p>1. Location: Unsuitable for a school, field used locally, should have been a protected Green Space.</p>	<p>The Statutory Notice published was focused on the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>Explanatory Note number 2 stated: “The implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent being approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.’</p> <p>The proposal will be subject to the planning process.</p>
<p>2. Suitability of site: Impact on Denbigh High students. School is not just for Denbigh pupils. No room for expansion on the site in the future.</p>	<p>Denbigh High is part of the Local Authorities Band B projects and is inevitably linked with the proposal around Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.</p> <p>If the secondary provision at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn vacates the Denbigh High site, as part of the Denbigh High School project, they will not only have their building but also additional yard space and improved access to the schools other field which will be used solely for PE lessons.</p>

Objection Report

	<p>The Local Authority believe that Denbigh is the right location for the school, the school has always been in the town and given the catchment of pupils to the school Denbigh is considered central and ensures travel times to those in the north and south of Denbighshire are reasonable to the school.</p> <p>In terms of the size of the school we believe that this is sufficient to meet the demand in the future and we could not justify building it bigger. The design of spaces needed are informed by Building Bulletin 104 (BB104).</p>
<p>3. Traffic: Concerns around the access point on Ystrad road</p>	<p>This is a concern around the location and not the proposal regarding the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>These concerns would be considered as part of any planning process for the proposed site.</p>
<p>4. Loss of sports field/ green space- Loss of Denbigh High school field to the school, loss of the running track, loss of field as a sporting facility.</p> <p>The proposal gives little consideration to the clubs and high school who already use the Denbigh High School field. What will be offered as a suitable alternative?</p>	<p>The Statutory Notice published was focused on the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>The Council's proposals would ensure that the correct provision remains for Denbigh High School in respect of outdoor facilities and consideration given to any improvements required to the fields that would be used by Denbigh High School moving forward.</p>

Objection Report

	<p>This would be determined by the planning application and would be considered as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>5. Other schools in Denbigh:</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to the impact of expansion for the other schools in Denbigh given the new housing estates in the town.</p>	<p>The Band B proposals for the Sustainable Communities for learning programme- previously 21st Century Schools and College programme is focused on the town of Denbigh with the following 3 projects being proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal to rebuild Ysgol Pendref,• Proposal to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn via a new purpose built facility,• Proposal to refurbish Denbigh High school. <p>If all 3 proceed there would be £46.6 million investment in the town.</p> <p>As part of the business case for any project the impact of new housing estates are considered when reviewing the capacity of the schools involved.</p>

Publication of Objection Report

The Objection Report will be published and posted on the Council's website with hard copies available on request.

Cabinet Decision

This document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 21st February 2023.

Objection Report

All objections received during the objection period have been made available to Cabinet Members at Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Ruthin, together with the consultation report for further perusal.

Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal below:

To alter Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn in Denbigh so that the capacity is increased from 116 to 220.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of this Objection Report that in line with the processes outlined in the Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2018 along with the information gathered and reviewed as part of the consultation phase and formal objection period the Members endorse the proposal outlined above and permission is given as part of Cabinet's final determination to progress to implementation stage.

Decision Notification

Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.

Objection Report

Appendix 1

No	Stakeholder
1.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
2.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
3.	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn Governing Body
4.	The School Council of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn- Primary and secondary
5.	The Diocese of St Asaph
6.	The Diocese of Wrexham
7.	Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all schools in Denbighshire (Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)
8.	Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
9.	NHS Community Paediatric
10.	All Denbighshire County Councillors
11.	Local and regional Assembly Members and MPs
12.	Denbigh Town Council
13.	The Welsh Government
14.	Estyn
15.	Relevant Teaching and support staff Trade Unions
16.	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service
17.	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Objection Report

18.	Welsh language Commissioner
19.	Flintshire County Council- Chief Officer for Education and Youth
20.	Conwy County Borough Council- Head of Education Services
21.	Wrexham County Borough Council- Chief Officer Education and Early Intervention
22.	Denbighshire County Council- Head of Education
23.	Gwynedd Council- Head of Education
24.	Isle of Anglesey County Council- Director of Education, Skills and Young People
25.	Children and adolescent learning disability Service
26.	National Autistic Society

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 st February 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Barry Mellor (Lead Member for Environment and Transport) / Gary Williams (Corporate Director - Governance and Business & Climate and Ecological Change Programme Senior Responsible Owner)
Report author	Helen Vaughan-Evans (Climate Change Programme Manager)
Title	North Wales Energy Strategy, the associated Action Plan and Local Area Energy Planning in Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report is about the regional energy planning process and incorporating priorities into strategic actions and intervention. It recommends endorsing the North Wales Energy Strategy and the associated Action Plan and provides information regarding the commencement of Local Area Energy Planning in Denbighshire.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. A decision is required on whether to endorse the North Wales Energy Strategy (Appendix 1 and <https://www.gov.wales/regional-energy-strategy-north-wales>) and associated Action Plan (Appendix 2).
- 2.2. To provide information regarding the commencement of Local Area Energy Planning in Denbighshire.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet endorses the attached North Wales Energy Strategy and associated Action Plan, and commends the vision and ambition of the strategy.
- 3.2. That Cabinet note the commencement of Local Area Energy Planning in the county.

4. Report details

North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan

- 4.1. Each region in Wales has developed its own Energy Strategy and Action Plan. The North Wales Energy Strategy was drafted by Welsh Government (WG) Energy Service with support and input from the Ambition North Wales (ANW), WG and regional stakeholders. The supporting Action Plan has been co-developed by ANW and WG with support from regional stakeholders via a task and finish group. The task and finish group comprised of representatives from ANW, WG, the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, all six local authorities, and the Regional Skills Partnership.
- 4.2. The North Wales Energy Strategy was endorsed by ANW and WG's Minister for Climate Change in March 2021. The Action Plan was approved by ANW in September 2022. Democratic support from each constituent local authority is now being sought.
- 4.3. The North Wales Energy Strategy identifies key priorities and opportunities to deliver on the region's ambition for decarbonising its energy system. The Strategy sets out the following vision for North Wales: *'Delivering maximum local economic, social, ecological and wellbeing benefits from transitioning to a net zero economy and becoming a net exporter of low carbon electricity through cross-border and regional cooperation'*. Appendix 3 outlines the 5 priorities for achieving the vision.
- 4.5 The Action Plan translates the priorities in the Strategy into strategic actions and interventions. ANW and WG note it will be necessary to progress more detailed work to establish any funding requirements and sources for any un-costed actions. There are a number of actions in the plan where Local Authorities have been identified as the Lead. These have been lifted from the document and collated in Appendix 4 for ease.
- 4.6 ANW and WG have agreed that the existing Task and Finish Group transitions to a Steering Group / Project Board with a revised Terms of Reference to provide the governance to oversee the completion of actions within the action plan. Membership will be reviewed as an early priority, the Group will meet regularly and will agree arrangements for reporting to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, Local Authorities and WG.

4.7 The Strategy and Action Plan provide the strategic context for the development of a more detailed Local Area Energy Plan for Denbighshire.

Local Area Energy Planning

4.8 Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) is a data driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target.

4.9 LAEP is being funded by WG and involves dedicated plans being prepared within each local authority area in Wales. These plans will be co-developed by the local authority and local stakeholders with support from partners including ANW, WG and external support.

4.10 The work on LAEP commenced in January 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in January 2024.

4.11 The completed LAEP will come back to Cabinet once completed to be endorsed.

4.12 It is proposed that annual updates on progress are provided to secure effective democratic oversight of progress and to influence and decide on actions going forward into future years.

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

5.1 The decision will support the Council in making its contribution to the WG policy for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030 and for Wales to meet its legally binding target of reducing emissions to Net Zero by 2050. It will support the Council in meeting its locally agreed target of the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero by 2030, the ambitions set out in the 2019 Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and within the Corporate Plan Greener Denbighshire Priority (2023-2028).

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

- 6.1 For certain actions within the North Wales Energy Strategy and Strategic Action Plan, further detailed work on establishing funding requirements and sources has commenced by the regional Task and Finish Group.
- 6.2 Many of the actions identified with LA's as the lead are "engage" / "input into" type actions with "no funding required". This will involve however staff time across a range of service areas within DCC including: Climate Change Team, Planning, Energy Management, Public Health, Denbighshire Housing, Property Services, Fleet Management, Procurement, Public Protection, Transport, Communications and Business Support
- 6.3 Local Area Energy Planning is being funded by WG. Consultants ARUP have been appointed by ANW to deliver the LAEP for Denbighshire. 3 roles have been recruited by ANW to support the delivery of these plans working with the Local Authorities in North Wales and ARUP.
- 6.4 The likely impact of the LAEP on service areas in the Council are as follows:
- Climate Change Team- lead contact for this piece of work or ANW and ARUP, coordinating internal effort and delivering set tasks.
 - Planning Department, Housing, Energy Management Team- input to the data collection and development of the LAEP.
 - Communications Team and Community Development - input to the data collection and development of the LAEP, identifying stakeholders for engagement workshops.

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

- 7.1 The North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan is aligned to the '5 ways of working' of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The contents have been co-produced through engagement with a diverse group of regional stakeholders. A Denbighshire specific Well-being Impact Assessment will be carried out as the Denbighshire LAEP is developed.

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

- 8.1 ANW has shared the draft Action Plan with each proposed lead and enabling organisation identified in the Plan, ANW Energy Programme Board, North Wales Planning Officers Group, North Wales Decarbonisation Group, Welsh Local Government Association, and all workshop attendees (circa 100 individuals representing 60 organisations).

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 As stated in 5.1, the recommendations in this report support the Council in meeting its locally agreed target of the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero by 2030. The Medium Term Financial Plan includes investment for the Carbon Zero Project and recognises that DCC financial budgets will need to align with the Council's climate and ecological priorities when projects and interventions are developed and implemented. As noted in 4.5 more detailed work is required to establish the funding requirements and sources for any un-costed actions. Any future funding requirements will be considered by the Capital Scrutiny Group and a final decision on approving funding will come back to Cabinet.

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

- 10.1 Pertinent risks are noted in Appendix 5.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1 Section 2, Local Government Act 2000 - the power to do anything which DCC consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.


This page is intentionally left blank


North Wales Energy Strategy


Our vision for 2035


“Delivering maximum local economic, social, ecological and wellbeing benefits from transitioning to a net zero economy and becoming a net exporter of low carbon electricity through cross-border and regional cooperation”

Our priorities

 To harness the abundance of local low carbon resources to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix

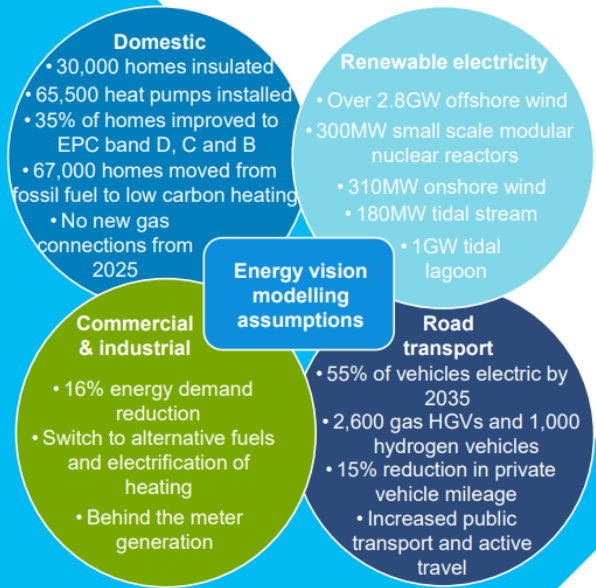
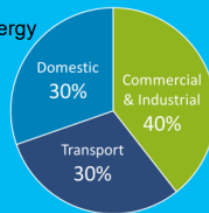
 To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies

 To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock

 To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport

Our baseline energy assessment

- We consume **23%** of total energy consumed in Wales
- We host **37%** of Wales' renewable energy capacity
- **0.7%** of our homes use a biomass boiler or heat pump
- We have **1,183 MW** of renewable energy installed in the region, of which **8%** is locally owned
- Our total energy consumption fell by **5%** between 2005 and 2017 and the greenhouse gas emissions from our energy system fell by **28%**
- Commercial and industrial electricity consumption constitutes **71%** of all electricity consumption in the region
- Transport is dominated by private car use with **0.1%** of cars pure electric
- **36%** of our homes are EPC band E, F or G
- Our sectoral energy demand split:



Energy vision modelling assumptions

Achieving our energy vision

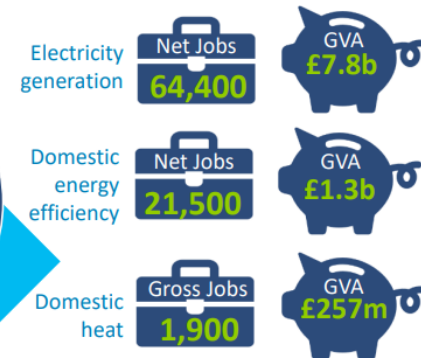
To be on track for net zero by 2050, we need to reduce emissions from our energy system by **55%** by 2035. Energy modelling achieves this reduction split by sector as follows:



Our energy vision is also supportive of the ambitions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



Estimated economic impacts of achieving our energy vision:



£15 billion spend required to achieve our energy vision

Not all of the jobs will be held by North Wales residents; some jobs will be held by persons outside of the region

The additional jobs associated with this vision will require strengthening and building new skills within the region

* all figures shown are approximate values

This page is intentionally left blank

North Wales Energy Strategy Strategic Action Plan

Page 51

Funded and supported by:



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Developed by:



Uchelgais
Gogledd Cymru
Ambition
North Wales

Developed in collaboration with:



Gwasanaeth Ynni
Energy Service

Contents

North Wales Energy Strategy	1
Strategic Action Plan	1
Abbreviations	3
Introduction	5
Background	5
Action Plan content	7
Governance	8
Monitoring and Reporting	9
Strategic priorities and actions	10
Cross-cutting actions	10
1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix	15
2. To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies	15
3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock	19
4. Achieve a shift to lower-carbon transport	24
5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth .	28

Abbreviations

CCUS	Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EV	Electric Vehicle
IHP	Innovative Housing Programme
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LA	Local Authority
LAEP	Local Area Energy Plan
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NZIW	Net Zero Industry Wales
OEA	Offshore Energy Alliance
ORP	Optimised Retrofit Programme
PLA	Personal Learning Account
PV	Photovoltaic
RSL	Registered Social Landlords

RSP	Regional Skills Partnership
SME	Small to medium-sized enterprises
SMR	Small Modular Reactor
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks
UK	United Kingdom
ULEVTF	Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Transformation Fund
WGES	Welsh Government Energy Service
WHQS	Welsh Housing Quality Standard
WPD	Western Power Distribution

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank all the stakeholders who made valuable contributions to this work through their participation in workshops, and through additional communication by e-mail. We would also like to thank all members of the Task and Finish Group and the Thematic Leads who provided strategic oversight and direction to this work.

Introduction

This document presents a Strategic Action Plan (hereafter ‘the action plan’) for North Wales. It sets out strategic actions that are required to realise the strategic priorities set out in the [North Wales Energy Strategy](#).

Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC’s) Sixth Assessment Report reports that we are already experiencing the widespread impacts and costs of climate change.¹ The IPCC’s Special Report on 1.5 states that unless global warming is limited to close to 1.5°C by 2050, the impacts of climate change will become unmanageable and irreversible for natural and human systems. There is now global acknowledgement of the latest climate science and national commitments made under the Paris Agreement recognise the climate change crisis and the need to act urgently to protect the well-being of current and future generations.² With guidance from the Climate Change Committee³ and evidence published by the IPCC, Wales has recognised the urgency of this issue and, in 2021, legislated to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The Welsh Government’s Net Zero Wales Plan⁴, published in October 2021, provides a comprehensive overview of key policies and proposals across key sectors, and emphasises the importance of a just transition as we move to a low carbon economy. The UK Government’s Energy Security Strategy⁵, published in April 2022, includes targets around increasing offshore wind deployment, solar generation, hydrogen production and several nuclear facilities. Delivering net zero for Wales will require coordinated efforts across many sectors and will require a Team Wales

¹ [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report](#)

² [IPCC Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C](#)

³ [The Committee on Climate Change, Sixth Carbon Budget](#)

⁴ [Net Zero Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

⁵ [British energy security strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

approach with actions at all levels including Welsh Government, UK Government, the wider public sector, Welsh businesses and industry and the Welsh public (individuals and households).

Achieving Wales' target will require substantial transformation of our energy systems and radical changes in the technologies we use to heat our homes, travel, and generate electricity. Over recent months, the profile of both energy security and energy affordability have risen significantly. Ofgem recently confirmed that the energy market remains highly volatile and as a result they expect further price increases later this year⁶. The impact of rising energy prices on many residents, public bodies, community enterprises and businesses is significant. The cost-of-living crisis has underscored the need to increase supply from the lowest cost forms of energy generation, particularly where they deliver other local benefits (such as skilled jobs) or are owned or led locally. Transitioning to a modern, decarbonised energy system fit for the twenty-first century poses plenty of challenges, but it also has the potential to bring great benefits, both for the environment and for the economic and social wellbeing of our communities.

North Wales has developed a Regional Energy Strategy that outlines its strategic priorities and commitment to decarbonising the energy system to achieve Wales' net zero target. North Wales' Regional Economic Framework further supports this by recognising the intrinsic link between sustainable economic growth and net zero and states the commitment of Welsh Government and Regional Partners to prepare an action plan to deliver the North Wales Energy Strategy.⁷

Significant progress has also been made as part of the North Wales Growth Deal. The North Wales Low Carbon Energy Programme, for example, is one of five programmes included in the Growth Deal and aims to unlock the benefits of developing low carbon energy projects within the region, enhancing the region's status as a leading location for low carbon energy and supply chain investment.

The North Wales Energy Strategy identifies key priorities and opportunities to deliver on the region's ambition for decarbonising its energy system.

Our vision for North Wales is:

Delivering maximum local economic, social, ecological and wellbeing benefits from transitioning to a net zero economy and becoming a net exporter of low carbon electricity through cross-border and regional cooperation.

⁶ [Jonathan Brealey's speech at All Energy event in Glasgow](#)

⁷ [North Wales Regional Economic Framework](#)

Our strategic priorities for achieving this vision are:

1. **To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.**
2. **To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.**
3. **To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock.**
4. **To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.**

The development of this **action plan** is the next stage of the energy planning process and is directed at turning the above priorities into tangible actions and interventions.

During the development of the action plan, the Task and Finish Group highlighted the significant importance and contribution of the commercial and industrial sector to achieving the energy vision for the region. The Group agreed that an additional priority focused on the commercial and industrial sector would be included in this action plan.

5. **Maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sectors to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.**

Action Plan content

The action plan presents actions generated from four thematic workshops held with a cross section of sectoral stakeholders from across the region. Workshops were held between November 2021 and January 2022 around the following themes:

1. Domestic energy
2. Power generation
3. Transport
4. Commerce and industry

The strategic actions are set out below and are mapped against the strategic priorities (see Appendix 1: for a summary). Where actions contribute across multiple priorities, they have been defined as cross-cutting actions.

Indicative timescales have been specified against actions where there is enough information available to do so. Where this is possible, the following applies:

- Short term: underway by 2023
- Medium term: underway by 2025
- Long term: underway by 2035

Lead stakeholders or “**Leads**” are suggested against each action. These are organisations considered to be best placed to take responsibility for progressing and coordinating delivery of the specified action. Stakeholders who could play a critical role in facilitating the action’s successful delivery are listed as “**Enablers**”. It is important to note that listed stakeholders were identified in thematic workshops and/or have been proposed because of follow-up discussions to date. It is recognised that the list of stakeholders mentioned will not be exhaustive and that there will be other stakeholders who will play a role in delivering each action.

The draft Action Plan includes the **funding status** of each strategic action. There are actions that require no funding or are already underway or planned through existing programmes or initiatives, whilst others will be progressed subject to the appropriate funding or resources being secured. Where necessary, further work will take place during this year to quantify the resources required to progress implementation of the various actions identified

The **progress status** action provides details on existing and/or planned activities that contribute to the delivery of each action. This has been completed based on feedback from the thematic workshops and gathering available information within the public domain.

Governance

A strong and effective governance structure will be critical for facilitating a co-ordinated effort to deliver the strategic actions outlined in the action plan.

Development of both the Strategy and this action plan, strong governance through both the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and a dedicated Task and Finish Group has ensured regional oversight and direction to the work as it has developed.

The Strategy has already been endorsed by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (March 2021) and by the Welsh Government’s Minister for Climate Change. The Action Plan will now need to be further endorsed by our democratic leaders.

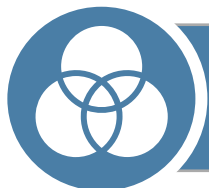
Work is already underway with the Task and Finish Group to agree the most effective arrangements for the future monitoring and oversight of the action plan as we proceed into delivery. It will be important to ensure effective alignment with any existing governance arrangements to make best use of those already operating within the region.

The next step for the region, with support from the Energy Service team, will be to work with stakeholders to develop the governance structure, and identify the role of key stakeholders from across the public, private and third sectors to deliver the strategic actions outlined below. This work will also include identifying areas of collaboration across government and key sectors which are vital to the achievement of each strategic priority.

Monitoring and Reporting

The action plan is intended to be a 'living' document that is regularly reviewed and updated. It will be influenced by emerging local and regional plans, future local area energy planning (LAEP) and other relevant developments and research in the region.

Strategic priorities and actions



Cross-cutting actions

Cross-cutting actions refer to those actions that apply across multiple sectors of the energy system.

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
Page 60	<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy. 	Short term	Local Authorities	Welsh Government	No funding required	There is already close collaboration across the regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). A National Advisory Group and Regional Groups will be established to ensure effective alignment between existing and emerging energy planning work.
B	<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, 	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales	SP Energy Networks (SPEN) Wales and West Utilities (WU) Welsh Government	Funding in place	A pilot LAEP has already been adopted in Conwy County Borough. Welsh Government have committed funding to the preparation of LAEPs across the remaining five Local Authority areas by March 2024. The development of LAEPs in North Wales will be coordinated by Ambition North Wales with technical support from the Energy Systems Catapult.

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy.					<i>The Energy Systems Catapult has recently released technical guidance to support the development of LAEPs, which forms part of their appointments as technical advisors to Welsh Government.</i>
Page 61 c	<p>Lead on developing the skills requirements identified in the Regional Skills Partnership's (RSP's) Green Skills Report and Welsh Government's Net Zero Skills Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current skills capabilities and capacity to deliver decarbonisation as proposed in Net Zero Wales plan. • Develop a strategy to raise awareness of regional capabilities (including offshore and onshore wind, marine energy, nuclear and solar PV). • Ensure the local supply chains are visible to developers operating within the region. • Provide appropriate training and education to enable people to access green jobs should be embedded across the learning cycle and opportunities for adapting existing jobs should be integrated into career pathways. 	Short term	Welsh Government Regional Skills Partnership	Local Authorities Bangor University / M-Sparc Glyndwr University Further Education institutions SPEN WWU	<i>Funding in place for Skills & Employment Plan. Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The RSP has commissioned a report into the jobs and skills required across Wales to support the transition to a green economy. The next Regional Skills and Employment Plan will include a detailed Net Zero Skills annexe which will build on findings from ongoing research from Welsh Government, RSP and the Optimised Retrofit Programme's (ORP) Training and Skills Group. The Plan will be developed in early 2023.</i></p> <p><i>The Morlais Skills and Training Working Group has been established to identify and provide solutions for any skills gap presented by the work opportunities from the Morlais Project.</i></p> <p><i>The Offshore Energy Alliance (OEA) is a skills and supply chain cluster established to take advantage of the opportunities offered by offshore energy in North Wales. M-SParc has been supported with financial assistance from Welsh Government to be the accountable body.</i></p> <p><i>There is ongoing Nuclear Skills Decommissioning Skills Pipeline work with Magnox.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>Experience and learning from recent projects such as Net Zero Gwynedd around decarbonisation of housing involves a partnership between public sector and social enterprises and will inform this action.</i>
Page 62	Input to Welsh Government's consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.	Short term	Local Authorities	Educational institutions Bangor University Glyndwr University SPEN WWU Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 committed to consulting on a Public Behavioural Change Engagement Strategy during Summer 2022.</i>
E	Develop a strategic approach to support the emerging hydrogen economy, taking account of proposed hydrogen projects across the region. This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear vision on the role of hydrogen in the future regional energy system. 	Medium term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales	Industry Hydrogen Groups Local Authorities Transport for Wales	<i>Funding Required</i>	<i>The UK Hydrogen Strategy has been published and the Welsh Hydrogen Pathway is expected to follow during 2022. These strategies will provide the UK and Welsh context for a regional hydrogen strategy.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities for industrial decarbonisation, transport uses and domestic energy. Support the development of the hydrogen hubs by Menter Môn in Holyhead and Ambition North Wales. Explore the role of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), especially in the context of cross border projects such as Hynet. 			SPEN WWU UK Government Bangor University Glyndwr University		<p><i>Proposals for green hydrogen hubs are being developed by Ambition North Wales and by Menter Môn in Holyhead.</i></p> <p><i>North Wales' Regional Economic Framework sets a commitment for the region to "continue to develop a route map to understand how the opportunity for the deployment of Hydrogen across the North Wales Region can best be delivered, maximising the expertise, assets and benefits that could be derived."</i></p>
Page 63	<p>Continue to explore and support opportunities for smart local energy systems in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities emerging from the Welsh Government's Smart Living programme. The programme is supporting Welsh Local Authorities to issue challenges to businesses with innovative products, processes, and services. 	Short term	Ambition North Wales	Welsh Government	<i>Funding in place</i>	<p><i>The Growth Deal's Smart Local Energy Project is considering options for how a new funding support scheme could support projects that help decarbonise the energy system in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>Community Renewal Funding has been secured to deliver feasibility studies into Smart Local Energy Systems.</i></p>
G	<p>Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.</p>	Medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales Bangor University Glyndwr University	<i>Funding in place</i>	<p><i>The development of LAEPs in each region will help to inform a pipeline of potential energy projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Growth Deal Smart Local Energy Project will gather information about regional projects that require funding support.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
				UK Government		
H	Strengthen the link between research, development and innovation and the Energy Strategy priorities.	Medium term	Welsh Government Bangor University / M-Sparc Glyndwr University		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Ongoing cooperation between the Universities and local authorities through the Ambition North Wales partnership and Growth Deal Programmes. Involvement of both Universities in emerging governance around the action plan will be considered.</i>
Page 64 -	Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	Ongoing	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	WWU SPEN	<i>Funding in place</i>	<i>The Future Grid for Wales Study is underway by Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem. It will be used alongside LAEPs to develop a Future Energy Plan for Wales by 2024. This project will also inform the future requirements of the Welsh Energy Grid and contribute to the delivery of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040, providing evidence to enable network operators to plan and build the networks that will be required for the Net Zero by 2050 target. SPEN have recently published a Network Development Plan which will help understand the extent of investment and type of infrastructure required across North Wales.</i>



1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix



2. To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
2A	Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	Medium term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Community Energy Wales	No funding required	There is the potential for the region to feed into the thinking around Ynni Cymru through Welsh Government and Community Energy Wales .
2B	Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV, nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Energy Service	Further work required to determine funding requirements	Not started.
2C	Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund. 	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	UK Government Bangor University	No funding required	Nuclear power has been identified as a priority in the UK Government's Energy Security Strategy. Bangor University hosts the Nuclear Futures Institute , which aims to establish North Wales as a global centre in nuclear technology.

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<p><i>There are advanced plans to establish a National Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics Facility in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The Trawsfynydd Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Project is supported through the Growth Deal's Low Carbon Energy Programme.</i></p>
2D	Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with published guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Guidance on local and shared ownership was published by Welsh Government in June 2022.</i>
2E	Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The most recent renewable energy deep dive recommends an easy to access advice service. Welsh Government's response is that it needs to progress consultation on the Warm Homes programme, public engagement campaign as part of net zero Wales and a national heat strategy due to be released for consultation in spring 2023 so that it can provide a clearer proposal for an advice service.</i></p> <p><i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>UK Government has recently launched their advice offering with a home energy MOT available through a new online advice service</i>
2F	<p>Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value). •Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks. 	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Public sector bodies	Welsh Local Government Association Welsh Government Commercial Delivery	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>In June 2022, the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill was laid before the Senedd by Welsh Government. The socially responsible procurement duty within the bill will seek to ensure that public spending on goods, works and services is done in a way that benefits everyone and does not only focus on cost. The bill will inform the delivery of this action.</i>
2G	<p>Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.</p>	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There are a range of large energy infrastructure projects planned across North Wales, including offshore wind, nuclear, solar, and tidal.</i>
2H	<p>Support the region's proposed port infrastructure improvements to secure greater regional benefit from planned offshore wind and tidal energy projects.</p>	Short term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales	Local Authorities	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There is ongoing work by the Marine Energy Programme and the Growth Deal are exploring options for supporting proposed infrastructure improvements at Holyhead and Mostyn Port.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
2I	Ensure the marine planning and consenting regimes are fit for purpose and support opportunities for the sustainable growth of marine renewable energy in the region.	Short term	Welsh Government	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>A Welsh Government review of consenting and supporting evidence and advice has been completed, recommendations are due to report in summer 2022.</i>
2J	Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue support mechanisms for marine energy projects.	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Working Group that was formed to follow up the Renewable Energy Deep Dive Recommendations is responsible for reviewing the barriers to financing renewable energy projects, and will establish connections between key stakeholders to inform this work. This is also currently being addressed through Welsh Government's Marine Energy Programme.</i>
2K	Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Marine Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government's Tidal Lagoon Challenge has been launched to obtain the appetite for developing proposals. This market engagement exercise is to ascertain if there is interest in any potential competition/procurement in the future to deliver a tidal lagoon capable of generating electricity with the winner(s) possibly receiving financial support from the Welsh Government.</i>



3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock

NB. Actions related to commercial building stock are included under Strategic Priority 5: Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
3A	Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities Registered Social Landlords	Ofgem	Further work required to determine funding requirements	<p>NB. There are a broad range of Welsh Government programmes and plans that relate to this action, including Tackling fuel poverty strategy 2021 to 2035, the Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) and Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). There is also a commitment to publish a heat strategy for Wales in 2023. The UK Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy will also be relevant here.</p> <p>With regard to Social Housing, drawing on evidence from ORP, the new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) 2022 will focus on Fabric First principles and seek to bring all social housing as close as feasible to EPC A or equivalent within a decade.</p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<p><i>Initiatives such as the Welsh Government's Nest scheme has provided high-quality advice and information to householders to explore and realise their energy efficiency opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Registered social landlords will engage and work with Community Housing Cymru (CHC) to progress this action.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association have established of a Zero Carbon Housing Performance Hub to provide a central resource for net zero advice.</i></p> <p><i>An Energy Warden Scheme has already trialled collaboration of North Wales social landlords and learning from such schemes should inform this action.</i></p> <p><i>The Boiler Upgrade Grant provided through the UK Government may help property owners with upfront costs for shifting to low-carbon forms of heating.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) will run between 2022 and 2026 and requires energy suppliers to deliver a target of energy efficiency and heating measures to homes. ECO is</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>focussed on low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households but with a focus on supporting the least energy efficient homes.</i>
Page 71	Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>For the owner-occupier sector, the Warm Homes Programme is the key delivery mechanism in this area. Since 2011, over £394m has been invested, benefitting more than 67,000 homes. Welsh Government will continue to fund the current programme until at least May 2023⁹.</i></p> <p><i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme⁸ ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government will be working with UK Finance, The Development Bank of Wales and sector stakeholders to consider how we can develop and trial alternative finance products to support owner-occupiers undertaking retrofit works⁹.</i></p>

⁸ [Improving home energy efficiency to support a \(gov.wales\)](#)

⁹ [Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021 to 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
3C	Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	Medium term	Local Authorities (Stock holding) Registered Social Landlords	Welsh Government	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>As part of the WHQS, by 2023 a PAS 2035 survey (the Publicly Available Specification that lays out a consistent assessment for energy retrofit measures) and a clear plan for individual homes will be required.¹⁰</i>
Page 12	Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The UK Government has completed a consultation on proposals to increase the minimum standard required for any property to be rented in the private-rented sector (PRS) to EPC C or above.¹¹ Current indications are that a formal response, followed by revised regulations will be published toward the end of 2022. Pending outcome of review, Welsh Government will review the support package available to landlords joining PRS Leasing Scheme to ensure it also supports fabric first improvements.</i>

¹⁰ [Welsh Housing Quality Standard: draft \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

¹¹ [Improving the energy performance of privately rented homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
3E	Keep Permitted Development Rights under review in Wales, to further support domestic renewable energy installations for householders and housing developers.	Short term	Welsh Government		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>This is ongoing as permitted development rights are under regular review.</i>



4. Achieve a shift to lower-carbon transport

NB. Several actions around reducing demand through active travel and increased use of sustainable public transport are included within **Llwybr Newydd – Wales Transport Strategy 2021**¹² which presents the vision for how the transport system can help deliver on the priorities for Wales and put Wales on a pathway to creating a more prosperous, green, and equal society. The strategy makes a commitment to deliver a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing demand, supporting low-carbon services and infrastructure and through modal shift and includes three headline priorities for the next five years. Priority 1: Bring services to people to reduce the need to travel; Priority 2: Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport services and infrastructure; Priority 3: Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport. On this basis, such actions are not replicated below.

Strategic actions

Page Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
Page 74 4A	Ensure alignment between Regional Transport Plans, the Energy Strategy, and emerging Local Area Energy Plans.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Transport for Wales	No funding required	<i>Regional transport plans will identify local interventions to provide an accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport system, as set out in the Wales Transport Strategy.</i> <i>Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) will develop regional transport plans. These will be aligned with Future Wales - the National Plan 2040 and the emerging strategic development plans.</i>

¹² [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021 | GOV.WALES](#)

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to ensuring a joined-up approach to infrastructure investment decisions across Welsh Government and in regional energy planning.</i>
4B	<p>Explore financial incentives across all vehicle types, including public services vehicles, commercial and industrial fleets, and private vehicles, to achieve an increase in uptake of zero emissions vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with UK Government on progress made on a UK-wide development of a national scrappage scheme for older vehicles, supporting circular economy models • Explore options to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable for citizens • Explore options for alternative ownership models for public services vehicles. 	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government	Transport for Wales Local Authorities	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to reducing the cost of sustainable travel through initiatives such as scrappage schemes for older vehicles, grants towards the cost of electric bikes, and by extending concessionary travel schemes to those who most need it.</i>
4C	Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.	Medium term	Local Authorities	Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Many North Wales public bodies have participated in recent fleet reviews and are preparing fleet transition plans. Several local authorities have already installed public electric vehicle charging alongside provision for fleet vehicles.</i>
4D	Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure	Short to medium term	Local Authorities	Transport for Wales SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine</i>	<i>There has been a roll-out of electric vehicle charging points via Welsh</i>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.		Welsh Government		<i>funding requirements</i>	<i>Government funding and SPEN Green Recovery Investment. The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy outlines Welsh Government's vision for electric vehicle charging in Wales, and the Wales Transport Strategy commits to delivering this by 2040.</i>
4E	Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.	Short term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Not started.</i>
Page 46	Support greater awareness raising of UK Government funding for development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure such as the on-street residential charging scheme.	Short term	Welsh Government	Local Authorities Welsh Local Government Association	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have been engaging with local authorities around the availability and accessing of such funding.</i>
4G	Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.	Short to medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to moving away from individual vehicle ownership to shared solutions, including car-sharing and car clubs. The growth of such models and services is identified as a priority to be delivered within the next five years. Funding such as the Welsh Government Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund</i>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>(ULEVTF) will be used to kick-start such initiatives.</i>
4H	Explore options for investment in a rail freight facility at Holyhead Port as part of the development of the multi-modal logistics and freight plan.	Medium term	Welsh Government	Host Local Authority	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The Welsh Government is working with the UK Government, the sector and other partners on a Logistics and Freight Plan for Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to integrating freight and logistics into wider transport and land-use planning policy, including co-location of manufacturing, energy, leisure and tourism with ports and freight hubs. Recognising ports and maritime transport as a key facet of wider policy on freight and logistics is identified as a priority.</i></p>
4I	Review existing activities and approaches to decarbonising heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the UK, Ireland, and Europe and how this could impact Regional Transport Plans.	Short term	Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The Welsh Government has committed to supporting the sector to trial new technologies, using financial incentives available from the UK Government. These technologies will seek to align with emerging opportunities to produce clean energy, such as the proposed Hydrogen Hub at Holyhead.</i></p>



5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
<p>Page 78</p> <p>5A</p>	<p>Establish a North Wales Industrial & Commercial Sector Group focused on supporting the decarbonisation of the commercial and industrial sector. Part of the Group's role will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with Net Zero Industry Wales and other relevant organisations to better understand emissions hotspots and the level of commercial and industrial decarbonisation required in North Wales, to meet Wales' national net zero target. - Monitor and analyse the progress of ongoing decarbonisation projects within the commercial and industrial sectors to ensure that projected savings achieve the level of decarbonisation required to meet net zero. 	Short term	North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Deeside Decarbonisation Forum</p> <p>SPEN</p>	<p><i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i></p>	<p><i>The Business Council runs the regional Net Zero North Wales network for businesses.</i></p> <p><i>The Deeside Decarbonisation Forum has been established to bring together businesses in the Deeside area to help accelerate decarbonisation activity.</i></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government has established Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW) to work with the South Wales Industrial Cluster initially with a view to extending to the whole of Wales where and when support is required. NZIW will also work in close collaboration with the UK's other leading industrial clusters to ensure Wales has access to best practice.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government has established Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW), which will work with an existing group of 40 business and academic partners operating within a wide</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>range of energy-intensive industries to help them achieve Net Zero. NZIW will also support close collaboration with the UK's other industrial clusters to ensure Wales has access to best practice.</i>
5B	Understand the role that micro-grids and other innovative solutions can play in existing industrial clusters such as those in Deeside and Wrexham.	Medium term	Welsh Government	Host Local Authorities SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Future Grid for Wales study is underway and involves Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem.</i>
Page 79 5C	Explore development of support mechanisms for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to encourage uptake of energy efficiency improvements to commercial buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Set up a 'one-stop-shop' for advice to support smaller businesses in the net zero transition. This should align with any existing initiatives from Business Wales. 	Medium term	Business Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Business Wales have launched the net zero carbon start-up grant in February 2022.</i> <i>Business Wales also run the Green Growth Pledge, that helps Welsh businesses take pro-active steps towards improving their sustainability.</i> <i>As part of the UN-supported Race to Zero campaign, the UK Government set-up the UK Business Climate Hub, a one-stop-shop for advice on actions that SMEs can take to measure and manage emissions.</i>

Appendix 1: Strategic Priority Mapping

The table below maps each strategic action to relevant strategic priorities that are outlined in the Energy Strategy. For ease of reference, strategic priorities are abbreviated using the numeric reference:

1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.
2. To become a world leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.
3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock
4. To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.
5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.

Strategic action	Action ref	Strategic Priority Reference				
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy. 	A	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy. 	B	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Lead on developing the skills requirements identified in the Regional Skills Partnership’s (RSP’s) Green Skills Report and Welsh Government’s Net Zero Skills Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the current skills capabilities and capacity to deliver decarbonisation as proposed in Net Zero Wales plan. 	C	+	+	+	+	+

		Strategic Priority Reference				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a strategy to raise awareness of regional capabilities (including offshore and onshore wind, marine energy, nuclear and solar PV). •Ensuring the local supply chains are visible to developers operating within the region. •Provide appropriate training and education to enable people to access green jobs should be embedded across the learning cycle and opportunities for adapting existing jobs should be integrated into career pathways. 						
Input to Welsh Government’s consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.	D	+		+	+	
<p>Develop a regional hydrogen route map to support the emerging hydrogen economy, taking account of proposed hydrogen projects across the region.</p> <p>The route map should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide a clear vision on the role of hydrogen in the future regional energy system. •Consider opportunities for industrial decarbonisation, transport uses and domestic energy. •Support the development of the hydrogen hubs by Menter Môn in Holyhead and Ambition North Wales. •Explore the role of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), especially in the context of cross border projects such as Hynet. 	E	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Continue to explore and support opportunities for smart local energy systems in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Explore opportunities associated emerging from the Welsh Government’s Smart Living programme. The programme is supporting Welsh Local Authorities to issue challenges to businesses with innovative products, processes, and services. 	F	+	+	+	+	+
Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.	G	+	+	+	+	+
Strengthen the link between research, development and innovation and the Energy Strategy priorities.	H	+	+	+	+	+

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	I	+	+	+	+	+
Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	2A	+	+			
Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV, nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).	2B	+	+			
Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. • Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund. 	2C	+				
Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with proposed guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.	2D	+	+			
Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.	2E	+	+	+	+	+
Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value). • Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks. 	2F	+	+			+
Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.	2G	+	+			

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Support the region's proposed port infrastructure improvements to secure greater regional benefit from planned offshore wind and tidal energy projects.	2H	+	+			
Engage with the marine consenting review by Welsh Government and identify the implications for regional projects.	2I	+	+			
Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue support mechanisms for marine energy projects.	2J	+	+			
Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	2K	+	+			
Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	3A			+		
Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.	3B			+		
Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	3C			+		
Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.	3D			+		
Keep Permitted Development Rights under review in Wales, to further support domestic renewable energy installations for householders and housing developers.	3E			+		
Ensure alignment between Regional Transport Plans, the Energy Strategy, and emerging Local Area Energy Plans.	4A				+	

		Strategic Priority Reference				
<p>Explore financial incentives across all vehicle types, including public services vehicles, commercial and industrial fleets, and private vehicles, to achieve an increase in uptake of zero emissions vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with UK Government on progress made on a UK-wide development of a national scrappage scheme for older vehicles, supporting circular economy models. • Explore options to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable for citizens. • Explore options for alternative ownership models for public services vehicles. 	4B				+	
<p>Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.</p>	4C				+	
<p>Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.</p>	4D				+	
<p>Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.</p>	4E				+	
<p>Support greater awareness raising of UK Government funding for development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure such as the on-street residential charging scheme.</p>	4F				+	
<p>Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.</p>	4G				+	
<p>Explore options for investment in a rail freight facility at Holyhead Port as part of the development of the multi-modal logistics and freight plan.</p>	4H				+	
<p>Review existing activities and approaches to decarbonising heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the UK, Ireland, and Europe and how this could impact Regional Transport Plans.</p>	4I				+	

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Establish a North Wales Industrial Sector Group focused on decarbonising the commercial and industrial sectors.	5A					+
Understand the role that micro-grids and other innovative solutions can play in existing industrial clusters such as those in Deeside and Wrexham.	5B	+				+
Explore development of support mechanisms for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to encourage uptake of energy efficiency improvements to commercial buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Set up a 'one-stop-shop' for advice to support smaller businesses in the net zero transition. This should align with any existing initiatives from Business Wales. 	5C			+		+

Appendix 2: Actions categorised by lead stakeholder

Lead	Strategic priority	Actions
Local Authorities	Cross-cutting	A, B, D, G, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2I, 2J, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3C, 3D
	4	4C, 4D, 4E, 4G
Welsh Government	Cross-cutting	C, E, G, H, I
	1&2	2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3D, 3E
	4	4A, 4B, 4D, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4I
	5	5B
Ambition North Wales	Cross-cutting	B, E, F, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2H, 2J, 2K
Regional Skills Partnership	Cross-cutting	C
UK Government	3	3A, 3D

	4	4B
Bangor University / M-Sparc	Cross-cutting	H
Glyndwr University	Cross-cutting	H
Registered Social Landlords	3	3C
Business Wales	5	5C
North Wales Corporate Joint Committees	4	4A
North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council	5	5A
Public sector bodies	1&2	2F
Energy Service	1&2	2B

Appendix 3: Challenges identified by stakeholders

During the workshop, participants were asked what the immediate challenges were associated with delivering against each of the strategic priorities outlined in the Regional Energy Strategy. These have been summarised below. It is important to note that this feedback is subject to contributions in the workshop and as such might not reflect all challenges that exist.

(1) To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix + (2) To become a world leader in offshore wind and marine technologies

- The required supporting infrastructure must be developed quickly.
- More investment is required to scale up the necessary technologies.
- Public opposition to large scale infrastructure projects.
- It can be difficult for small projects to be financially viable without subsidies.
- Significant constraints to grid infrastructure.

Page 88

(3) To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonization of North Wales' building stock

- There needs to be more incentives for households to make changes.
- Many homes are not on the gas grid so require alternative solutions.
- There is a regional skills gap, e.g., heat pump providers.
- Low-carbon measures often require high upfront costs for households.
- Most of the housing sector is privately-owned.
- There is a lack of clear communication around the benefits of behaviour change for households.

(4) To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport

- There needs to be an increase in supporting infrastructure, e.g., EV charging, bike, and pedestrian paths.
- Availability of new low-carbon vehicles is limited; it can take up to six months for delivery.
- The cost of low-carbon vehicles can be prohibitive.
- There is uncertainty around the policy direction.
- There is a lack of reliable and affordable public transport services.

Appendix 3

Priorities for achieving the vision of the North Wales Energy Strategy

The priorities for achieving the vision are:

- 1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.*
- 2. To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.*
- 3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock.*
- 4. To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.*
- 5. To maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sectors to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.*

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4

Collation of the actions within the North Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan where Local Authorities have been identified as the Lead

Lead	Strategic priority	Actions
Local Authorities	Cross-cutting	A, B, D, G, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2I, 2J, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3C, 3D
	4	4C, 4D, 4E, 4G

Page 91

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
A	<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <p>The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy.</p>	Short Term	Local Authorities	Welsh Government	No funding required	<i>There is already close collaboration across the regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). A National Advisory Group and Regional Groups will be established to ensure effective alignment between existing and emerging energy planning work.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
B	<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <p>Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy.</p>	Short Term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales	SP Energy Networks (SPEN) Wales and West Utilities (WWU) Welsh Government	Funding in place	<p><i>A pilot LAEP has already been adopted in Conwy County Borough. Welsh Government have committed funding to the preparation of LAEPs across the remaining five Local Authority areas by March 2024. The development of LAEPs in North Wales will be coordinated by Ambition North Wales with technical support from the Energy Systems Catapult.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Systems Catapult has recently released technical guidance to support the development of LAEPs, which forms part of their appointments as technical advisors to Welsh Government.</i></p>
D	<p>Input to Welsh Government's consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.</p>	Short term	Local Authorities	Educational institutions Bangor University Glyndwr University SPEN	No funding required	<p><i>Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 committed to consulting on a Public Behavioural Change Engagement Strategy during Summer 2022.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
				WWU Welsh Government		
G	Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.	Medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales Bangor University Glyndwr University UK Government	Funding in place	<i>The development of LAEPs in each region will help to inform a pipeline of potential energy projects.</i> <i>The Growth Deal Smart Local Energy Project will gather information about regional projects that require funding support.</i>
I	Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	Ongoing	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	WWU SPEN	Funding in place	<i>The Future Grid for Wales Study is underway by Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem. It will be used alongside LAEPs to develop a Future Energy Plan for Wales by 2024.</i> <i>This project will also inform the future requirements of the Welsh Energy Grid and contribute to the delivery of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040, providing evidence to enable network operators to plan and build the networks that will be required for the Net Zero by 2050 target.</i> <i>SPEN have recently published a Network Development Plan which will help understand</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<i>the extent of investment and type of infrastructure required across North Wales.</i>
2A	Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	Medium term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Community Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	There is the potential for the region to feed into the thinking around Ynni Cymru through Welsh Government and Community Energy Wales.
2B	Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV, nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Energy Service	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Not started.</i>
2C	Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects: Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund.	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	UK Government Bangor University	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Nuclear power has been identified as a priority in the UK Government's Energy Security Strategy.</i> <i>Bangor University hosts the Nuclear Futures Institute, which aims to establish North Wales as a global centre in nuclear technology.</i> <i>There are advanced plans to establish a National Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics Facility in North Wales.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<i>The Trawsfynydd Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Project is supported through the Growth Deal's Low Carbon Energy Programme.</i>
2D	Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with published guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Guidance on local and shared ownership was published by Welsh Government in June 2022.</i>
2E	Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The most recent renewable energy deep dive recommends an easy to access advice service. Welsh Government's response is that it needs to progress consultation on the Warm Homes programme, public engagement campaign as part of net zero Wales and a national heat strategy due to be released for consultation in spring 2023 so that it can provide a clearer proposal for an advice service.</i> <i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i> <i>UK Government has recently launched their advice offering with a home energy MOT available through a new online advice service</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
2F	<p>Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value.</p> <p>Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value).</p> <p>Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks.</p>	Medium term	<p>Welsh Government Local Authorities</p> <p>Public sector bodies</p>	<p>Welsh Local Government Association Welsh Government</p> <p>Commercial Delivery</p>	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>In June 2022, the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill was laid before the Senedd by Welsh Government. The socially responsible procurement duty within the bill will seek to ensure that public spending on goods, works and services is done in a way that benefits everyone and does not only focus on cost. The bill will inform the delivery of this action.</i>
2G	<p>Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.</p>	Medium term	<p>Welsh Government Local Authorities</p>		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There are a range of large energy infrastructure projects planned across North Wales, including offshore wind, nuclear, solar, and tidal.</i>
2J	<p>Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue</p>	Short term	Local Authorities		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Working Group that was formed to follow up the Renewable Energy Deep Dive Recommendations is responsible for reviewing</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
	support mechanisms for marine energy projects.		Ambition North Wales			<i>the barriers to financing renewable energy projects, and will establish connections between key stakeholders to inform this work. This is also currently being addressed through Welsh Government's Marine Energy Programme</i>
2K	Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Marine Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government's Tidal Lagoon Challenge has been launched to obtain the appetite for developing proposals. This market engagement exercise is to ascertain if there is interest in any potential competition/procurement in the future to deliver a tidal lagoon capable of generating electricity with the winner(s) possibly receiving financial support from the Welsh Government.</i>
3A	Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities Registered Social Landlords	Ofgem	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>NB. There are a broad range of Welsh Government programmes and plans that relate to this action, including Tackling fuel poverty strategy 2021 to 2035, the Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) and Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). There is also a commitment to publish a heat strategy for Wales in 2023. The UK Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy will also be relevant here.</i> <i>With regard to Social Housing, drawing on evidence from ORP, the new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) 2022 will focus on</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<p><i>Fabric First principles and seek to bring all social housing as close as feasible to EPC A or equivalent within a decade.</i></p> <p><i>Initiatives such as the Welsh Government's Nest scheme has provided high-quality advice and information to householders to explore and realise their energy efficiency opportunities. Registered social landlords will engage and work with Community Housing Cymru (CHC) to progress this action.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association have established of a Zero Carbon Housing Performance Hub to provide a central resource for net zero advice.</i></p> <p><i>An Energy Warden Scheme has already trialled collaboration of North Wales social landlords and learning from such schemes should inform this action.</i></p> <p><i>The Boiler Upgrade Grant provided through the UK Government may help property owners with upfront costs for shifting to low-carbon forms of heating.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) will run between 2022 and 2026 and requires energy suppliers to deliver a target of energy efficiency and heating measures to homes. ECO is focussed on low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households but with a focus on supporting the least energy efficient homes.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
3B	Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>For the owner-occupier sector, the Warm Homes Programme is the key delivery mechanism in this area. Since 2011, over £394m has been invested, benefitting more than 67,000 homes. Welsh Government will continue to fund the current programme until at least May 2023⁹.</i></p> <p><i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme⁸ ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government will be working with UK Finance, The Development Bank of Wales and sector stakeholders to consider how we can develop and trial alternative finance products to support owner-occupiers undertaking retrofit works⁹.</i></p>
3C	Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	Medium term	Local Authorities (Stock holding) Registered Social Landlords	Welsh Government	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>As part of the WHQS, by 2023 a PAS 2035 survey (the Publicly Available Specification that lays out a consistent assessment for energy retrofit measures) and a clear plan for individual homes will be required.¹⁰</i>
3D	Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government		<i>Further work required to</i>	<i>The UK Government has completed a consultation on proposals to increase the minimum standard required for any property to be rented in the private-rented sector (PRS) to</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
	standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.		Local Authorities		<i>determine funding requirements</i>	<i>EPC C or above.¹¹ Current indications are that a formal response, followed by revised regulations will be published toward the end of 2022. Pending outcome of review, Welsh Government will review the support package available to landlords joining PRS Leasing Scheme to ensure it also supports fabric first improvements.</i>
4C	Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.	Medium term	Local Authorities	Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Many North Wales public bodies have participated in recent fleet reviews and are preparing fleet transition plans. Several local authorities have already installed public electric vehicle charging alongside provision for fleet vehicles.</i>
4D	Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.	Short to medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Transport for Wales SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There has been a roll-out of electric vehicle charging points via Welsh Government funding and SPEN Green Recovery Investment. The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy outlines Welsh Government's vision for electric vehicle charging in Wales, and the Wales Transport Strategy commits to delivering this by 2040.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
4E	Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.	Short term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Not started.</i>
4G	Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.	Short to medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to moving away from individual vehicle ownership to shared solutions, including car-sharing and car clubs. The growth of such models and services is identified as a priority to be delivered within the next five years. Funding such as the Welsh Government Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund (ULEVTF) will be used to kick-start such initiatives.</i>

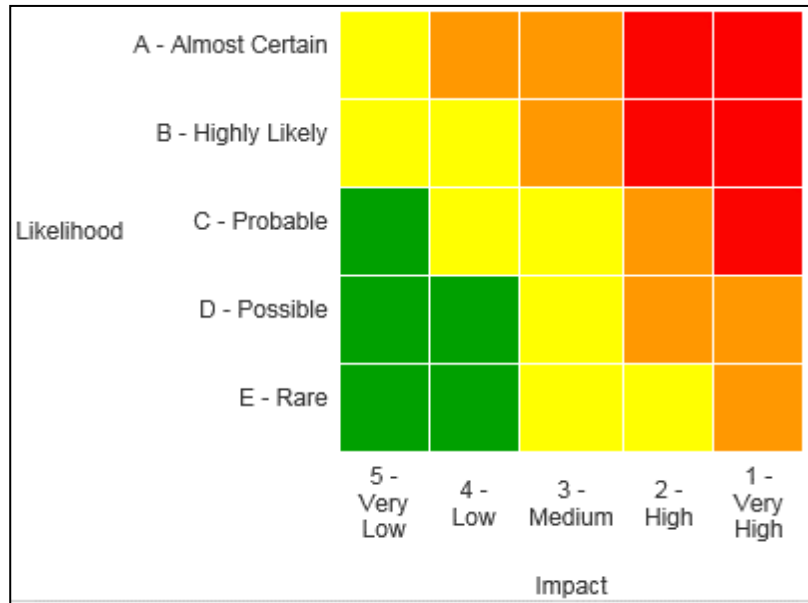
This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 5- Pertinent Risks

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
North Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan			
Capacity to provide the expected/ required input to deliver the action, particularly for actions identified as “no funding required”, meaning action delivery isn’t effective/efficient	3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek understanding from the Task and Finish Group as to the expectation on DCC for each action and more specific timelines for each • Robustly message what is possible and by when to the Task and Finish Group and highlight any of our concerns or issues early with the governing group • Be creative and collaborative on how each LA delivers upon the actions within their particular area 	4D
Lack of identified funding for some actions assigned to Local Authorities as the lead meaning those actions aren’t delivered at worst or delayed in their delivery at best	2B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek understanding from the Task and Finish Group as to the expectation on DCC on the funding situation for these actions • Robustly message that actions can’t be delivered without necessary funding to the governing group • Collaborate across the region to secure funding streams. 	3B
Local Area Energy Planning			

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
Capacity to provide the expected/ required input to deliver the LAEP, particularly with the pace of delivery, meaning delivery is delayed or incomplete	3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek understanding early from ARUP and ANW as to the expectation on DCC- what tasks are required when and by who. • Mobilise capacity early internally within the Council via the Climate Change Programme Manager as lead contact. • Utilise fully the 3 members of staff within ANW employed to support and facilitate the delivery of the LAEP in each LA. • Flag any concerns or issues early with ARUP and ANW • Collaborative across the region where we can on actions/tasks. 	4D
Availability of data or/and quality of data or/and securing key stakeholder engagement to provide the required information to produce a LAEP of quality	3C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek understanding early on the detailed request for information and stakeholders required to be involved • Ensure the right people/organisations are seeking/ supplying each piece of data and securing the support and input from key stakeholders • Note clearly any limitations on the data quality/completeness • Be clear on roles, responsibilities and leads for each piece of data/information 	4D

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear what time commitment is requested from key stakeholders, purpose of their engagement and how they will benefit from the engagement. • Schedule engagements with key stakeholders early, giving plenty of notice and at times and formats convenient to that group 	



This page is intentionally left blank

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 February 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation/ Liz Grieve, Head of Customer, Communications & Marketing
Report author	Nicola Kneale, Interim Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation
Title	Commissioning organisations to deliver a programme under the Shared Prosperity Fund

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The proposal to commission two organisations to deliver a programme of work (including a grant regime or 'Key Fund') under certain Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) interventions.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To explain the rationale for commissioning DVSC and Cadwyn Clwyd to run a programme of work for the following themes, as recommended by Denbighshire's SPF Partnership Group

- Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building
- Prosperous: Business Support Across the County

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet agrees to commission Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC to run a programme of work combining direct delivery and a key fund for themes (which

will be open for applications from Denbighshire communities, be they residential or commercial), detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

4. Report details

- 4.1. It has been agreed that UKSPF applications must have a project value of at least £250k. To enable to support lower value projects we are looking to establish grant regimes (Key Funds) that will be available to communities and businesses.
- 4.2. Projects delivered through the Key Funds approach will contribute to the outputs and outcomes of the individual interventions and it will be the responsibility of the Key Fund delivery body to ensure that robust procedures are in place for third party delivers to collate the required evidence in relation to due diligence, claims, outputs and outcomes reporting.
- 4.3. Third party Key Fund providers will require some preparatory time in order to be ready to run the grant scheme. Due to the spend deadline of December 2024, DCC would like to support the expedience of this preparatory work. Should this request not be approved, the next key decision point for Cabinet is likely to be April 2023, which would delay grant preparations being made for two months and further shorten the delivery window available to communities. For that reason, it is proposing to commission this work under themes where it is considered that:
 - i. There will be interest from residential and business communities in delivering projects of a value of less than £250k;
 - ii. There are limited organisations with the specific subject/technical expertise to deliver such Key Funds under the themes identified.
- 4.4. For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that commissioning takes place under the Business Support and Community Capacity Building themes, and that Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC (respectively) are directly commissioned to deliver a package of support that will be available to our communities.
- 4.5. Under Contract Procedure Rules this action can be taken under the following Exceptions:

- i. in relation to time limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this;
- ii. where delay attributable to the quotation or tendering process would, in the estimation of the Head of Service concerned, result in the Council incurring net expenditure or forfeiting net income in excess of the savings on the contract sum that might reasonably be expected to accrue from competitive tendering

4.6. It should be noted that the value of the contracts also covers complementary roles to maximise the impact of the Key Fund. For example, a Community Leadership Programme to build community confidence and skills. The whole programme is subject to the Exceptions above.

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

5.1. The Investment Plan for the SPF has been developed within the context of our corporate plan themes as detailed in section 2 of this report.

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

6.1 The level of funding available is £2million under the Business Support theme, and £1.9million under the Community Capacity Building theme. The funding is provided by UK Government under the Levelling Up programme, so there are no direct costs for Denbighshire.

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

7.1 This report is about awarding funding under Denbighshire County Council's SPF Investment Plan. This Investment Plan was subject to a well-being impact assessment itself, and monies are awarded only if projects comply with the strategic aims of that investment plan, hence a Well-being Impact Assessment is not needed.

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

8.1. This approach has been discussed regionally and neighbouring authorities are taking a similar approach where they see fit.

- 8.2. This has been discussed with Denbighshire's Legal Team and they have agreed this approach subject to the approval of an Exceptions report.
- 8.3. This proposal has been shared electronically with Denbighshire's SPF Partnership Group who were asked to provide feedback. The proposal and any feedback received was then subsequently discussed at Denbighshire's SPF Core Partnership Group meeting on 25th January. These recommendations are those agreed by the Core Partnership Group.
- 8.4. The recommendations were discussed at Cabinet Briefing, where the opportunity was also taken to seek assurance that both Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC would ensure fair and appropriate geographical delivery.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 This report is about the rationale for commissioning two organisations as Key Funds delivery bodies to deliver a programme of Shared Prosperity Fund interventions. As stated in 4.1 the Key Funds approach will allow communities and businesses to access SPF support for smaller scale projects. As stated in 6.1. there is no direct cost to the Council. The approach is supported.

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

- 10.1. There is the possibility of a challenge from other organisations that may have been interested in applying to deliver against these themes. The Exceptions outlined in 4.5. justify the approach taken.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. The Council's economic development function are the responsibility of the Cabinet in accordance with the Council's constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations [2007](#).
- 11.2. General Power of Competence under the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 s.24

Annex A

THEME

Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
£0	£120,000	£270,000	£50,000	£450,000	£1,124,504

Interventions
W9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
W11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
W12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.

Outputs	
Number of organisation receiving non-financial support (numerical value) W9, W11, W12	316
Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value) W9, W12	838
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value) W9, W12	690
Number of projects (numerical value) W9	75
Number of facilities supported/ created (numerical value) W11	10
Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value) W11	125
Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value) W12	30
Number of organisations receiving grants (numerical value) W12	57
Number of people reached (numerical value) W12	600

Outcomes	
Improved engagement number (% increase) W9, W11, W12	45
Volunteering numbers as a result of support (numerical value) W9	825
Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support W11	35

THEME

Prosperous: Business Support Across the County

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
£0	£0	£50,000	£655,192	£500,000	£850,000

Interventions
W23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
W24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.
W26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.
W30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

Outputs	
Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value) (W23, W24)	175
Number of businesses receiving grants (numerical value) (W23, W29, W30)	150
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value) (W23, W24)	100
Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value) (W26)	100

Outcomes	
Jobs created (numerical value) W23, W30	50
Jobs safeguarded (numerical value) W23	25
Number of businesses created (numerical value) W23	25
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm (numerical value) W23	10
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes (numerical value) W23	15

Annex B

An exception can be sought, including consent to seek only a single quotation or tender, where one or more of the following criteria are met:

- the goods, services or works can only be provided by a particular contractor for reasons that are technical, artistic, or connected with the protection of exclusive rights. This should normally be evidenced through publishing a Prior Information Notice (PIN) on Sell2Wales, or through some other means agreed with the Corporate Procurement Team;
- in relation to time limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this;
- where delay attributable to the quotation or tendering process would, in the estimation of the Head of Service concerned, result in the Council incurring net expenditure or forfeiting net income in excess of the savings on the contract sum that might reasonably be expected to accrue from competitive tendering

This page is intentionally left blank

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant Organisation	Cadwyn Clwyd
Organisation Address	Llys Owain, Stryd y Bont, Corwen, LL21 0AH
Organisation Type	Third Sector (Company Ltd by Guarantee)
Lead Contact Name	Lowri Owain
Secondary Contact Name	Donna Hughes
Position in Organisation	Manager
Contact Telephone No	01490 340500
Email address	lowri.owain@cadwynclwyd.co.uk
Organisation web address	www.cadwynclwyd.co.uk
Company Number / Charity Number	Company Number 04298154

W26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Supporting Local Business Denbighshire Key Fund	
Project Status	In Development (for 1 st April 2023 delivery)	
Target County/Counties	Denbighshire	
Primary Investment Priority	Supporting Local Business	
Intervention Number(s)	<p>W23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.</p> <p>W24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.</p> <p>W26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.</p> <p>W30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.</p>	
Output targets	Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value) (W23, W24)	175
	Number of businesses receiving grants (numerical value) (W23, W29, W30)	150
	Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value) (W23, W24)	100
	Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value) (W26)	100

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

Outcome targets	Jobs created (numerical value) W23, W30	50
	Jobs safeguarded (numerical value) W23	25
	Number of businesses created (numerical value) W23	25
	Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm (numerical value) W23	10
	Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes (numerical value) W23	15
Project Start Date	1 st April 2023	
Project End Date	31 st December 2024	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview of your project (100 words)	<p>The project will deliver across Denbighshire within the Prosperous Businesses Theme detailed within the Denbighshire Corporate Plan and the Supporting Local Business theme of the UK SPF. The project will contribute towards the levelling up agenda in boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.</p> <p>It will support two areas of delivery namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business grants for individual micro and small businesses – this strand will provide direct grants to businesses within the county. 2. A “Business Networks” key fund - This strand will facilitate and support local business and social enterprises to work collectively on developing initiatives which benefit the businesses and the local economy.
Why is the project needed in this area? (150 words)	<p>The project need is highlighted demonstrated from a number of sources.</p> <p>Denbighshire Gross Value Added Figures - In 2020, the Gross Value Added figure for Denbighshire (and Conwy) was £17390 per head. Whilst this figure has increased by 6.8% since 2016, Denbighshire continues to lag behind the Wales Gross Value Added of £21,000 per head and behind the UK Gross Value Added of £29,000 per head. Thus, the project need is confirmed in Denbighshire as it will directly deliver against the UK Government’s Levelling Up missions which are: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing; By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth (with a UKSPF focus on helping businesses to access innovation support).</p>

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	Denbighshire CC 2021 Business Survey - The project need is also highlighted in fundings from the survey which state one of the main challenges for businesses are to reduce fixed costs, also almost a quarter of responses indicated that they were looking to identify new customers or invest in new equipment. Businesses have also identified a number of actions they require in order to address their business impact on climate change and net zero ambitions.
Briefly describe project activities (150 words)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A business grant for individual micro and small businesses – this strand will provide targeted support for businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports. The grant will support larger projects at a 70% capital and revenue grant up to £17,500; and a Micro Business Start Up Grant & Small business grant at up to 80% revenue grant up to £2000. 2. A “Business Networks” key fund - This strand will facilitate and support local business and social enterprises to work collectively on developing initiatives which benefit the businesses and the local economy. It will provide support a) for business groups, chambers of trade, business cluster – to realise projects on the ground which benefit them on a collective basis. b) entities which operate in the county seeking to deliver projects targeted at micro and small enterprises including social enterprises. 3. Business Grant and Business network Key Fund operation – this will include officer & administration, marketing and communication, project evaluation costs.
Who will deliver the project? For example subcontractors/partners	<p>The project will be delivered by Cadwyn Clwyd officers, partner organisations and sub-contractors. We will work with the following partners to draw in external knowledge and expertise together with ensuring complementarity of existing support for businesses.</p> <p>Denbighshire CC – in developing and finalising business grant guidance and application material. We will set up a project steering group and a grants panel – DCC will be included on both the project steering groups and grant panel and will have an ongoing role in overseeing the project’s performance and delivery.</p> <p>Business Wales - We will partner with the Business Wales provider(s) and consult with them to ensure the grant avoids duplication of existing provision. Business Wales will also provide business planning advice and guidance as part of their Business Wales contract.</p> <p>DVSC – will be consulted as to the development of support for social enterprises and will provide hands on delivery of support for social enterprises across the county.</p> <p>Sub-contractors will be procured to deliver elements of the key fund as appropriate.</p>
Who will benefit from the project? (150 words)	The project will benefit individual businesses and groups of businesses within Denbighshire. The focus of the project will be on

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>micro and small businesses, which are defined by UK Government as a business which has any 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A turnover of £10.2 million or less. • £5.1million or less on the balance sheet • 50 employees or less. <p>Micro and Small business make up more than 90% of businesses within the county, thus they are a significant element in driving productivity and growth at the county level and beyond.</p>
Outline the Aims and Objectives of the project	<p>The project aim is aligned to the UK-SPF aim to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, with focus on supporting micro and small enterprises within Denbighshire.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities. • Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth. • Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for micro and small businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.
Where specifically will be project be delivered? (150 words)	The project will be delivered across the whole county. This project builds on the successful pan Denbighshire CRF project implemented by Cadwyn Clwyd whereby businesses received support via grants and project funding across Denbighshire.

APPLICANT EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY

What experience does your organisation have of delivering this type, size and scale of project activity? (200 words)	<p>Cadwyn Clwyd (and its predecessor Cadwyn LEADER II) has over 27 years of delivering economic, businesses and community development programmes and projects. It has successfully delivered over £30million in contracts, programmes and projects. Whilst a number of programmes have been focused on rural North East Wales, the company has demonstrable experience and a solid track record of delivering contracts and programmes beyond rural NE Wales, e.g. a £320,000 Smarter Energy Project Pan Wales focusing on developing renewable energy projects within social enterprises; a £2million pan Wales agri-environmental project for farm businesses; and more recently a £600,000 UK Community</p>
--	--

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	Renewal Fund across the whole for Denbighshire providing business grants and community funding. The company has robust delivery structures and financial controls in place which are audited by entities such as Welsh Government, Rural Inspectorate for Wales and Audit Wales. The company has a track record of delivering business grants across all sectors within micro and small businesses and has direct experience of enabling, supporting and delivering collaboration projects with businesses. The Company's approach is firmly rooted in hands-on grass-roots delivery and multi partnership working.
--	---

FINANCIALS

Total project cost	£2,055,192	
Total SPF requested	£2,055,192	
Grant requested in Year 2&3	Year 2&3 £2,055,192	
SPF Revenue and/or Capital?	Revenue £1,505,192	Capital £550,000
Match funding Source and Amount	Source: levered funds from business grants contribution – note this figure is not included in the total project fig above. Amount £600,000 (of which £562,500 from Business grants 30% match and £37,500 from small grants business 20% match)	
Outline initial cost breakdown	Project Activity Business Grant Micro Business Start Up Grant & Small business grant Business Networks Key Fund Project Management, marketing, communication, external consultancy, evaluation	£1,312,500 £150,000 £284,414 £308,278
How have your budget requirements been estimated? (200 words)	Business Grant (capital and revenue) 75 business grants @ £17,500 = £1,312,500 Micro Business Start Up Grant & Small business grant (revenue) 75 business grants @ £2000 = £150,000 Business Networks Key Fund (revenue) £284,414 - 14 Collaborative project at circa £20k each.	

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	Project management, project officers, marketing, communication, external consultancy, administration, evaluation (revenue and at 15% of project cost) £308,278
--	--

STRATEGIC FIT

How does the project fit in with local priorities/ strategies? (150 words)	This Key Fund proposal will support Denbighshire's corporate plan aim to work collaboratively with communities and partners to deliver projects and initiatives that will stimulate economic growth. Focus will be on delivery which makes a direct contribution to growing Denbighshire's green economy; supporting rural businesses; regenerating town centres via business support and enhancing the tourism offer by engaging with and supporting tourism related businesses. The overall impact of this intervention will contribute towards strong business growth and economic development, and support the growth of the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.
How does the project fit in with regional / national strategies? (150 words)	<p>Ambition North Wales and Welsh Government - North Wales Regional Economic Framework – the project aligns with the following priority areas within the framework - Skills & Workforce; Investment in magnets, hubs, supply chains, research and development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Balanced support for indigenous and inward investors; Food and Drink Industry.</p> <p>North Wales Economic Ambitions Board and North Wales Growth Deal – the project aligns with the vision for the economy of North Wales, promoting and supporting business growth and innovation and improving the infrastructure across the region Improving and upgrading the region's skills base and providing employment growth. This project complements the strategic and regional approach of the Growth Deal as it focuses on interventions at the local and micro levels.</p> <p>North Wales COVID-19 Impact Assessment and Recovery Plan December 2020 (North Wales Economic Ambitions Board) The North Wales Business Survey results identify that high levels of micro and small businesses (less than 50 employees) reported negative impacts due to Covid. This is pertinent given North Wales's disproportionately significant small businesses base (up to 50 employees). The Plan identifies it is clear that North Wales businesses see the need to innovate to overcome the challenges faced by the pandemic. The sentiments expressed by businesses are mainly focused on: Increased remote working, Increasing use of technology, Shift to e-commerce, Adapting & restructuring business models, Rethinking use of premises thus this project via the business grants and business networks key fund will contribute towards enabling businesses to pilot approaches, test ideas and</p>

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	enable small targeted investments to help seize opportunities that emerge.
Consultation and engagement with other stakeholders, partners and potential beneficiaries?	<p>Cadwyn Clwyd implemented a UK CRF funded project within Denbighshire with elements focused on business grants and collaborative projects. The CRF project was designed as a precursor to inform future delivery of SPF within the county. Cadwyn Clwyd undertook both an informal review and also a formal review (via an external evaluator) to consult with business beneficiaries as to the delivery and outcomes of the business support provided.</p> <p>Cadwyn Clwyd implemented a UK CRF funded project within Denbighshire with elements focused on business grants and collaborative projects. The CRF project was designed as a precursor to inform future delivery of SPF within the county. The CRF project evaluation consulted with supported businesses and concluded that the investment would not have taken place without CRF support. Feedback about the impact of the intervention indicated that investments were already contributing to revenue generation or efficiencies by the end of the CRF project. Ongoing consultation is being undertaken with DCC Business Support officers, Business Wales and DVSC (with regards to social enterprises). A review of existing consultation has also been undertaken with sources such as the Denbighshire CC Business Survey.</p> <p>Cadwyn Clwyd is consulting with DCC Business Support officers, Business Wales and DVSC (with regards to social enterprises). A review of existing consultation has also been undertaken e.g. the Denbighshire CC Business Survey.</p>

PROJECT MILESTONES

Please list your project milestones, and include dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-approval development, project initiation meeting with stakeholders, internal recruitment for staff roles. Subsidy control evaluation and assessment undertaken. Grant and business networks administration completed to draft (to include guidance, application forms, approvals, monitoring etc). Marketing and communication materials completed to draft form. Liaise with Business Wales and DCC. Draft ITQ and ITT documents prepared for external suppliers - February – March 2023. • Finalise key documents and launch by mid-April. External staff recruitment undertaken (if required). Procure external suppliers - April 2023. • Communication with project beneficiaries launched - April 2023. • Business grant invited and assessed by steering group- April 2023 – March 2024.
--	---

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin and delivery of business grants – March 2024 – October 2024. • Business Networks Key fund applicants, capacity building, developing projects and formalising project ideas – April 2023 – December 2023. • Delivery of key fund projects December 2023 – October 2024. • Quarterly throughout the project – steering group monitoring. • Grants panel monthly from April 2023 – December 2023. • Completion of delivery November 2024. • Final evaluation and project closure December 2024.
--	--

SUBSIDY CONTROL

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as per UK Government guidance: Subsidy control regime - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	
Does any aspect of the project involve the provision of subsidies?	Yes
If yes, briefly explain how the subsidies or state aid are compliant with the UK's subsidy control regime as set out in the guidance (200 words)	<p>The proposed grants and key fund approach will constitute a subsidy scheme as defined in the Act. Cadwyn Clwyd will form the business grant guidance and the business collaboration key fund in line with the subsidy control principles and other requirements in the Act. Cadwyn Clwyd will apply the principles of: Common interest; Proportionality and necessity of intervention; ensure the fund is Designed to change economic behaviour of beneficiary; ensure that grants do not support Costs that would be funded anyway; will adopt the Least distortive means of achieving policy objective; will minimise any negative effects on competition and investment within the UK; will ensure Beneficial effects should outweigh any negative effects. We will follow the statutory guidance which provides a four-part assessment framework to help public authorities ensure that a subsidy is consistent with the principles stated above. Due to the proposed value and intervention of subsidies, it is unlikely the subsidy will constitute meets the definition of a subsidy or scheme of interest (SSoI) or of particular interest (SSoPI). However, the proposed subsidy scheme will be Published on the UK Government subsidy database in line with the Acts requirements. Cadwyn Clwyd will seek specialist advice at each step of designing the support.</p>

WELSH LANGUAGE

Does your organisation have a Welsh Language Policy or Statement	Yes
--	-----

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

Can your project deliver through the medium of Welsh?	Yes
---	-----

NET ZERO

How does the proposal support the UK Government's and Welsh Government's Net Zero policies or wider Environmental ambitions? (150 words)	<p>The project fully supports the UK and WG Governments focus on contributing to net zero objectives and wider environmental considerations. Interventions will be based on low or zero carbon best practice, adopt and support innovative clean tech where possible and support the growing skills and supply chains in support of Net Zero where possible. The project will embrace the clean growth principle and will directly contribute towards the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>To support green growth, both business grants and business network key funded projects will be required to consider how supported projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives, and – at a minimum – consider the project's impact on our natural assets and nature.</p>
--	--

EQUALITY

Please describe how you have considered the equalities impacts of your proposal, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose in response to these impacts (150 words)	<p>Cadwyn Clwyd will ensure that a proactive approach is taken to maximising opportunities in terms of the contribution of the project towards protected characteristic groups as set out in Equality Act 2010. In this context, all staff, delivery partners, project partners and sub-contractors will be fully briefed on the protected characteristics at the outset of the project and consideration as to how each funded activity can make a positive contribution to the protected characteristic groups will be undertaken. This process will also involve careful consideration by Cadwyn Clwyd to ensure that no disproportionate negative effects occur to the protected characteristic groups via delivery aspects of this project. As such, Cadwyn Clwyd will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider and implement where appropriate the tailoring of SPF funded actions to accommodate the access needs of protected characteristic groups. - Develop monitoring processes which include specific equality indicators. - Actively engage with equality organisations and groups representing those with protected characteristics to ensure that the benefits of this SPF investment are maximised for those groups.
---	--

PROJECT APPLICANT STATEMENT

I declare that I have the authority to represent the project applicant organisation in making this application.

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

I understand that acceptance of this Stage 1 application form does not in any way signify that the project is eligible for funding under the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund or that any such funding has been approved towards it.

On behalf of the project applicant and having carried out full and proper inquiry, I confirm:

- *the project applicant has the legal authority to carry out the project; and*
- *the information provided in this document is accurate.*

I also confirm that:

I have informed all persons whose personal information I have provided of the details of the personal information I have provided to you and of the purposes for which this information will be used, and that I have the consent of the individuals concerned to pass this information to you for these purposes;

I consent to the Personal Data submitted with this form being shared as set out in this form and in accordance with the North Wales Local Authority Privacy Policies and the UK Government Privacy Policies.

I shall inform the Local Authority if, prior to any UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund being legally committed to the project applicant, I become aware of any further information which might reasonably be considered as material to the Local Authority in deciding whether to fund the proposal; Any match funding that has been set out in the application will be in place prior to any award of UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and

I am aware that if the information given in this application turns out to be false or misleading, the Lead Authority (where relevant) may demand the repayment of funding and/or terminate a funding agreement pertaining to this proposal.

I confirm that I am aware that checks can be made to the relevant authorities to verify this declaration and any person who knowingly or recklessly makes any false statement for the purpose of obtaining grant funding or for the purpose of assisting any person to obtain grant funding may be prosecuted. A false or misleading statement will also mean that approval may be revoked and any grant may be withheld or recovered with interest.

I confirm that I understand that if the project applicant commences project activity, or enters in to any legally binding contracts or agreements, including the ordering or purchasing of any equipment or services before the formal approval of the project, any expenditure is incurred at the organisation's own risk and may render the project ineligible for support.

I confirm that by submitting this application I declare that all the above statements are true and that the information provided is accurate

Signature	Lowri Owain
Position in Organisation	Company Manager

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant Organisation	Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
Organisation Address	55 Well St, Ruthin LL15 1AF
Organisation Type	Public Body
Lead Contact Name	Tom Barham
Secondary Contact Name	Lisa Williams/ Finance and Business Manager
Position in Organisation	Chief Officer
Contact Telephone No	01824 702441
Email address	tom@dvsc.co.uk
Organisation web address	www.denbighshire.gov.uk
Company Number / Charity Number	3132487 – Company Limited by Guarantee 1054322 – Registered Charity Number

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Denbighshire Community Capacity Building Key Fund
Project Status	In Development / Ready to Commence / In-Delivery / Continuation / Don't know (please provide further detail)
Target County/Countries	Conwy / Denbighshire / Flintshire / Gwynedd / Isle of Anglesey / Wrexham (delete as appropriate)
Primary Investment Priority	Community and Place / Supporting Local Business / People and Skills / Don't know (delete as appropriate)
Intervention Number(s)	W9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places. W11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. W12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
Output targets	W9: Number of organisations receiving support other than grants (numerical value) - 25 Number of organisations receiving grants (numerical value) 50 Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value) - 41 Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value) – 590 Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value) – 480 Number of projects – 57 W11: Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value) 200 Number of organisations receiving grants (numerical value) 45 Number of organisations receiving non-financial support – 148 Number of facilities supported/created – 8 Amount of green or blue space created or improved 10 Number of tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved (numerical value) 10 Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value) - 95

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>W12: Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value) – 24 Number of organisations receiving grants (numerical value) – 45 Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value) – 45 Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value) – 38 Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value) – 38 Number of people reached (numerical value) – 450</p> <p>Note: outputs and outcomes will include primary beneficiaries <u>and</u> those secondary beneficiaries enabled directly from funded projects and training/ development activities (i.e. if we fund an organisation to deliver a project, we will count those direct beneficiaries of that project/ organisation. We will ask all project beneficiaries to measure these, and our Monitoring Officer will be tasked with compiling evidence for the project claim.</p>
Outcome targets	<p>W9: Improved engagement numbers (% increase) – 25 Volunteering numbers as a result of support (numerical value) – 620</p> <p>W11: Improved engagement numbers (% increase) – 10 Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support (numerical value) – 27</p> <p>W12: Improved engagement numbers (% increase) – 10</p>
Project Start Date	1/4/23
Project End Date	31/12/24

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview of your project (100 words)	<p>DVSC proposes to deliver a Community Key Fund project, with the aim of transforming the power and ability of people in the third sector and within communities across Denbighshire to create and deliver essential services in a changing and challenging world. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Building sustainable leadership capacity in Third sector organisations across Denbighshire ,to be able to maximise the sector’s response to emerging societal challenges and needs, grow services to meet gaps, and invest in organisational resilience ii) Create and deliver a ‘Community Leader Programme’, a model for working in communities to build the confidence and skills of people (grassroots organisers and excluded communities in particular) to co-produce solutions to local problems
--------------------------------------	--

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>iii) Providing a significant, targeted grant programme aimed at supporting innovation, resilience and sustainability for existing and developing new Third Sector Organisations</p>
<p>Why is the project needed in this area? (150 words)</p>	<p>There are currently unprecedented challenges to local communities, and the ability of the Third sector to support. Covid has left complex needs around mental health, isolation, organisational resilience, recruitment, sustainable funding, burnout, uncertainty, and demand. The cost of living crisis has prompted a joined up response from Third and Public sectors, and the impact of this is likely to be long term and significant. There is a need for capacity building for people at all levels to respond to this situation.</p> <p>There is a lack of core development strategic funding for Third Sector organisations. Most grants from Public bodies and other funders are project based and short term. We want to strengthen the whole third sector in Denbighshire.</p> <p>There is an additional need for a different type of approach, to support the development of new civic leadership, building grassroots community based solutions to problems and investing in people’s ability and insights into solving local problems.</p> <p>Much of the evidence base for what is needed is based on a recent research project undertaken for DVSC and DCC by Mark Richardson, “The State of the Third Sector in Denbighshire” published April 2022 and attached with this document.</p>
<p>Briefly describe project activities (150 words)</p>	<p>DVSC will deliver a multi-layered programme of activities to address need:</p> <p>i) Develop a sustainable development programme for people in a leadership role at all levels in Third sector organisations and in communities, based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Coaching and consultancy programme, (based on a successful DVSC pilot) utilising business coaches to identify and support development areas and provide one on one support to Third sector Leaders b. A practitioner/ peer-based Masterclass programme focusing on essential development areas/ themes such as Commissioning and Procurement, Leadership styles, Sustainable funding strategies, Business growth etc. c. Creation of Action learning-based networks, offering peer based, crowd-sourced problem solving <p>ii) A significant grant programme aimed at supporting the development of sustainable long term resilient and responsive organisations and sector as a whole</p>

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>iii) Development and rollout of a community development and empowerment project to co-produce new enterprises and volunteers</p>
Who will deliver the project? For example subcontractors/partners	DVSC will deliver this programme, alongside Associate Coaches and trainers. Cadwyn Clwyd will work as a project partner on the Capital aspect of the Grant programme.
Who will benefit from the project? (150 words)	<p>The project is aimed at directly benefiting Third Sector Organisations and staff, especially those in leadership and development roles (at all levels).</p> <p>It will also benefit new volunteer Civic Leaders and social entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Indirectly (but most importantly) it will benefit citizens who have need of a range of support across Denbighshire, by improving and expanding the services that Third sector organisations provide.</p>
Outline the Aims and Objectives of the project	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To increase the capacity, impact and resilience of the Third sector to respond to emerging, serious societal, health and economic changes and improve outcomes for Denbighshire residents in need of support ii) To identify and support new Civic Leaders and put communities at the centre of producing sustainable new services <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Deliver a cohesive range of capacity building interventions (Masterclasses, Coaching sessions, one to one support, Action Learning sets) as broadly as possible to Third Sector leaders across the county ii) Manage a series of targeted grant programmes that work in co-ordination with the capacity building programme, that will distribute £1m over 21 months to support aims of partnership working, sustainable funding strategies, and organisational resilience iii) Identify initial 4 communities across the county to deliver a community engagement programme aimed at identifying and supporting new Civic Leaders/ social entrepreneurs, with themes around place, Welsh language and culture, access to services and community ownership
Where specifically will be project be delivered? (150 words)	County wide

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY

What experience does your organisation have of delivering this type, size and scale of project activity? (200 words)	<p>DVSC is an independent charity with a 25 year track record of being the support organisation for the Third Sector in Denbighshire. We have a unique community support role at a county level. We are connected to the sector through our members and the organisations who come to us for funding, advice and support.</p> <p>We are used to managing large funding programmes (£250k last financial year) and have a robust process for marketing, targeting, assessing, monitoring and reporting on grants. We manage grants in partnership with DCC, BCU, WCVA and others. We are best placed to have an informed view on how the proposed community capacity building grant programme can complement other grant programmes managed by ourselves, other CVCs, DCC and independent Trusts and Foundations.</p> <p>DVSC is also experienced in delivering training and development programmes. The Chief Officer delivered a social enterprise Masterclass programme whilst working for Bangor University, as well as an experiential, peer learning based coaching and action learning programme as part of ION Leadership,</p> <p>DVSC staff have a unique strategic insight into the dynamics of the third sector and can ensure that this Key Fund has maximum sustainable impact in the 2 years of Shared Prosperity Fund, and beyond.</p>
--	--

FINANCIALS

Total project cost	£	
Total SPF requested	£	
Grant requested in Year 1	Year 1 £	
SPF Revenue and/or Capital?	Revenue £	Capital £
Match funding Source and Amount	Source: Amount £	
Outline initial cost breakdown	Project Activity	<p><u>Year 1 – April 2023 – March 2024</u></p> <p>Key Fund grants Y 1 Capital £275000 Revenue £275000 Total Grants £550000</p> <p>Staff costs Key Fund Manager New £31895 x 10 months x 100% = £26579 Learning and Development Manager New £31895 x 10 months x 100% = £26579</p>

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

		<p>Community Leadership Manager Existing £31895 x 12 months x 100% = £31896 Outcome Monitoring Officer New £22911 x 10 months x100% = £19092 Grants Officer Existing £22911 x 12 months x 40% = £9164 Engagement and Volunteering Officer Existing £23023 x 12 months x 40% = £9209 Marketing Administrator Existing £23023 x 12 months x 30% = £6907 Chief Officer Existing x 12 months x £44624 x 30% = £13387 Finance and Business Manager Existing x 12 months x £34373 x 10% = £3487 £146300 NI £22018 and Pension £11704 = £33722 Total Staff costs £180022</p> <p>Project delivery costs External Coaches £24000 Training costs external £7200 Room hire £6000 Marketing £4800 Volunteer expenses and training £2400 Total Project Delivery Costs: £44400</p> <p>General Office costs/ contribution to overheads £3600 IT costs £2000 Total General costs: £3600</p> <p>Total Year 1 DVSC delivery costs: £230,022</p> <p>Total Year 1 : £780022 ----- Year 2 – April 2024 – Dec 2024</p> <p>Key Fund grants Year 2 Capital £275000 Revenue £275000 Total grant £550000</p> <p>Staff costs Key Fund Manager £31895 x 105% x 9 months x 100% = £25117 Learning and Development Manager £31895 x 1.05 x 9 months x 100% = £25117 Community Leadership Manager £31895 x 1.05 x 9 months x 100% = £25117 Outcome Monitoring Officer £22911 x 1.05 x9 months x100% = £18042 Grants Officer £22911 x 1.05 x 9 months x 40% = £7217 Engagement and Volunteering Officer £23023 x 1.05 x 9 months x 40% = £7252 Marketing Administrator £23023 x 1.05 x 12 months x 30% = £5439 Chief Officer x 9 months x 1.05 x £44624 x 30% = £10542 Finance and Business Manager 1.05 x 9 months x £34373 x 10% = £2707 £126550 NI £19046 and Pension £10124 = £29170</p>
--	--	---


UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>Total Staff costs £155720</p> <p>Project delivery costs External Coaches £18000 Training costs external £6480 Room hire £4000 Marketing £3600 Volunteer expenses and training £1800 Total Project Delivery Costs: £33880</p> <p>General Office costs/ contribution to overheads £2400 Total General costs: £2400</p> <p>Total Y2 DVSC delivery costs: £192000</p> <p>Total Year 2 £742000 Total project cost 2023 – 2025 £1,522,042 Total Grants Made £1,100,000</p>
How have your budget requirements been estimated? (200 words)	<p>Salaries are based on existing and previous DVSC roles and job design. DVSC has experience of managing major grant programmes and has experience in marketing, administration and monitoring of grant programmes at scale.</p> <p>We have based the staff budget on a realistic resourcing plan to deliver a major new Grant fund, and 2 new Learning and community engagement projects with challenging outcomes and outputs, that we can be confident of achieving.</p> <p>We expect to be able to start the project on April 1st 2023 by assigning existing posts whilst recruiting new posts quickly and efficiently. We intend to offer permanent contracts subject to funding, as we wish this project to be as sustainable as possible. We have factored in a provision for inflationary 5% salary increases for 2023/24. We are not looking to recharge significant aspects of DVSC overheads, to maximise the impact of the fund and capacity building programmes.</p>

STRATEGIC FIT

How does the project fit in with local priorities/ strategies? (150 words)	<p>Denbighshire County Council Corporate plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthier, Happier and Caring Denbighshire Supports the Council's Social Care offer and Wellbeing, Mental Health and Resilience within Communities by strengthening 3rd Sector and encouraging joined up approach 2. Fairer, Safe and more equal Denbighshire Strengthen the support of and connectedness with the 3rd Sector in engaging with cohesive communities. Support people to manage their own services and the support they need. 3. Better Connected Denbighshire
--	--

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	Support grassroots organisations to develop community and personal skills, Invest in Capacity Building and support for local groups, and engaging in communities to support local decision making and involvement.
How does the project fit in with regional / national strategies? (150 words)	<p><u>Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028</u></p> <p>This project meets the plan’s Theme of Wellbeing – Communities being happier, healthier and more resilient in the face of challenges (based on the Wellbeing Assessments).</p> <p><i>“Our communities expressed their desire to be supported and empowered to help tackle these issues with a community-led focus”,</i></p> <p><i>“Stimulate and support community groups to help people remain resilient; for example, supporting healthy lifestyles, or providing help with cost of living pressures.”</i></p> <p>Through DVSC engagement with the PSB, we will align with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 5 ways of Working (Collaboration, Involvement, Integration, Prevention and Long Term) – all met by the ethos of this proposed project. It will also support Wellbeing Goals in particular “Resilient”, “Cohesive Communities”, and “Culture and Welsh Language”.</p> <p>Social Care and Wellbeing Act 2014: focus on individual rights and a regard for local authorities to ‘provide support for individuals to participate in decision making ensuring a strong voice and real control for people.</p>
Consultation and engagement with other stakeholders, partners and potential beneficiaries?	<p>Extensive consultation via primary research independently undertaken into the Third Sector in Denbighshire, commissioned by</p>  <p>DVSC Third Sector Report 2022_FINAL.pdf published in Spring 2022.</p> <p>DVSC and DCC, pu</p>

PROJECT MILESTONES

Please list your project milestones, and include dates	April 2023	Project initiation meeting with stakeholders Recruitment for staff roles Key fund design criteria set for Y1
	May 2023	Evaluation/ outcome/ output monitoring designed Marketing materials and comms plan implemented
	June 2023	Community research process starts for Civic Leaders programme Remaining posts filled Masterclass speakers approached and recruited Coaches recruited
	July 2023	Q1 Project meeting Project planning
	Aug 2023	Project and launch plan
	Sept 2023	Launch

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

	<p>Oct 2023</p> <p>Nov 2023</p> <p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Jan 2024</p> <p>Feb 2024</p> <p>Mar 2024</p> <p>Apr 2024</p> <p>May 2024</p> <p>June 2024</p> <p>July 2024</p> <p>Aug 2024</p> <p>Sept 2024</p> <p>Oct 2024</p> <p>Nov 2024</p> <p>Dec 2024</p>	<p>First tranche of Key Fund funding opens</p> <p>Q2 Project meeting</p> <p>Coaching and consultancy starts</p> <p>Initial civic leadership cohort brought together</p> <p>Action Learning training for DVSC Networks</p> <p>Coaching and Consultancy meetings continue (ongoing monthly)</p> <p>Masterclasses continue (ongoing monthly)</p> <p>Q3 Project meeting</p> <p>Civic leadership project meeting/ training (monthly)</p> <p>“</p> <p>Q4 Project meeting/ Annual review</p> <p>Second tranche of Key Fund opens</p> <p>Delivery</p> <p>Delivery</p> <p>Q5 Project meeting</p> <p>Delivery</p> <p>Delivery</p> <p>Q6 Project meeting</p> <p>Final tranche of Key Fund including any underspends to date</p> <p>Sustainability plan written</p> <p>Final Masterclasses</p> <p>Q7 Overall project review and monitoring submitted</p> <p>Project wrap-up meeting</p> <p>Impact review published</p>

SUBSIDY CONTROL

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as per UK Government guidance: [Subsidy control regime - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subsidy-control-regime)

Does any aspect of the project involve the provision of subsidies?	Yes / No
If yes, briefly explain how the subsidies or state aid are compliant with the UK's subsidy control regime as set out in the guidance (200 words)	

WELSH LANGUAGE

Does your organisation have a Welsh Language Policy or Statement	Yes
Can your project deliver through the medium of Welsh?	Yes / No / Not applicable

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

NET ZERO

How does the proposal support the UK Government's and Welsh Government's Net Zero policies or wider Environmental ambitions? (150 words)	A part of the organisational resilience supported through this project will include environmental sustainability and the creation and implementation of plans that help Third sector organisations and facilities to move towards Net Zero.
--	---

EQUALITY

Please describe how you have considered the equalities impacts of your proposal, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose in response to these impacts (150 words)	DVSC has an established, active and reviewed Equality policy. We will as a part of the project's management, actively review the take-up of funding and capacity building support against the geographic, economic, social, cultural, and linguistic characteristics of the county. We will also monitor individual primary beneficiaries – for gender, sexuality age and other protected characteristics. We will review this at quarterly Project meetings and if needed, take proactive steps with marketing and engagement to balance the impact of the project on beneficiaries.
---	---

PROJECT APPLICANT STATEMENT

I declare that I have the authority to represent the project applicant organisation in making this application.

I understand that acceptance of this Stage 1 application form does not in any way signify that the project is eligible for funding under the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund or that any such funding has been approved towards it.

On behalf of the project applicant and having carried out full and proper inquiry, I confirm:

- *the project applicant has the legal authority to carry out the project; and*
- *the information provided in this document is accurate.*

I also confirm that:

I have informed all persons whose personal information I have provided of the details of the personal information I have provided to you and of the purposes for which this information will be used, and that I have the consent of the individuals concerned to pass this information to you for these purposes;

I consent to the Personal Data submitted with this form being shared as set out in this form and in accordance with the North Wales Local Authority Privacy Policies and the UK Government Privacy Policies.

I shall inform the Local Authority if, prior to any UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund being legally committed to the project applicant, I become aware of any further information which might reasonably be considered as material to the Local Authority in deciding whether to fund the proposal; Any match funding that has been set out in the application will be in place prior to any award of UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and

I am aware that if the information given in this application turns out to be false or misleading, the Lead Authority (where relevant) may demand the repayment of funding and/or terminate a funding agreement pertaining to this proposal.

I confirm that I am aware that checks can be made to the relevant authorities to verify this declaration and any person who knowingly or recklessly makes any false statement for the purpose of obtaining grant funding or for the purpose of assisting any person to obtain grant funding may be

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – STAGE 1 APPLICATION FORM

prosecuted. A false or misleading statement will also mean that approval may be revoked and any grant may be withheld or recovered with interest.

I confirm that I understand that if the project applicant commences project activity, or enters in to any legally binding contracts or agreements, including the ordering or purchasing of any equipment or services before the formal approval of the project, any expenditure is incurred at the organisation's own risk and may render the project ineligible for support.

I confirm that by submitting this application I declare that all the above statements are true and that the information provided is accurate

Signature	Tom Barham
Position in Organisation	Chief Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

Exceptions Report

This form is to be completed by the commissioning service or department for all proposals seeking an exception from the requirement to tender. If you are not seeking exemption or exception and your proposal has a total value above £25,000 you must complete a **Commissioning Form**.

Title Shared Prosperity Fund – Prosperous: Business Support Across the County, Key Fund

Head of Service: Nicola Kneale

Manager: Amy Selby

Report Completed by: Amy Selby

Date: 27/01/23

Total Estimated Value: £2,055,192

PROCUREMENT TEAM USE ONLY

Procurement BP Mike White

Received 30/01/2023

Completed by 31/01/2023

Name of Contract: Business Support Across the County, Key Fund

Proposed Contractor: Cadwyn Clwyd

DCC Contract Manager: Nicola Kneale / Amy Selby

Timescales

Date	Milestone
01/04/2023	Contract start
31/12/2024	Contract end
DD/MM/YYYY	Extension option
DD/MM/YYYY	Contract end after extension option taken

Type	Copy and paste:	
Goods		<input type="checkbox"/>
Services: services not subject to the 'light touch regime' (i.e. most services)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Light Touch Regime: certain social, health, education & other services subject to the 'light-touch regime'		<input type="checkbox"/>
Works		<input type="checkbox"/>

Outline

Briefly describe the background

It has been agreed that under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects we are looking to commission intermediary funds (Key Funds) to support smaller scale projects from our communities and businesses. Projects delivered through the Key Funds approach will contribute to the outputs and outcomes of the SPF interventions as included as part of Regional Investment Place. Cadwyn Clwyd have been identified as the most suitable, technically skilled, connected and equipped organisation to deliver on the Business Support Theme identified as part the Denbighshire element of the Regional Investment Plan.

Please state the relevant exception criteria as listed in CPR 2.9 or 2.10 (e.g. 2.9.3 iv)

2.9.3 xii & 2.9.3 xiv

State the grounds for exception as relevant to the specific criteria:

2.9.3 xii -in relation to time limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this.

2.9.3 xiv - Where delay attributable to the quotation or tendering process would, in the estimation of the Head of Service (Liz Grieve/ Nicola Kneale) concerned, result in the Council incurring net expenditure or forfeiting net income in excess of the savings on the contract sum that might reasonably be expected to accrue from competitive tendering.

Grant funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund, is from an external body (UKGOV). The UKSPF is a 3-year funding programme that began in April 2022. Under year 1 the invitation to apply for funding was restricted to the local authority due to the terms of the funding between UK Government and LAs being still outstanding. Years 2 & 3 UKSPF funding will shortly go live for applications but the timeline from approval of allocations to project and program delivery end is likely to have massive impact on spend which could result in funding being returned to the treasury if interventions are not address and projects do not meet their projected targets for spend and outputs and outcomes. Any underspend in the SPF will result in funding being returned to UKGOV.

The process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would significantly reduce the delivery time of the projects and programme. With a minimum period of 3 months start to finish for general procurement the delivery of the UKSPF Years 2 & 3 would be cut even shorter than the expected 21 month delivery window, down to 18 months, which would result in delivery confidence of UKSPF in Denbighshire being put at significant risk.

Details of why compliance with finance and contract procedure rules is not possible

Funding provided from UKGOV is time limited grant funding. It has been agreed regionally that under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects a tailored solution is required to deliver intermediary funds (Key Funds). If there would be a requirement to tender for the contract to deliver the suite of Key Funds, this could result in a time delay in the delivery of SPF funding in Denbighshire, which would result in inventions, outputs and outcomes not being achieved with in the delivery window of the UKSPF programme. The impact of non-delivery would result in claims being reduced not only to Denbighshire but also to the Region as all money is delivered via the Regional Lead Authority (Gwynedd)

Cadwyn Clwyd have knowledge of the County and good establish networks for communication which will be required for delivering the Key Fund for Business Support. They already have an established grant panel for the review and appraisals of application and have close links with services and departments of Denbighshire County Council (EBD / Community Development/ Countryside Services/ Tourism) which will be important for the communication and delivery around this project. Cadwyn Clwyd also have the financial controls in place to deliver a Key Fund and have a good track record for delivering EU and WG Funded programmes and projects of this nature

Cadwyn Clwyd are also set up to deliver projects pan Wales, and although they have in the past have been restricted in their funding to only assist projects in Rural Denbighshire, they have recently delivered a successful UK Community Renewal Fund Project which covered the whole of Denbighshire, with projects in the North of the County.

The process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would the process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would significantly reduce the delivery time of the projects and programme. With a minimum period of 3 months start to finish for general procurement the delivery of the UKSPF Years 2 & 3 would be cut even shorter than the expected 21 month delivery window, down to 18 months, which would result in delivery confidence of UKSPF in Denbighshire being put at significant risk.

Details of any previous exception form submitted for the same contract:

The UKSPF is a new UKGOV funding programme to replace European Fund, no commissioning of work has been carried out for projects or services to be delivered through SPF to date.

Finance

Copy and paste:



Capital Funding Source	Amount
	£50,000
	£500,000
Total Capital Funding:	£550,000
Revenue Funding Source	Amount
	£655,192
	£850,000
Total Revenue Funding:	£1,505,192
Estimated Total Value:	£ 2,055,192
Estimated Annual Value	£TBC
Cost Code	TBC

If the contract is a collaboration with external partners the figures quoted should include the total contract value not just the Local Authority element.

Community Benefits

Copy and paste:



Are you including community benefits?

Yes

No

If Yes, provide details below: If No, state why community benefits have not been included

If you have not yet discussed Community Benefits with the Community Benefits Hub please contact communitybenefits@denbighshire.gov.uk

This commissioned service will be set up to deliver against the interventions, outputs and outcomes of the UKSPF. Applicants will be required to contact the Community Benefits Hub at project design stage, and introductory meetings will take place. communitybenefits@denbighshire.gov.uk or Karen.bellis@denbighshire.gov.uk

Note: Community Benefits must be considered for all Goods & Services contracts over £25,000, all Works contracts over £100,000 and it is mandatory to include Social Value in ALL contracts of £1,000,000 and over.

Procurement Route

Explain the procurement process you intend to follow:

Officers/ SPF Partnership have elected to procure under the Innovation Partnerships procedure. Cadwyn Clwyd are also set up to deliver projects pan Wales, and although they have in the past have been restricted in their funding to only assist projects in Rural Denbighshire, they have recently delivered a successful UK Community Renewal Fund Project which covered the whole of Denbighshire, with projects in the North of the County. Cadwyn Clwyd also have the financial controls in place to deliver a Key Fund and have a good track record for delivering EU and WG Funded programmes and projects of this nature.

An innovative solution, tailored to the requirements of the of delivery across the theme Business Support under the SPF is seen to be the best solution to deliver against all intervention, outputs and outcomes. This involves the delivery of Key Funds (grant scheme) to be put in place to help support those smaller scale projects that would miss out on receiving SPF funding directly as they would not meet the £250k minimum value for projects.

If this exception form is approved:

If things go wrong, what is the operational risk to the Local Authority?	Medium
If things go wrong, what is the reputational risk to the Local Authority?	High
If things go wrong, what is the financial risk to the Local Authority?	High

Explain the risks and or the impact if this exception form is not approved:

Should the exceptions report not be approved this will compromise the delivery of SPF interventions in Denbighshire which will result in the loss of funding to the LA and Region.

Risk Mitigation

For risks which have a medium or high risk, state steps to be taken to minimise the risk:

There is a risk of negative feedback from the approach taken, however the reasons for why action has been taken will be clearly communicated as well as the opportunities available to smaller groups and businesses to access SPF Funds will be shared publicly. Under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects a tailored solution is required to deliver intermediary funds (Key Funds).

As well as clear communication on our website, we would also form part of the active promotion of the Key Funds with our Resident, Community Groups, City Town and Community Council and Members. It is also envisaged that Denbighshire County Council Officers would serve as advisors and possibly voting members on the Key Fund appraisal panels to ensure that the projects delivered not only deliver against the set intervention, outputs and outcomes of the UKSPF but are complementary to our DCC Corporate Plan.

Key Fund deliverers will also be required to report on progress and spend to the External Funding Manager (DCC) and SPF Regional Team (Gwynedd) in line with procedures under SPF. These reports will also be shared and scrutinised by the Denbighshire SPF Partnership.

Consultation with Members

Please confirm that relevant members have been informed where the decision has implications for a particular locality.

Copy and paste:

Yes No

If Yes, please list member's names below and details of any feedback incorporated.

Consultation has taken place with stakeholders and members of the Denbighshire's Share Prosperity Fund

Please note: Retrospective approvals will not be considered.

PROCUREMENT TEAM ASSESSMENT

Which, if any, of the criteria for an Exception as set out in the Contract Procedure Rules are met.

Having discussed the requirement with the Amy Selby, I concur that running a Procurement exercise would not add anything beneficial to the process of selecting an organisation to work with allocation of funding and delivering projects.

The clauses provided are compliant with exception in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and are acceptable for this report.

The values stated will be required to be authorised by persons listed on page 8 & 9 of this document.

Could this Exception have been avoided, if Yes, what could have been done to avoid it and what should be done to avoid any further extension of the contract if awarded via an exception.

The exception may have been avoidable if the grant funding had been made available at an earlier stage in the process.

It is debateable whether the resulting Supplier would have been different as it is a niche type of service required.

Any further Recommendations/Advice

Obtain Legal opinion.

Action Required

Summary of follow up actions to be undertaken by Contract Manager

1. Finance to confirm validation of bona fide company and D & B Check for all contracts above £25k
2. Service to obtain copies of the relevant insurance documentation to ensure the Council's minimum insurances are held
3. Service to liaise with the legal to ensure there is a contract put in place as soon as possible.
4. Service to manage this contract and monitor expenditure and timelines in order that the contract is completed by the due date and that there is sufficient budget.
5. Service to add the contract to the Corporate Contracts register on Proactis Source to Contract and update/expire any previous contracts on Contract Register.
6. Service to upload copy of fully signed Exceptions report to Contract Record on Proactis Source to Contract
7. Service to send this completed and fully signed off exception report to Collaborative Procurement Service.
8. Service to complete Contract Risk Matrix Questionnaire and upload completed questionnaire to Contract record on Proactis Contract Management Module.

Procurement Business Partner

Mike White

Date

31/01/2023

LEGAL SERVICES ADVICE

(required where total contract value is above £250k for works contracts and above OJEU Threshold for Goods & Service Contracts)

ADVICE:

LEGAL SERVICES

DATE

Is this Exception deemed Low, Medium or High Risk by Legal Services

Low

Medium

High

If High Risk this form will be reviewed by a second Legal Officer/Solicitor

Second Legal Officer/Solicitor Assessment

Second legal officer/Solicitor to insert their legal assessment.

Legal Services Officer

Date

Second Legal Office/Solicitor

Date

(if applicable)

AUTHORISATION

N.B: *This section is to be completed by the commissioning service following the completion and return of the Procurement Team Assessment (above) and advice of Legal and Procurement Operations Manager. For details of authority to approve exceptions see CPR 2.11*

Service response to Collaborative Procurement Team Assessment

Please detail your response and plan of actions to the assessment of the Corporate Procurement Team and the advice of the Legal Services. In particular, if you are choosing not to abide by their recommendations please state why not.

****A RESPONSE MUST BE INSERTED BELOW ****

Authorisation Signatories

****Signatories should ensure they have read and understood the Procurement and Legal advice provided prior to signing this form****

TEAM MANAGER: (if within spend authorisation level)

Signature & print. Date

CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER / MANAGER OF BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION & ICT
(Mandatory for all ICT Contracts)

Signature & Print Date

HEAD OF SERVICE: (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature & print. Date

SECTION 151 OFFICER (Finance): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature & print. Date

MONITORING OFFICER (Legal): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature & print. Date

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: (Mandatory for all contracts above £1,000,000)

Signature & print. Date

N.B: Contracts over £2,000,000 also require Cabinet approval and the completion of a Cabinet report

Rejection (To be completed by Service Area)

Rejected by:
Date:

Reasons for the rejection:

--

Action required:

--

This page is intentionally left blank

Exceptions Report

This form is to be completed by the commissioning service or department for all proposals seeking an exception from the requirement to tender. If you are not seeking exemption or exception and your proposal has a total value above £25,000 you must complete a **Commissioning Form**.

Title Shared Prosperity Fund – Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building

Head of Service: Nicola Kneale

Manager: Amy Selby

Report Completed by: Amy Selby

Date: 27/01/23

Total Estimated Value: £ 1,895,504

PROCUREMENT TEAM USE ONLY

Procurement BP Mike White

Received 30/01/2023

Completed by 31/01/2023

Name of Contract: Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building, Key Fund

Proposed Contractor: Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC)

DCC Contract Manager: Nicola Kneale / Amy Selby

Timescales

Date	Milestone
01/04/2023	Contract start
31/12/2024	Contract end
DD/MM/YYYY	Extension option
DD/MM/YYYY	Contract end after extension option taken

Type	Copy and paste:	
Goods		
Services: services not subject to the 'light touch regime' (i.e. most services)		✓
Light Touch Regime: certain social, health, education & other services subject to the 'light-touch regime'		
Works		

Outline

Briefly describe the background

It has been agreed that under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects we are looking to commission intermediary funds (Key Funds) to support smaller scale projects from our communities and businesses. Projects delivered through the Key Funds approach will contribute to the outputs and outcomes of the SPF interventions as included as part of Regional Investment Place. DVSC has been identified as the most suitable, technically skilled, connected and equipped organisation to deliver on the Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building theme identified as part the Denbighshire element of the Regional Investment Plan.

Please state the relevant exception criteria as listed in CPR 2.9 or 2.10 (e.g. 2.9.3 iv)

2.9.3 xii & 2.9.3 xiv

State the grounds for exception as relevant to the specific criteria:

2.9.3 xii -in relation to time limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this.

2.9.3 xiv - Where delay attributable to the quotation or tendering process would, in the estimation of the Head of Service (Liz Grieve/ Nicola Kneale) concerned, result in the Council incurring net expenditure or forfeiting net income in excess of the savings on the contract sum that might reasonably be expected to accrue from competitive tendering.

Grant funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund, is from an external body (UKGOV). The UKSPF is a 3-year funding programme that began in April 2022. Under year 1 the invitation to apply for funding was restricted to the local authority due to the terms of the funding between UK Government and LAs being still outstanding. Years 2 & 3 UKSPF funding will shortly go live for applications but the timeline from approval of allocations to project and program delivery end is likely to have massive impact on spend which could result in funding being returned to the treasury if interventions are not address and projects do not meet their projected targets for spend and outputs and outcomes. Any underspend in the SPF will result in funding being returned to UKGOV.

The process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would significantly reduce the delivery time of the projects and programme. With a minimum period of 3 months start to finish for general procurement the delivery of the UKSPF Years 2 & 3 would be cut even shorter than the expected 21 month delivery window, down to 18 months, which would result in delivery confidence of UKSPF in Denbighshire being put at significant risk.

Details of why compliance with finance and contract procedure rules is not possible

Funding provided from UKGOV is time limited grant funding. It has been agreed regionally that under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects a tailored solution is required to deliver intermediary funds (Key Funds). If there would be a requirement to tender for the contract to deliver the suite of Key Funds, this could result in a time delay in the delivery of SPF funding in Denbighshire, which would result in inventions, outputs and outcomes not being achieved with in the delivery window of the UKSPF programme. The impact of non-delivery would result in claims being reduced not only to Denbighshire but also to the Region as all money is delivered via the Regional Lead Authority (Gwynedd)

DVSC have knowledge of the County and good establish networks for communication which will be required for delivering the Key Fund for Community Capacity Building. They already have an established grant panel for the review and appraisals of application and have close links with services and departments of Denbighshire County Council (EBD / Community Development) which will be important for the communication and delivery around this project. DVSC also have the financial controls in place to deliver a Key Fund and have a good track record for delivering EU and WG Funded programmes and projects of this nature.

DVSC are well set up to deliver projects across Denbighshire and offer services currently throughout the county. They have also recently delivered a successful UK Community Renewal Fund Project in partnership with Cadwyn Clwyd.

The process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would be the process of going out to tender for the delivery of the Key Funds would significantly reduce the delivery time of the projects and programme. With a minimum period of 3 months start to finish for general procurement the delivery of the UKSPF Years 2 & 3 would be cut even shorter than the expected 21 month delivery window, down to 18 months, which would result in delivery confidence of UKSPF in Denbighshire being put at significant risk.

Details of any previous exception form submitted for the same contract:

The UKSPF is a new UKGOV funding programme to replace European Fund, no commissioning of work has been carried out for projects or services to be delivered through SPF to date.

Finance

Copy and paste:



Capital Funding Source	Amount
	£270,000
	£450,000
Total Capital Funding:	£720,000
Revenue Funding Source	Amount
	£50,000
	£1,125,504
Total Revenue Funding:	£1,175,504
Estimated Total Value:	£ 1,895,504
Estimated Annual Value	£TBC
Cost Code	TBC

If the contract is a collaboration with external partners the figures quoted should include the total contract value not just the Local Authority element.

Community Benefits

Copy and paste:



Are you including community benefits?

Yes

No

If Yes, provide details below: If No, state why community benefits have not been included

If you have not yet discussed Community Benefits with the Community Benefits Hub please contact communitybenefits@denbighshire.gov.uk

This commissioned service will be set up to deliver against the interventions, outputs and outcomes of the UKSPF. Applicants will be required to contact the Community Benefits Hub at project design stage, and introductory meetings will take place. communitybenefits@denbighshire.gov.uk or Karen.bellis@denbighshire.gov.uk

Note: Community Benefits must be considered for all Goods & Services contracts over £25,000, all Works contracts over £100,000 and it is mandatory to include Social Value in ALL contracts of £1,000,000 and over.

Procurement Route

Explain the procurement process you intend to follow:

Officers/ SPF Partnership have elected to procure under the Innovation Partnerships procedure. DVSC are also set up to deliver projects across Denbighshire and they have recently delivered a successful UK Community Renewal Fund Project in partnership with Cadwyn Clwyd. DVSC have the financial controls in place to deliver a Key Fund and have a good track record for delivering EU and WG Funded programmes and projects of this nature.

An innovative solution, tailored to the requirements of the of delivery across the theme Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building under the SPF is seen to be the best solution to deliver against all intervention, outputs and outcomes. This involves the delivery of Key Funds (grant scheme) to be put in place to help support those smaller scale projects that would miss out on receiving SPF funding directly as they would not meet the £250k minimum value for projects.

If this exception form is approved:

If things go wrong, what is the operational risk to the Local Authority?	Medium
If things go wrong, what is the reputational risk to the Local Authority?	High
If things go wrong, what is the financial risk to the Local Authority?	High

Explain the risks and or the impact if this exception form is not approved:

Should the exceptions report not be approved this will compromise the delivery of SPF interventions in Denbighshire which will result in the loss of funding to the LA and Region.

Risk Mitigation

For risks which have a medium or high risk, state steps to be taken to minimise the risk:

There is a risk of negative feedback from the approach taken, however the reasons for why action has been taken will be clearly communicated as well as the opportunities available to smaller groups and businesses to access SPF Funds will be shared publicly. Under UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), applications will be larger in scale (i.e. with a value of over £250k). Therefore, to be able to support smaller scale projects a tailored solution is required to deliver intermediary funds (Key Funds).

As well as clear communication on our website, we would also form part of the active promotion of the Key Funds with our Resident, Community Groups, City Town and Community Council and Members. It is also envisaged that Denbighshire County Council Officers would serve as advisors and possibly voting members on the Key Fund appraisal panels to ensure that the projects delivered not only deliver against the set intervention, outputs and outcomes of the UKSPF but are complementary to our DCC Corporate Plan.

Key Fund deliverers will also be required to report on progress and spend to the External Funding Manager (DCC) and SPF Regional Team (Gwynedd) in line with procedures under SPF. These reports will also be shared and scrutinised by the Denbighshire SPF Partnership.

Consultation with Members

Please confirm that relevant members have been informed where the decision has implications for a particular locality.

Copy and paste:

Yes No

If Yes, please list member's names below and details of any feedback incorporated.

Consultation has taken place with stakeholders and members of the Denbighshire's Share Prosperity Fund

Please note: Retrospective approvals will not be considered.

PROCUREMENT TEAM ASSESSMENT

Which, if any, of the criteria for an Exception as set out in the Contract Procedure Rules are met.

Having discussed the requirement with the Amy Selby, I concur that running a Procurement exercise would not add anything beneficial to the process of selecting an organisation to work with allocation of funding and delivering projects.

The clauses provided are compliant with exception in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and are acceptable for this report.

The values stated will be required to be authorised by persons listed on page 8 & 9 of this document.

Could this Exception have been avoided, if Yes, what could have been done to avoid it and what should be done to avoid any further extension of the contract if awarded via an exception.

The exception may have been avoidable if the grant funding had been made available at an earlier stage in the process.

It is debateable whether the resulting Supplier would have been different as it is a niche type of service required.

Any further Recommendations/Advice

Obtain Legal opinion.

Action Required

Summary of follow up actions to be undertaken by Contract Manager

1. Finance to confirm validation of bona fide company and D & B Check for all contracts above £25k
2. Service to obtain copies of the relevant insurance documentation to ensure the Council's minimum insurances are held
3. Service to liaise with the legal to ensure there is a contract put in place as soon as possible.
4. Service to manage this contract and monitor expenditure and timelines in order that the contract is completed by the due date and that there is sufficient budget.

- 5. Service to add the contract to the Corporate Contracts register on Proactis Source to Contract and update/expire any previous contracts on Contract Register.
- 6. Service to upload copy of fully signed Exceptions report to Contract Record on Proactis Source to Contract
- 7. Service to send this completed and fully signed off exception report to Collaborative Procurement Service.
- 8. Service to complete Contract Risk Matrix Questionnaire and upload completed questionnaire to Contract record on Proactis Contract Management Module.

Procurement Business Partner **Date**

LEGAL SERVICES ADVICE
(required where total contract value is above £250k for works contracts and above OJEU Threshold for Goods & Service Contracts)

ADVICE:

LEGAL SERVICES **DATE**

Is this Exception deemed Low, Medium or High Risk by Legal Services

Low Medium High

If High Risk this form will be reviewed by a second Legal Officer/Solicitor

Second Legal Officer/Solicitor Assessment

Second legal officer/Solicitor to insert their legal assessment.

Legal Services Officer Date

Second Legal Office/Solicitor Date
(if applicable)

AUTHORISATION

N.B: This section is to be completed by the commissioning service following the completion and return of the Procurement Team Assessment (above) and advice of Legal and Procurement Operations Manager. For details of authority to approve exceptions see CPR 2.11

Service response to Collaborative Procurement Team Assessment

Please detail your response and plan of actions to the assessment of the Corporate Procurement Team and the advice of the Legal Services. In particular, if you are choosing not to abide by their recommendations please state why not.

****A RESPONSE MUST BE INSERTED BELOW ****

Authorisation Signatories

****Signatories should ensure they have read and understood the Procurement and Legal advice provided prior to signing this form****

TEAM MANAGER: (if within spend authorisation level)

Signature & print. Date

CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER / MANAGER OF BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION & ICT

(Mandatory for all ICT Contracts)

Signature
& Print

Date

HEAD OF SERVICE: (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature
& print.

Date

SECTION 151 OFFICER (Finance): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature
& print.

Date

MONITORING OFFICER (Legal): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature
& print.

Date

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: (Mandatory for all contracts above £1,000,000)

Signature
& print.

Date

N.B: Contracts over £2,000,000 also require Cabinet approval and the completion of a Cabinet report

Rejection (To be completed by Service Area)

Rejected by:

Date:

Reasons for the rejection:

Action required:

EXCEPTION FORM

--



Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 February 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets / Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
Report author	Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
Title	Recommendations of the Budget Board - Capital

1. What is the report about?

Block Allocation capital bids received for inclusion in the 2023/24 Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Strategic Investment Group ceased to exist at the end of 2021/22 and a new Capital approval process is currently being developed. In the interim the Budget Board – Capital has met to consider bids prepared by each service.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet supports the projects shown in Appendix 1 for inclusion in the 2023/24 Capital Plan, and recommends accordingly to full Council.

4. Report details

4.1 The available funding for 2023/24 is shown below:

Source	Amount £000
General Capital Grant	3,105
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing	3,024
Prudential Borrowing – Highways	4,000
Contribution from capital reserves	2,056
2022/23 underspend not rolled forward	683
Unused contingency b/f	500
Total Funds Available 2023/24	13,368

- 4.2 The Capital Plan spends money on two types of project. Firstly there are one-off projects such as a new school; the second type is a 'block allocation'. These are on-going programmes of work that stretch over several years (and may never be complete) e.g. schools maintenance. Elements of this work may be paid for from repair and maintenance budgets but a significant part is funded through the Capital Plan.
- 4.3 Appendix 1 shows the projects listed with the recommended funding source for each highlighted in the appropriate column. For additional clarity, the following points should be noted:
- PB Highways Column - £4.000m. This is supported from the revenue budget as a corporate priority, as approved by Full Council on 31 January 2023.
 - Council Funds column – these are funds such as general grants and contributions from the capital financing budget.
 - Welsh Government capital funding settlement is similar to 2022-23.
- 4.4 A narrative to support the recommendations of the Budget Board - Capital is included as Appendix 2.
- 4.5 The membership of the Budget Board - Capital is as follows:
- Cabinet Member – Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation
 - Cabinet Member – Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
 - Chief Executive
 - Corporate Director – Communities
 - Corporate Director – Economy and Environment
 - Corporate Director – Governance and Business
 - Head of Finance (S.151) and Property

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

Projects have been reviewed to ensure that they satisfy the Council's corporate objectives.

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

6.1 Cost Implications

The costs of the schemes are shown in Appendix 1. The Prudential Borrowing costs will be met through the 2023/24 revenue budget.

6.2 Staffing/ICT/Accommodation Implications

Each new project is required to complete a Project Business Case form and any specific implications are discussed at that stage.

6.3 Assessment of impact on Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation

New capital projects are subject to scrutiny by the Budget Board - Capital. Each business case will show, where relevant carbon tonne emission pre and post project, thus identifying whether the project is carbon emission positive, negative or neutral. In addition, it is necessary to ensure new capital projects are future proof and able to adapt to climate change.

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

A full Impact Assessment has been completed for each capital bid reviewed by the Budget Board - Capital. A copy of each individual Wellbeing Assessment is available in the members' library on the Modern.gov system.

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

Heads of Service approved the submission of the bids and were reviewed by the Budget Board – Capital while the new capital approval process was going through the approval process. Next year the bids will be reviewed by the new Capital Scrutiny

Group. If approved by Cabinet these proposals will form part of the full Capital Budget which will go to Council for approval on 28 February.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The Council must continue to invest appropriately in its assets. Not to do so can incur more significant costs in the long term. With the continuing reduction in the real value of Welsh Government supported borrowing, the Council must rely on its own resources more and more.

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

- 10.1 Possible risks would include schemes not progressing, loss of grant and disruptions to services. The condition of assets would continue to deteriorate if investment is not made, and this may lead to the loss of important services.
- 10.2 No capital project is without risk. However, all schemes are reviewed by the Budget Board – Capital and also subject to on-going monthly monitoring and reporting.

11. Power to make the decision

Local Authorities are required under section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

2023/24 Capital Bids - Proposed Block Allocations

APPENDIX 1

WIA Ref	Project Name	Head of Service	Capital Plan Requirement 2023/24 £000	P B Highways £000	Contribution from capital reserves £000	Council Funds £000	TOTAL 2023/24 £000	Brief Description
G01	Minor Adaptations; Community Equipment, Telecare	David Soley/Ann Lloyd	240			240	240	Minor Adaptations and Equipment
G02	Private Sector Housing Assistance	Emlyn Jones	1,500			1,500	1,500	Housing Improvement Works to Private Sector Dwellings
G03	Schools Capital Maintenance Works	Steve Gadd	4,006		2,056	1,950	4,006	Works to a range of work streams in schools.
G04	Non School Public Buildings Capital Maintenance Works	Steve Gadd	1,368			1,368	1,368	Works to a range of work streams for Public Buildings
G05/G06/G07	Highways works	Andy Clark	5,180	4,000		1,180	5,180	Improvements to roads and bridges. Coastal Protection
G08	Traffic Works	Emlyn Jones	324			324	324	Road Safety Improvement Schemes.
G09	Street Lighting	Andy Clark	250			250	250	Replacement of structurally unsafe lighting columns.
	Capital Contingency		500			500	500	
	TOTALS		13,368	4,000	2,056	7,312	13,368	

This page is intentionally left blank

The Budget Board - Capital decided to invite bids in line with previously agreed block allocations for services. Services were asked to provide a business case to support their bids. However, the requirement for Heads of Service to present bids to the Budget Board - Capital was waived.

Each bid was submitted with approval of the relevant Head of Service. The proposed allocations are detailed in Appendix 1 and in summary are as follows:

- An allocation of £240k is recommended for Minor Adaptations, Community Equipment and Telecare. This funding is targeted at enabling the elderly and disabled to remain in their own homes.
- It is proposed to allocate £1.5m in support of Private Sector Housing Assistance. The funding will be used in the main on the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants.
- Both the school and non-school capital maintenance bids include provision for essential maintenance such as Asbestos Removal, Fire Risk Assessment Work, Equalities etc. It is recommended that £4.006m be allocated to Schools Capital Maintenance Works. It is also proposed to allocate £1.368m to non-schools capital maintenance work. It is further recommended that the appropriate Heads of Service determine the precise allocations to works required, in order of priority. The full allocations proposed meet the highest priority works identified across the schools and non-schools estate.
- Council on 31 January 2023 approved £235k for Highways as part of the 2023/24 Investment in Priorities. This will allow £4.000m of capital expenditure.
- In addition to this, it is proposed to allocate £710k block allocation for structural and other repairs including highway maintenance, street lighting and bridges. Also included within this recommendation is a further £470k for repairs to bridge structures. This is the seventh year of a proposed ten year Highways Structure Backlog Project.
- An allocation of £324k is recommended to carry out road safety improvements.
- An allocation of £250k is recommended for the replacement of structurally unsafe lighting columns.
- The Budget Board - Capital recommends maintaining the allocation set aside for any contingencies at £0.5m, in line with 2022/23.

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 st February 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets / Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
Report author	Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
Title	Finance Report (January 2022/23)

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2022/23. The report also provides a summary update of the Capital Plan as well as the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the council's current financial position and confirm the agreed service budgets for 2022/23.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 Members note the budgets set for 2022/23 and progress against the agreed strategy.
- 3.2 Members approve the commissioning form to tender, via one of the existing frameworks, for all classes of insurance services (except for marine and terrorism which are specialist markets) for the authority, as detailed in section 6.8 and Appendix 5.
- 3.3 Members approve the write off of unrecoverable Business Rates as detailed in section 6.9 and Appendix 6.

4. Report details

The report provides a summary of the council's revenue budget for 2022/23 detailed in Appendix 1. The council's net revenue budget is £233.696m (£216.818m in 21/22). The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast overspend of £2.249m (£2.305m overspend last month). Services need to continually review their areas to mitigate the impact of the overall budget overspend. The budget mitigation reserve will cover this level of overspend in the current year. Narrative around the current risks and assumptions underlying this assessment are outlined in Section 6 and Appendix 2.

The 2022/23 budget required service savings and efficiencies of £0.754m to be identified and these are assumed to have been achieved.

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

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

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

Significant service narratives explaining variances and risks are detailed in Appendix 2, however the following should also be noted:

6.1 Corporate Budgets – A contingency of £1.9m was agreed as part of the budget for 22/23 to fund any ongoing impact of the pandemic, and in recognition of the increases in inflation at the time the budget was set. It is estimated that corporate contingencies amounting to £1.519m can be released; which includes £700k of the contingency detailed in 6.1 and £230k due to travel savings from new ways of working. Details relating to other risks are still being analysed:

- Pay settlements for 2022/23 – funds have been vired to services to fund the increase for those pay awards have been agreed. Although 'final offers' have been made, the pay settlement for teachers has yet to be agreed.
- Call on contingencies relating to energy and other inflationary pressures (see 6.1)

These will be monitored closely over the coming months.

6.2 Education and Children's Service – The current outturn prediction is £2.999m overspend (previously £2.819m). Although an additional pressure of £750k was accepted

as part of the agreed budget for 2022/23 this remains an area of concern. The majority of the pressure (£2.868m) relate to residential and independent fostering placements, which have either commenced this financial year or are now projected to continue longer than previously predicted. The Education service overspend (£131k) relates to Out-of-County budget pressure of £694k due to a reduction in number of pupils from other Councils attending DCC facilities, offset by grant maximisation and small efficiencies across the service (see Appendix 2 for further details).

6.3 Community Support Service – Although an additional pressure of £3.127m was included in the budget for 2022/23 this service area remains a high risk area. The current outturn prediction is £2.369m (previously £2.287m) due to an overall pressure of £4.8m, in high cost placements (£3.4m) and homelessness service (£1.4m), netted off by fully utilising a cash reserve (£2.4m) (see Appendix 2 for further details).

6.4 Schools - The budget agreed by Council for 2022/23 included a total net additional investment (excluding increases in Welsh Government grants) in schools delegated budgets of just over £4.4m. The latest projection for school balances to be carried forward into 2023/24 is a net credit balance of £6.178m, which represents a decrease of £6.270m on the balances brought forward into 2022/23 of £12.448m. The movement is as expected as the movement last year largely related to the receipt of one-off funding and one-off savings relating to schools being closed for much of the year and, in particular, a number of large grants were received at the end of March. The grants are now projected to be spent this financial year on the catch-up and Covid recovery programme in schools. There is a small underspend of £58k on non-delegated school budgets.

6.5 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The latest revenue position assumes a decrease in balances at year end of £573k compared to £4k at the time the budget was approved. This decrease relates to a reduction in estimated rental income. HRA balances are therefore forecast to be £1.483m at the end of the year. The HRA Capital budget of £26m is largely allocated between planned improvements to existing housing stock (£15m) and new build developments and acquisitions (£11m).

6.6 Treasury Management – At the end of January, the council's borrowing totalled £257.058m at an average rate of 4.08%. Investment balances were £34.6m at an average rate of 3.24%.

6.7 A summary of the council's **Capital Plan** is enclosed as Appendix 3. The approved Capital Plan for 22/23 is £55.1m with expenditure to date of £24.9m. Appendix 4 provides an update on the major projects included in the overall Capital Plan. The Capital Plan contingency was increased by £1.676m to £2.176m (up from the £0.500m agreed in February) due to carrying forward the unhypothecated element of a capital grant received from WG in March. After allocations to the Waste Project and the Levelling Up Scheme, the contingency level at £764k will help mitigate the risks to the overall programme of the impact of inflation on capital costs.

6.8 Insurance brokers have been appointed to oversee a tender via one of the existing frameworks for all classes of insurance services (except for marine and terrorism which are specialist markets) for the authority. Insurance services will be tendered in various lots to ensure the best responses are received from the market. A tight timetable will ensure the contract award date and Cabinet report deadlines are met whilst fully complying with relevant procurement regulations. The commissioning form is attached as Appendix 5 and recommended in 3.2.

6.9 The Council is required by legislation to administer and collect Business Rates on behalf of the Welsh Government. An annual bill is issued providing businesses 10 monthly instalments in which to pay. Failure to make payment will result in the issue of reminders, final notices and summonses to attend Magistrates' Court. However, in some instances it is appropriate to consider writing the debt off ensuring proper oversight is in place for these decisions. Details of one case is included in Appendix 6 and recommended in 3.3 that this debt is not recoverable and therefore should be written off.

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

A Well-being Impact Assessments for the Council Tax rise was presented to Council on 25 January 2022.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Corporate Governance Committee, the budget process has been considered by SLT, Cabinet Briefing, Group Leaders and Council Briefing meetings. The School Budget Forum have been included in the proposals through-out the year. Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee. The

Covid pandemic has continued to impact on the level of consultation and engagement with the public.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

As noted in section 6, the substantial specific pressures and level of overspend across services is a grave concern in the current year and for the medium term. Significant investment has gone into these specific service areas in recent years and it is expected that that need will continue. Initial pressures have already been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan and these will be kept under review, while the pressure for these services will need to be closely monitored and reviewed in the coming months. All services need to review expenditure and income in their areas to mitigate these budget overspends. After action by services to achieve savings in-year, the budget mitigation reserve will cover this level of overspend. These issues, along with inflationary pressures across all services, are becoming increasingly hard to finance as our funding fails to keep up with inflationary, service and demographic pressures.

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

This remains a very challenging financial period and there is still uncertainty around the ongoing inflationary increases, Brexit and the financial strategy of the UK government in dealing with the long term financial impact on the public finances of the response to Covid and the cost of living crisis. Although the financial outlook looks uncertain a robust 3/5 year budget process to help meet the challenges ahead has been approved by SLT, CET, Cabinet and scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee. The significant budget pressure in-year will reduce the level of reserves held by the Council and this will be taken into review during the budget process.

11. Power to make the decision

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

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

Jan-23	Net Budget	Budget 2022/23			Projected Outturn							Variance
	2021/22	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Net	Previous Report
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000
Communities and Customers	3,263	4,345	-854	3,491	5,844	-2,529	3,315	1,499	-1,675	-176	-5.04%	-189
Education and Children's Service	17,802	35,113	-15,989	19,124	33,376	-11,253	22,123	-1,737	4,736	2,999	15.68%	2,819
Business Improvement and Modernisation	4,593	6,887	-1,523	5,364	7,088	-2,037	5,051	201	-514	-313	-5.84%	-340
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	2,364	4,333	-1,632	2,701	4,164	-1,765	2,399	-169	-133	-302	-11.18%	-231
Finance and Property	5,744	10,566	-4,414	6,152	11,675	-5,756	5,919	1,109	-1,342	-233	-3.79%	-232
Highways and Environmental Services	15,730	29,645	-12,297	17,348	27,551	-10,168	17,383	-2,094	2,129	35	0.20%	-50
Planning and Public Protection	9,562	18,307	-7,312	10,995	20,265	-8,393	11,872	1,958	-1,081	877	7.98%	765
Community Support Services	39,854	64,616	-20,399	44,217	65,464	-18,878	46,586	848	1,521	2,369	5.36%	2,287
Leisure - Retained Budgets	3,255	3,402	0	3,402	3,414	0	3,414	12	0	12	0.35%	12
Total Services	102,167	177,214	-64,420	112,794	178,841	-60,779	118,062	1,627	3,641	5,268	4.67%	4,841
Corporate	18,474	47,187	-29,271	17,916	46,016	-29,619	16,397	-1,171	-348	-1,519	-8.48%	-1,036
Precincts & Levies	5,060	5,381	0	5,381	5,381	0	5,381	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	15,176	15,956	0	15,956	14,456	0	14,456	-1,500	0	-1,500	-9.40%	-1,500
Total Corporate	38,710	68,524	-29,271	39,253	65,853	-29,619	36,234	-2,671	-348	-3,019	-7.69%	-2,536
Council Services & Corporate Budget	140,877	245,738	-93,691	152,047	244,694	-90,398	154,296	-1,044	3,293	2,249	1.48%	2,305
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	75,941	91,349	-9,700	81,649	97,506	-9,645	87,861	6,157	55	6,212	7.61%	6,379
Total Council Budget	216,818	337,087	-103,391	233,696	342,200	-100,043	242,157	5,113	3,348	8,461	3.62%	8,684
Housing Revenue Account	653	17,585	-17,581	4	17,658	-17,085	573	73	496	569		484

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2 - Service Variance Narrative

Service	Variance Last Month £000	Variance This Month £000	Change £000	Description
Communities and Customers	-189	-176	13	Underspend due to vacancy management and use of reserves, netted off this month by increase in relief staff costs in libraries.
Education and Children's Service	2,819	2,999	180	See body of report for summary. Overspend due to children's social care placements and a reduction in level of out-of-county education income netted off by grants maximisation and in-year efficiencies across the services. Increase this month due to new residential and fostering placements (£0.22m) offset by reduced out-of-county education costs (-£0.04m). All residential and fostering placements have been costed to realistic timescales however no allowance has been made for any further placements throughout the year.
Business Improvement and Modernisation	-340	-313	27	Underspend due to small efficiencies and vacancy management netted off this month by increased IT costs.
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	-231	-302	-71	Underspend due to vacancy management and small efficiencies, with further vacancy savings this month.
Finance and Property	-232	-233	-1	Underspend due to small efficiencies and further vacancy management
Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services	-50	35	85	The budget pressure is due to increasing costs for major projects, street lighting, depot maintenance, staffing and higher diesel costs netted off by in-year small efficiencies, reduced use of agency staff and vacancy management. The increase in the projection this month relate to increased diesel costs.
Planning and Public Protection	765	877	112	The overspend relates to School Transport costs and reduced planning income netted off by vacancy management and in-year small efficiencies and use of reserves. Although a £500k pressure was approved as part of the 22/23 budget process for school transport and the service is utilising a cash reserve in-year, the service is projecting an overspend. The increase this month relates to higher costs for emergency contracts due to higher rates (from increased fuel costs and shortage of drivers), and increased demand for short-term contracts (due to early termination of contracts and new ALN pupils requiring transport).
Community Support Services	2,287	2,369	82	See body of report for summary. The £2.4m overspend (previously £2.3m) is due to an overall pressure of £4.8m, in high cost placements in Specialist Services (£3.4m) and homelessness (£1.4m), netted off by use of reserves (-£2.4m). The overspend in high cost placements has further increased this month by £0.3m due to reduced care fee income. The overspend in homelessness is due to higher rates and lengthier stays at accommodation; reduction of £0.2m this month due to receipt of grant netted off by further increases in costs.
Leisure - ADM	12	12	0	The overspend relates to minor variances.
Corporate & Miscellaneous	-1,036	-1,519	-483	Release of contingency and savings realised from new ways of working. See body of report for details
Precepts & Levies	0	0	0	See body of report for details
Capital Financing	-1,500	-1,500	0	Reduced capital financing costs in-year due to delayed expenditure on some capital projects. The position on capital financing is very much related to progress on capital projects and variances do not fully crystallise until the final outturn is known. Whilst in previous years any underspend on this budget has been carried forward to help support the capital programme, with the level of overspend currently being reported it is unlikely that this will be possible this year.
Council Services & Corporate Budget	2,305	2,249	-56	

This page is intentionally left blank

Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26

APPENDIX 3

Position to end JANUARY 2023

Capital Expenditure

Total Estimated Payments - Other

Total Estimated Payments - Major Projects:

Housing Improvement Grants

Highways Maintenance

East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme

Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme

Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme

Rhyl Queens Market Redevelopment

Waste Service Remodelling

Contingency

Total

Capital Financing

External Funding

Receipts and Reserves

Prudential Borrowing

Unallocated Funding

Total Capital Financing

2021/22 OUTTURN POSITION £000s	2022/23 ORIGINAL ESTIMATE £000s	2022/23 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2023/24 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2024/25 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2025/26 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s
21,254	23,771	35,233	15,370	428	0
1,210	1,200	1,565	0	0	0
4,109	4,710	5,608	500	0	0
5,137	3,575	2,333	0	0	0
0	0		16,420	4,773	4,633
0	0		35,051	22,187	8,787
1,682	3,493	3,676	2,848	0	0
2,152	11,428	5,873	8,787	0	0
	500	764			
35,544	48,677	55,052	78,976	27,388	13,420
20,482	19,399	35,424	13,941	78	0
5,223	7,944	3,905	1,924	0	0
9,839	21,334	15,723	63,111	27,310	13,420
0	0	(0)	0	0	0
35,544	48,677	55,052	78,976	27,388	13,420

Note: 2022-23 Original Estimate is the position as approved by Council on 22nd February 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 4 - Major Capital Projects Update – January 2023

Rhyl Queens Market Redevelopment	
Total Budget	£13.242m
Expenditure to date	£8.583m
Estimated remaining spend in 22/23	£1.800m
Future Years estimated spend	£2.859m
Funding	WG £8.060m DCC Asbestos £0.272m. DCC £4.910m
Narrative:	
<p>Construction commenced on Monday 15 August by Wynne Construction and is scheduled to finish July 2023.</p> <p>The procurement of an operator has stalled due to no tender submissions being received. A decision was made by the Project Board to go back out to the market. Aiming to go-live again in February.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 22/23	£4.225m

Waste Service Re-modelling	
Total Budget	£21.101m
Expenditure to date	£8.490m
Estimated remaining spend in 22/23	£3.528m
Future Years estimated spend	£9.083m
Funding	WG £11.132m, DCC £9.969m
Narrative:	
<p>A number of work streams are being taken forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is now underway on Phase 2 of the construction of the new waste transfer station (WTS) at the Colomendy Industrial Estate in Denbigh. It is anticipated works will be complete by autumn 2023. The precise dates for roll out of the new service from the new WTS to be confirmed in due course and is dependent on issue of a permit to operate the WTS from NRW. • Specification and procurement of the new fleet required to support the new model has been completed with delivery of this new fleet anticipated to commence ahead of the roll out of the new service to allow for commissioning and training on the new fleet before it goes operational. • Procurement of the new containers required for the new collections model are ongoing, with the main order for the trolley boxes for the recycle awarded in October 2022. Further procurement of reaming containers required will continue during 2023. • A number of mobilisation and communication activities are ongoing to prepare for the service change and include developing the new collection routes; planning for any staffing changes/requirements and ongoing engagement and communication with stakeholders and residents. 	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 22/23	£6.564m

Sustainable Communities for Learning – Band B	
Total Budget	£51.9m
Expenditure to date	£0.6m
Estimated remaining spend in 22/23	
Future Years estimated spend	
Funding	WG £36.1m, DCC £15.8m
Narrative:	
<p>Progress continues to be made on the development of projects for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme in partnership with Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Outline Business Case for the Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn project was approved by Welsh Government and the pre planning consultation with the community on the proposed design of the new school has now taken place. The consultants are now reviewing the findings from this consultation exercise. The statutory notice for the proposed extension in capacity was published on the 8th November and the period for objection ran until the 5th December 2022. Two objections were received and these will be considered by Cabinet in February 2023.</p> <p>The feasibility works for options at Ysgol Bryn Collen / Ysgol Gwernant in Llangollen have been received and these will now be assessed to determine the shape of the project moving forward.</p> <p>Further discussions have taken place with local members regarding the options for Ysgol Pendref and feasibility works are now progressing on these options.</p> <p>The projects under Band B will be required to meet Net Carbon Zero requirements and Welsh Government have agreed to meet these additional costs to an agreed benchmark. Discussions have also taken place with Welsh Government regarding likely cost pressures for individual projects and how this will impact on the overall programme affordability.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 22/23	

This page is intentionally left blank

Commissioning Form

This form is to be completed by the commissioning service or department for all procurement proposals with a total value above £25,000. If you are seeking an exception from Contract Procedure Rules or exception from the requirement to tender, you must complete an **Exception Form**.

Title	TENDER FOR INSURANCE SERVICES
Head of Service:	STEVE GADD
Manager:	CHRIS JONES
Report Completed by:	CHRIS JONES
Date:	08/11/22
Total Estimated Value:	£4,000,000

PROCUREMENT TEAM USE ONLY	
Officer	Rachel Sanders
Priority	
Category	Finance
Received	08/11/2022
Complete by	23/11/2022

Type	<i>Copy and paste:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Goods:		
Services: services not subject to the 'light touch regime' (i.e. most services)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Light Touch Regime: certain social, health, education & other services subject to the 'light-touch regime'		
Works:		
Does the proposal include Land contracts or the appointment of developers?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If Yes, has the Monitoring Officer (Legal) been consulted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If Yes state the Monitoring Officer's advice. If No, state why not:</i>		
N/a		
Does the proposal include Information & Communication Technology, property or works?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If Yes, has the relevant council service been involved?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If Yes state the services' involvement. If No, state why not:</i>		
N/A		
Procurement Level	<i>Copy and paste:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate Value: £25,000 to OJEU threshold*		
High Value: above relevant OJEU threshold*		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*OJEU limit Goods/ Services: £181,302 *OJEU limit works: £4,551,413 *OJEU limit light touch regime: £615,278, concession agreements: £4,551,413		

Procurement Process

Copy and paste:

Is there a corporate purchasing arrangement or National Procurement Service framework or other framework agreement relevant to your proposal?

Yes No

If Yes, state which below:

INSURANCE SERVICES – CROWN COMMERCIAL & YORKSHIRE PURCHASING

Are you planning to make use of any corporate purchasing arrangement or framework agreement identified above?

Yes No

If Yes, will the process be direct award or mini competition?

MINI COMPETITION

Timescales

Date	Milestone
DD/MM/YYYY	Authorisation of Commissioning Form
DD/MM/YYYY	Final contract terms, specification & evaluation methodology agreed by Procurement/Legal
17/04/2023	Tender advertised
02/06/2023	Tender closed to responses, start evaluation
DD/MM/YYYY	Evaluation finalised (start of 10 day standstill period)
DD/MM/YYYY	Contract award
31/07/2023	Contract start

Outline

Briefly describe the proposal

INSURANCE BROKERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO OVERSEE A TENDER VIA ONE OF THE EXISTING FRAMEWORKS FOR ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE SERVICES (EXCEPT FOR MARINE AND TERRORISM WHICH ARE SPECIALIST MARKETS) FOR THE AUTHORITY. THEY WILL PUT ALL THE DOCUMENTS TOGETHER AND TIMETABLE TO ENSURE THE CONTRACT AWARD DATE AND CABINET REPORT DEADLINE OF LATE JUNE 2023 ARE MET WHILST COMPLYING WITH THE DATE RESTRICTIONS OF THE RELEVANT PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. INSURANCE SERVICES WILL BE TENDERED IN VARIOUS LOTS TO ENSURE THE BEST RESPONSES ARE RECEIVED FROM THE MARKET. WE ENVISAGE LETTING THE CONTRACT ON A THREE YEAR DEAL WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE DEAL FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS AND THEN WITH ANOTHER OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS IF MARKETS ARE FAVOURABLE.

PRICE AND QUALITY RATIOS ARE:-

50% price

50% quality split:

25% compliance with the specification (this is arguably the more interesting area for points of difference)

10% claims service

10% overall service

5% social value / community

Price / Quality Weighting

Please state the percentage weightings being given to price and quality in your tender evaluation:-

Price

50%

Quality

50% (THEN SPLIT AS ABOVE)

Options

Copy and paste:

Has a zero cost option been considered?

Yes

No

Has a reduced cost option been considered?

Yes

No

State whether and why zero and/or reduced cost options have been adopted or discounted:

LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE INSURANCE IN PLACE.
DISCUSSING WITH BROKER OTHER OPTIONS FOR DIFFERING LEVELS OF EXCESS WHICH MAY REDUCE PREMIUM LEVELS BUT NEED TO BE OFFSET WITH AN ANALYSIS OF THE SAVINGS AGAINST THE TOTAL COST OF RISK.

Collaborative Procurement

Copy and paste:

Has a collaborative procurement with Denbighshire/Flintshire County Council been considered?

Yes

No

If yes please give details, if no please state reason:

FLINTSHIRE HAVE DIFFERENT EXPIRY DATES FOR THEIR PREMIUMS PLUS INSURANCE COVER IS VERY SPECIFIC FOR EACH AUTHORITY AS WE CARRY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF RISK

Cross Service Procurement

Copy and paste:

Has a procurement across another Council Service been considered if there is the same or similar need for the works/goods/services?

Yes

No

If yes please give details:

Existing

Council Contracts

%

Copy and paste:

Is there an existing Council contract that covers the same or similar works, goods or services which can be utilised?

Yes

No

If yes please give details:

N/A

Safeguarding

Safeguarding includes everything a Council can do to keep people safe, including minimising the risk of harm and accidents, taking action to tackle safety concerns and ensuring people grow up and live in safe circumstances. Safeguarding covers physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse, neglect, modern slavery and radicalisation.

Does the works, goods or services include any elements that raise safeguarding concerns or requirements?

Copy and paste:
Yes No

If yes please give details:

Data Protection

Does the works, goods or services include any elements that involve the processing or sharing of personal data of living individuals?

Copy and paste:
Yes No

If yes please give details:

If Yes, has the Information Governance Team been consulted? Yes No

If No, state why not:

Community Benefits

Copy and paste:
Yes No

Are you including community benefits?

If Yes, provide details below: If No, state why community benefits have not been included

Note: Community Benefits must be considered for all Goods & Services contracts over £25,000, all Works contracts over £100,000 and it is mandatory to include community benefits in all contracts for the value of £1,000,000 and over.

If you have not yet discussed Community Benefits with the Community Benefits Hub please contact communitybenefits@denbighshire.gov.uk

COMMUNITY BENEFITS RESPONSES INCLUDED IN THE QUALITY SCORING

Contract Management and Key Performance Indicators

Have you considered key performance indicators to use to monitor contractor performance?

Yes No

If No, state why not:

LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE INSURANCES – POLICIES NEED TO MEET THOSE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

If yes please give details, including KPI's related to Community Benefits:

[Empty text box for details]

The Local Economy

Have you considered ways in which this proposal might benefit the local economy and increase opportunities for local businesses?

Copy and paste:
Yes No

If Yes, provide details below: If No, please state why not.

ONLY NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AVAILABLE – INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANIES ONLY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DELIVER THE INSURANCE COVERS REQUIRED FOR THE AUTHORITY DUE TO SIZE OF INDEMNITY LIMITS REQUIRED AND ACCESS TO REINSURANCE MARKETS

Grant Funding

Is grant funding being used in whole or in part to fund the procurement?

Copy and paste:
Yes No

If yes please give details and please state whether there is a grant agreement:

[Empty text box for details]

Finance

Funding Source	Amount
----------------	--------

Revenue - Insurance Budgets & Schools	£ 4,050,000
Capital	£
Grant	£
Total Funding:	£ 4,050,000

Estimated Total Value:	£ 4,050,000 (c £9,000,000 WITH EXTENSIONS)
Estimated Annual Value	£ 1, 350,000

Cost Code	Various Ins Codes (G91 holding a/c)
------------------	-------------------------------------

If the contract is a collaboration with external partners the figures quoted should include the total contract value not just the Local Authority element.

Contract

Provide basic details of any contract to be awarded

Type of Contract:	FORN INSURANCE SERVICES
Proposed Start date:	31 JULY 2023
Proposed End date:	30 JULY 2026
Proposed options for extension (if any):	TWO YEAR PLUS ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR
Maximum duration (including extensions):	7 YEARS (DEPENDING ON INS MARKET)

Risk Assessment

What is the total estimated value of the proposal?	Over £2m
If things go wrong, what is the operational risk to the Local Authority?	Medium
If things go wrong, what is the reputational risk to the Local Authority?	Low
If things go wrong, what is the financial risk to the Local Authority?	Medium

Risk Mitigation

For risks which have a medium or high risk, state steps to be taken to minimise the risk:

INSURERS ON THE FRAMEWORKS HAVE BEEN PRE-SCREENED AND ASSESSED FOR THEIR FINANCIAL STABILITY WHICH GIVES ASSURANCE THAT ANY PROVIDER SELECTED HAS THE CAPABILITIES TO DELIVER THE COVER REQUIRED OVER THE DESIGNATED PERIOD

Consultation with Members

Please confirm that relevant members have been informed where the decision has implications for a particular locality.

Copy and paste:

Yes No

If Yes, please list member's names below and details of any feedback incorporated.

CORPORATE CONTRACT SO NO LOCAL ISSUES BUT THE MEMBER FOR FINANCE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE NEED TO TENDER FOR THESE SERVICES

Procurement Checklist

Copy and paste:

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Has a Sustainability / Wellbeing Impact Assessment been completed? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you identified and mitigated any potential conflicts of interest? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you conducted market dialogue, research, analysis? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you consulted stakeholders, partners and/or end users? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you consulted the Insurance and Risk Manager on potential insurance issues? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you instructed the legal team to develop contract terms? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you sought advice on safeguarding issues? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you sought advice on any TUPE, IPR or other legal issues? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you determined contract management & information requirements? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you determined whether to use lots (e.g. to encourage SMEs)? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Could you reserve the contract for public mutuals or social enterprises? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you drafted the tender specification? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you developed evaluation criteria & scoring methodology? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you identified the scorers/evaluators? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Will you need to arrange interviews, presentations, site visits etc.? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Is this proposal funded wholly or in part by EU grant?

Yes No N/A

AUTHORISATION

The undersigned authorise the commissioning proposal described

TEAM MANAGER: (if within spend authorisation limit)

Signature Date

HEAD OF SERVICE/CHIEF OFFICER: (Mandatory)
(or Service Manager if within their spend authorisation limit)

Signature Date

CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER (Mandatory for all ICT Contracts)

Signature Date

SECTION 151 OFFICER (Finance): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature Date
Steve Gadd
Steve Gadd

MONITORING OFFICER (Legal): (Mandatory for all contracts above £250,000)

Signature Date

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: (Mandatory for all contracts above £1,000,000)

Signature Date

N.B: Contracts over £2,000,000 also require Cabinet approval and the completion of a Cabinet report.

PROCUREMENT TEAM ASSESSMENT

This section to be completed by the Procurement Team following receipt of an appropriately completed commissioning form.

PROPOSED START DATE

TARGET END DATE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

RS met with CJ on 22/11/2022 to discuss tender.

A further competition exercise is to be undertaken via the YPO/ESPO insurance framework. RS has sent CJ the YPO buyer's guidance.

Insurance Broker has already appointed to lead on and provide market expertise to the Authority. RS advised that the tender should be issued and managed via Proactis Source2Contract. CJ to work with Broker to collate all necessary information for the tender. RS will be available for any project meetings or if the Broker's need any specific Denbighshire procurement advice.

Indicative timescales: current contracts are due to expire at the end of July 2023 with no further permissible extension options available.

Publish tender: 17th April
Clarifications: 5th May
Tender closes: 19th May
Contract award: 2nd June

We will need to ensure the delegated decisions/Cabinet approval is timetabled sufficiently in advance due to the tight timescales at the tail end of the procurement process i.e. contract award in June and contract expiry in July.

This form will need to be signed off by all necessary signatories and a copy of the fully signed form returned to Procurement. Fully signed form will be uploaded to Proactis as a private attachment by the Procurement BP.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

DATE

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	
28 March	1	Replacement Local Development Plan – Preferred Strategy Consultation	To report back on the consultation on the LDP Preferred Strategy and seek approval for proposed changes to the Strategy.	Tbc	Cllr Win Mullen-James Lead Officer – Emlyn Jones Report Author – Angela Loftus
	2	Provision of Dynamic Procurement System for Delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant	To seek approval to undertake the development and procurement of a Dynamic Procurement System (DPS) in partnership with Flintshire County Council to procure and deliver Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) in line with Denbighshire County Council's (DCC) Contract Procedure Rules	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author – Angela Loftus / Andrea Fisher
	3	Joint Archives Project	To update Cabinet regarding proposals for the Joint Archive Service and seeking approval for the preferred option	Yes	Cllr Emrys Wynne Lead Officer – Liz Grieve Report Author – Craig Berry / Sian Lloyd Price
	4	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			the Council		Steve Gadd
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
25 April	1	Shared Prosperity Funding – Investment Proposals	To seek Cabinet approval for spend against the Shared Prosperity Fund	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Liz Grieve Report Author – Nicola Kneale
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
23 May	1	Shared Prosperity Funding – Investment Proposals	To seek Cabinet approval for spend against the Shared Prosperity Fund	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Liz Grieve Report Author – Nicola Kneale
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet’s attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
27 June	1	Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID): ballot for 2 nd 5-year term	To request a decision on whether DCC should vote “yes” or “no” in the ballot to determine whether there should be a 2 nd 5-year term for the Rhyl BID	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Tony Ward
	2	Council Performance Self-Assessment	To present an update on the council’s performance against its functions, including Corporate Plan and Strategic Equality objectives	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Nicola Kneale Report Author – Emma Horan
	3	Shared Prosperity Funding – Investment Proposals	To seek Cabinet approval for spend against the Shared Prosperity Fund	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Liz Grieve Report Author – Nicola Kneale
	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	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			Cabinet's attention		
18 July	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator

FUTURE ITEMS

21 Nov	Council Performance Self-Assessment Update – July to September	To present an update on the council's performance against its functions, including Corporate Plan and Strategic Equality objectives	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Nicola Kneale Report Author – Emma Horan
---------------	--	---	--

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>21 February</i>	7 February	<i>28 March</i>	14 March	<i>25 April</i>	11 April