

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 15 January 2025

Direct Dial: 01824712568

e-mail: [democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto: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 JANUARY 2025** 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 5 - 14)**

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 December 2024 (copy enclosed).

**5 FORMER NORTH WALES HOSPITAL - APPROVAL TO ISSUE THIRD PARTY AGREEMENT (Pages 15 - 60)**

To consider a report by Councillor Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval to issue the Third Party Funding to support the delivery of Phase 1 of the Former North Wales Hospital Project as part of the Levelling Up Fund Vale of Clwyd Programme.

**6 WELSH GOVERNMENT'S PROVISIONAL FUNDING SETTLEMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2025/26 (Pages 61 - 68)**

To consider a report by Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) updating Cabinet on the Welsh Government's Provisional Funding Settlement for Local Government 2025/26 and its implications for setting a balanced budget for 2025/26.

**7 CAPITAL BLOCK ALLOCATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2025/26 CAPITAL PLAN (Pages 69 - 78)**

To consider a report by Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) detailing the principles for funding capital schemes and seeking Cabinet's support of projects identified for inclusion in the 2025/26 Capital Plan and recommendation to full Council.

**8 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 79 - 94)**

To consider a report 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.

**9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 95 - 100)**

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor Gwyneth Ellis  
Councillor Elen Heaton  
Councillor Alan James  
Councillor Diane King  
Councillor Julie Matthews

Councillor Jason McLellan  
Councillor Barry Mellor  
Councillor Rhys Thomas  
Councillor Emrys Wynne

**COPIES TO:**

All Councillors for information  
Press and Libraries  
Town and Community Councils

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

---

### Code of Conduct for Members

### DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a \*member/co-opted member of  
*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

**Denbighshire County Council**

**CONFIRM** that I have declared a \***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-

*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)\**

Signed

Date

\*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

This page is intentionally left blank

## **CABINET**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and by video conference on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 10.00 am.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation; Elen Heaton, Lead Member for Health and Social Care; Diane King, Lead Member for Education Children and Families; Alan James, Lead Member for Local Development and Planning; Julie Matthews, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities; Barry Mellor, Lead Member for the Environment and Transport; Rhys Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities, and Emrys Wynne, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage

**Observers:** Councillors Ellie Chard, Karen Edwards, Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Hugh Irving, Brian Jones, Delyth Jones, Will Price, Arwel Roberts and Andrea Tomlin

## **ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Executive (GB); Corporate Directors: Social Services and Education (NS), Governance and Business/Monitoring Officer (GW), and Environment and Economy TW; Heads of Service: Finance and Audit (LT), Highways and Environmental Services (PJ); Housing and Communities (LG), and Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services (EJ); Project Manager – Corporate Programme Office (KM); Principal Manager Catering and Cleaning (HJ); Lead Officer – Community Housing (GD); Lead Officer – Housing Development (MD); Lead Officer Housing Property (MC); Finance and Assurance Manager (JR); Service Manager – Homelessness Service (NJ); Public Protection, Regeneration and Economic Development Manager (GR); Project Manager – Corporate Programmes Office (RV); Scrutiny Coordinators (RE & KE), and Committee Administrators (KEJ & SLW [Webcaster])

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets

### **2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest had been raised.

### **3 URGENT MATTERS**

No urgent matters had been raised.

### **4 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 November 2024 were submitted.

**Matters Arising** – Item 3: Urgent Matters X51 Bus Service into Llandegla – Councillor Barry Mellor provided a verbal update following interruptions to the bus service into Llandegla which had been raised by Councillor Terry Mendies at the previous meeting. Whilst it had not been possible to meet with all drivers, the bus company had taken action, specifically regarding a further incident where disciplinary action had been taken, and all drivers had been directed not to bypass Llandegla under any circumstances. The Leader thanked Councillor Mendies for raising the matter and Councillor Mellor for his intervention in helping to resolve the issue, highlighting the importance of transport routes to rural communities.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2024 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

## **5 DRAFT LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY**

Councillor Barry Mellor presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the draft Local Toilets Strategy for public consultation.

Councillor Mellor stressed that the report was not about closing toilets as portrayed by the press and it was appropriate that the Council agreed and adopted a new Strategy prior to any decisions on the provision and operation of public conveniences going forward. The report included some background to the legislative provision regarding public toilets and requirement for local authorities to prepare and publish a Local Toilets Strategy which must include an assessment of need for toilets. The Local Toilet Interim Needs Assessment and draft Local Toilets Strategy for Denbighshire, including an action plan of how the Council proposed to meet the identified need, had been appended to the report together with frequently asked questions in response to comments received during the Interim Needs Assessment consultation, a Wellbeing Impact Assessment and identified risks.

The Head of Highways and Environmental Services and Principal Manager (Catering/Cleaning) attended for this item. The Head of Service referred to work carried out to date and reiterated that no decisions had been made regarding the future provision and operation of public conveniences, stressing the importance of an agreed Strategy as a prelude to future decision making. Cabinet was asked to acknowledge the work carried out and approve the draft Strategy for consultation.

The following issues were raised during the ensuing debate –

- further detail was provided on how the public consultation would be conducted over a two month period in order to achieve as full and wide consultation as possible with an appreciation of the impacts on many different, wide ranging and diverse groups in the county, and the potentially contentious nature of changing the current operating model. It was hoped to gain as much information as possible with the findings used to formulate the overall final strategy position and inform future decision making or recommendations moving forward
- currently one business had signed up to the Community Toilet Scheme and it was important to target appropriate businesses in key areas to join the scheme to meet the identified need for public toilets in the county; it was accepted that it

may be difficult to recruit some businesses, but assurances were provided that much work would be carried out to maximise the benefits of the scheme which included learning from other councils who had success with similar schemes

- reference was made to criticism in the press over the £500pa payable for joining the Community Toilet Scheme, and whether a greater incentive should be offered and views sought in that regard as part of the consultation process. The Head of Service advised that the £500 rate was a national rate aligned with other local authorities and there was a balance between the financial implications of an increase and increasing uptake for the scheme. Given the lack of promotion of the scheme to date he felt it would be appropriate to engage as much as possible with the business community at the current level to gauge the level of interest and then re-evaluate the position depending on the willingness of businesses to join the scheme. Cabinet was keen for more targeted engagement with businesses but asked that the matter be brought back to them for further consideration in the event of poor take up of the scheme
- with regard to Changing Places toilets, there was provision in Ysgol Glan Clwyd and Tesco Prestatyn Superstore referenced in the report, and officers reported on future provision in Corwen through the Levelling Up Fund and also in Queen's Market, Rhyl. It was accepted that such facilities were expensive to provide and there would be engagement with the third sector regarding any potential opportunities in that regard. Councillor Emrys Wynne also highlighted the demand for baby changing facilities which did not require as much space
- discussions had taken place with local Town/City/Community Councils generally regarding the operation of council-run public conveniences and to discuss the draft Strategy and way forward on the need for public toilets, and there had been a mixed response across the county with some very welcoming and supportive and others who were not prepared to work with the local authority – discussions were being held on a case by case basis for the areas concerned
- in responding to a question regarding the day visitor numbers for Denbigh being higher than Llangollen, the Head of Service explained that STEAM data had been used for the day visitor numbers which did not include the significant amount of visitors who stayed overnight or for a longer period in that calculation.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet –

- acknowledges the work completed so far following a review of the needs of the local population which was undertaken via a public consultation and approves the final needs assessment (the Interim Needs Assessment had been appended as Appendix 2 to the report);*
- approves the draft strategy and action plan (Appendix 1 to the report) in line with the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017: Provision of Toilets;*
- delegate authority for the Lead Member Highways and Environment to agree any minor editorial changes required to the draft strategy before public consultation, and*
- confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix 3 to the report) as part of its consideration.*

At this point Councillor Arwel Roberts advised that he was not aware that Rhuddlan Town Council had been approached with regard to the draft Strategy and would like officers to attend a future meeting to discuss the matter. The Leader asked the Monitoring Officer to raise the issue with the appropriate officer outside the meeting.

## **6 HOUSING RENT SETTING & HOUSING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2025/26**

Councillor Rhys Thomas presented the report seeking Cabinet approval for the Denbighshire Housing annual rent increase, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital & Revenue Budgets for 2025/26 and Housing Stock Business Plan (HSBP).

The report included the latest forecast outturn for the HRA and proposed budget for 2025/26 which had been calculated to enable delivery of revenue services, the capital investment programme, strive to achieve quality standards and develop the new build programme. In terms of the annual rent increase, Welsh Government had set a maximum rent increase of 2.7% and it was proposed to increase weekly rents by that amount due to pressures on the HRA to invest in homes to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) and strive to deliver the corporate plan target for new homes. The report had been subject to scrutiny by Communities Scrutiny Committee the previous week and had been very well received.

The Head of Housing and Communities introduced officers present. She gave an overview of the report, providing assurances regarding the affordability of the rent increase for tenants based on the rent matrices and intention to spend any increase on meeting the WHQS with a significant programme of work required in that regard together with the ambition to create more social housing. Reference was also made to the support provided to tenants in terms of any financial difficulties through direct support from officers and also commissioned support from organisations such as Working Denbighshire and Citizens Advice. Finally, reference was made to the HSBP and HRA with further detailed work planned given the Council's ambition for its housing stock with the creation of new housing not currently affordable based on current projections with a report back thereon to Cabinet in the new year.

Main areas of debate focused on the following –

- Cabinet had been pleased to hear the feedback following scrutiny of the report by Communities Scrutiny Committee which gave further confidence in the recommendations in addition to the thorough consideration of all factors detailed in the report and paid tribute to the work of the Housing Team to benefit tenants
- particular mention was also made to successful council housing development projects, including Llys Elizabeth, Rhyl and Llys Llên, Prestatyn and close partnership working with others including Clwyd Alyn's housing development on Edward Henry Street, Rhyl, all examples of excellent affordable quality housing
- members welcomed the commitment to no evictions due to financial hardship where there was engagement with the council noting that the vast majority of tenants were willing to seek help and advice; the close working with the Homeless Prevention Team was also noted
- there was a focus on the affordable warmth agenda with approximately £9m per annum spent on capital works with circa 13000 routine repairs carried out; the



revised standard required raising EPC levels of all homes up to C75 and whilst some grant funding was provided for that purpose, delivering that standard was expensive and largely unaffordable at present, by 2027 a plan was required to demonstrate how the revised standard would be achieved by 2030

- there was a fine balance between ensuring rents were affordable for tenants and securing investment in the housing stock to benefit those tenants and the success of the approach taken had been evidenced with Denbighshire having one of the highest tenant satisfaction rates in Wales in terms of service and value for money.

**RESOLVED** that –

- (a) the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2025/26 (Appendix 1 to the report) and the Housing Stock Business Plan (Appendix 2 to the report) be adopted;*
- (b) rents for Council dwellings be increased in accordance with the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rents by 2.7% to an average weekly rent of £112.29 with effect from Monday 7 April 2025;*
- (c) the additional report (Appendix 3 to the report) on the considerations taken into account when deciding on the recommendation be noted, and*
- (d) Cabinet confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 4 to the report) as part of its consideration.*

## **7 FINANCE REPORT**

In the absence of Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, the Head of Finance and Audit presented the monthly report detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy together with further recommended approvals.

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

- the net revenue budget for 2024/25 was £271.021m (£250.793m in 2023/24)
- an underspend of £4.285m was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- current risks and assumptions relating to corporate budgets and service areas
- savings and efficiencies for the 2024/25 budget (£10.384m) and progress in delivering savings approved with ongoing tracking/monitoring
- an update on Schools, Housing Revenue Account and Treasury Management.

Cabinet was also asked to approve the Council Tax base for setting the 2025/26 budget; the use of capital contingency to fund the overspend on the Lôn Parcwr Scheme, and the capital business case relating to Ysgol y Castell, Rhuddlan which had been attached as a confidential appendix. Cabinet was asked to move into private session if they wished to discuss the confidential element of the report.

The Head of Finance and Audit guided members through the detail of the report. There was a forecasted underspend on service and corporate budgets of £4.285m compared to an underspend of £479k last month. The significant positive

movement had been due to Welsh Government awarding additional in-year funding to support pay pressures and teachers' pension costs. Services as a whole continued to overspend in areas including Education and Children's Services, Highways and Environmental Services, and to a lesser extent Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services. There was an underspend in Adult Social Care and Homelessness similar to that reported over recent months. High risk areas including School Transport were highlighted. The areas of service overspend had been more than offset by the underspend on corporate budgets due to the release of contingency budgets and grant funding award from Welsh Government. Careful consideration would need to be given to the level of underspend and its future use. Details on the Housing Revenue Account and schools' position had also been included in the report.

The Leader and Chief Executive referred to the positive impact on the budget position as a result of the in-year consequential following the UK Government Budget in October and Welsh Government's allocation of additional grant funding together with the recently announced local government provisional settlement for 2025/26. A Members Budget Briefing had been arranged for the following day to provide an update to all councillors on the detail of the Welsh Government's provisional settlement with a full update on the position to be presented to Cabinet in January. The Head of Finance and Audit advised that whilst the provisional settlement was better than expected the additional funding would not cover all of the budgetary pressures for the next financial year and savings would still be required together with an increase in Council Tax in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2025/26.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet –

- (a) *note the budgets set for 2024/25 and progress against the agreed strategy;*
- (b) *approve the Council Tax Base for setting the 2025/26 budget as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;*
- (c) *approve the use of the capital contingency to fund the overspend on the Lôn Parcwr scheme as detailed in Section 6.8 to the report, and*
- (d) *approve the Ysgol y Castell business case for submission to the Welsh Government Capital Programme as detailed in Section 6.9 and Appendix 5 to the report.*

## **8 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet forward work programme was presented for consideration and members noted the following amendments –

- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter – moved from January to February
- North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement – moved from January to February
- Denbighshire's Economic Strategy – moved from February to March

- Corporate Joint Committee Governance Arrangements – moved from January to February/March

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet’s forward work programme be noted.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

### **9 DENBIGHSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SUPPORT SERVICE, HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT (HSG) PROJECT - RAPID REHOUSING**

Councillor Rhys Thomas presented the confidential report detailing the outcome of the tender exercise for a new Domestic Abuse Homelessness Prevention Support Service and seeking Cabinet approval to award the contract.

In line with the transition towards Rapid Rehousing, the Domestic Abuse Homelessness Prevention Support Service was designed to support people living in Denbighshire to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness, with a focus on supporting domestic abuse survivors. Details of the tender and evaluation exercise had been provided with tender fees confirmed as within budget and value for money had also been evaluated as part of the procurement process. The contract would be for a period of five years (with the option to extend for a further two years) with commencement of the service in April 2025.

The Service Manager – Homelessness Service elaborated on the merits of the recommended provider and highlighted the importance of the service provision which also offered exceptional value for money. Cabinet considered the report and thanked officers for their hard work in that regard and providing a detailed report with the relevant information clearly set out in order for a decision to be made.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet –

- acknowledge that a fair and robust tender exercise had been completed in accordance with the Denbighshire Contract Procedures Rules, and which had identified a clear ‘winner’ (as detailed in section 3.1 of the report) who had set out a detailed programme which met the aims and aspirations of the project specification set out in the tender request (Appendix 3 to the report);*
- agree to awarding the contract to the named contract provider (as detailed in section 3.2 of the report) based on their tender proposals at the fee level proposed, and*
- confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix 2 to the report) as part of its consideration.*

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS TO A VOID HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor Rhys Thomas presented the confidential report detailing the outcome of the procurement process for the Housing Voids Framework and recommending the appointment of contractors as set out in the report.

Tenant movement in the Council's Housing Service resulted in approximately 250 properties becoming void annually which were refurbished to the new lettable standard for subsequent tenants. A Housing Voids Framework would reduce costs and time in undertaking works on void housing units and enable an improved service and higher standards. The original framework had expired, hence the re-tendering exercise, and a decision was required to appoint the contractors on the terms outlined in the report. The tender had been split into 4 Lots according to value of projects.

Cabinet discussed with officers the amount of time voids were left empty whilst work was carried out to bring them up to the new lettable standard which was closely monitored with some previous assumptions currently being tested with a view to reducing void times where possible. Officers agreed to provide further detail on average voids times to Councillor Diane King after the meeting. In terms of homeless figures, the biggest demands were for larger families and single bedroom homes and work was being carried out in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to specifically address those two areas of demand.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet –

- (a) *confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix 2 to the report) as part of its consideration, and*
- (b) *the contractors as recommended and detailed in Table 1 (section 3.2 of the report) which had been evaluated according to the scoring and weighting methodology detailed within the tender documents, be appointed to the Housing Voids Framework on the terms outlined within the report.*

## 11 QUEEN'S MARKET RHYL: OPERATION/MANAGEMENT

Councillor Jason McLellan presented the confidential report seeking Cabinet approval to develop and award a contract to manage Queen's Market in Rhyl.

Some background to the Queen's Market development had been included in the report together with an update on progress to date including options considered by the Project Board and recommended way forward. The reasoning behind the recommendations, including advantages and risks, had been set out in the report together with the potential financial implications and mitigations in that regard.

The Corporate Director: Environment and Economy guided Cabinet through the report detail leading to the current position to date. In terms of the way forward further detail was provided on the recommended management company in terms of

knowledge and experience and the merits of awarding a contract to them to operate the facility. However, no project came without risk and those risks and how they would be mitigated against were highlighted, including the Council's responsibility to underwrite any losses for the period of the management contract.

Cabinet considered the report at length and also revisited the merits of the project with the Council acquiring a failing and dilapidated site to provide exciting regeneration opportunities and attract inward investment and ambitious plans for its future use. Queen's Market was a key part of the Council's regeneration vision for Rhyl which would also act as a catalyst for future development and investment. Thanks were extended to the previous Cabinet and Leader Councillor Hugh Evans in setting the project in motion and their hard work in that regard.

Cabinet discussed various aspects of the report with officers and were keen to ensure opportunities for local businesses and to maximise capacity and use of the facility all year round. The importance of the promotion and use of the Welsh language and culture within the facility was also highlighted. Officers provided assurances regarding local quality provision and support for start-up businesses with much work carried out around appropriate rent levels to achieve those aims and provide a high quality attraction all year round with further opportunities for the town centre and wider area, and reference was also made to the wider regeneration improvements including the use of Levelling Up Funding for public realm improvements and other grant funding which would portray a positive outlook. The work carried out in terms of community safety in the area was also acknowledged and close working with the North Wales Police. Assurances were also provided regarding the promotion of the Welsh language offer and discussions had already taken place with the proposed management company and further work and support with others including the Council's Welsh Language Officer and Menter Iaith in that regard.

Having carefully considered the report, including the merits of the proposed way forward together with the risks and potential financial implications, it was –

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet –

- (a) *delegates authority to the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy for awarding a contract to the named party and for the period shown as detailed in section 3.1 to the report, as recommended by the Project Board. Delegated authority would be subject to consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer, Head of Corporate Support Services: Performance, Digital and Assets, and the relevant Lead Members;*
- (b) *agrees to underwrite any losses for the period of the management contract, as per section 6 of the report. It was anticipated that this could be covered by an existing budget developed specifically for the purpose of supporting regeneration, and*
- (c) *confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix 1 to the report) as part of its consideration.*

The meeting concluded at 11.50 am.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Cabinet / Cabinet Briefing  |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025  |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Jason McLellan – Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation, Tony Ward - Corporate Director - Economy and Environment |
| <b>Head of Service</b>       | Emlyn Jones – Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services  |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Amy Selby – External Funding Manager, Gareth Roberts - Public Protection, Regeneration & Economic Development Manager             |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Former North Wales Hospital - Approval to Issue Third Party Agreement   |

## 1. What is the report about?

1.1. The approval process required to issue the Third-Party Funding to NWH Ltd to support the delivery of Phase 1 of the Former North Wales Hospital (FNWH) Project as part of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Vale of Clwyd (VoC) Programme.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. As UK Government have recently formalised the LUF VoC Grant Award, the Council is now able to issue the match funding secured from this external grant to support the delivery of Phase 1 of the FNWH project.

2.2. To seek the appropriate approvals from Cabinet to issue the funding in line with its own policies and procedures and to ensure compliance with the UK Government Assurance requirements for Levelling Up Funding.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That Cabinet notes the position of the UK Government funding award for this project.
- 3.2. That Cabinet approves the recommendation from Capital Scrutiny Group to proceed with the match funding contribution to support Phase 1 of the FNWH project in line with the Council's own financial procedures and the associated Capital Business Case. (Appendix 2).
- 3.3. That Cabinet authorises the issue of the Grant to the Development Partner acknowledging i) the checks that have been undertaken as a part of the Due Diligence process required by UK Government and ii) understanding this is subject to satisfactory subsidy control assessment, and finalisation of all outstanding S106 and land transfer items being addressed.
- 3.4. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the ANW Impact Assessment as part of its consideration.

### **4. Report details**

#### **Background**

- 4.1. The Former North Wales Hospital project is a complex project on a large site of historical significance for North Wales. The ambition of the current project is to deliver a scheme of physical regeneration improvements to the site of the Former North Wales Hospital and to save a Grade 2\* listed building of significant importance that has not been occupied since 1996. The proposal represents a huge economic development opportunity to Denbigh and Denbighshire.
- 4.2. This is a project of regional significance and although instigated by Denbighshire County Council more than 15 years ago, it is now being led by Ambition North Wales (ANW) and sits within the Land and Property Programme for the North Wales Growth. The full history surrounding the site and its development can be found in Appendix 1.



- 4.3. ANW have undertaken a robust 5 stage business case process for this project which was formal approved by the Regional Partnership earlier this year. The total project development cost has been identified as £107 Million.
- 4.4. The Project in its entirety is expected to be undertaken over a 12-year period in 3 phases with Phase 1 of this scheme for the demolitions and site remediation works inclusive of primary site, upgrading utilities, establish bio habitat infrastructure and construction skills centre.
- 4.5. The costs of Phase 1 is £13M of which ANW have secured £7M from the UK Government's Growth Deal funding and £3M of private investment.
- 4.6. Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet resolved in December 2021 to include Phase 1 of this project within its application for UK Government Levelling Up Funding. Following a comprehensive grant appraisal process, the Council has now received formal notification that this funding has been awarded with £3M allocated to this project.
- 4.7. The Council is now required to undertake the following steps which ensure compliance with the UK Government Funding requirements and its own Financial Regulations.
- 4.8. **Step 1 – Undertake a due diligence assessment of the development partner as grant recipient:** A thorough assessment has been undertaken in line with UK Government recommendations and has been overseen and approved by the Chief Audit Officer, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer. This has involved a review of information pertaining to the financial position, structure, experience and governance of the Development Partner. For the purpose of this project, the Council will be entering an Agreement with Jones Bros via its subsidiary company NWH Ltd. Due diligence appraisals have been undertaken on both and no significant issues have been identified with the recommendation to proceed with the issue of the Grant.
- 4.9. It has also been noted as a part of the Due Diligence appraisal that there will be robust project governance and contract management in place which will allow close monitoring of the project and claims process to manage risks associated with the issue of the grant. Claims will be paid in arrears and only on approval from the Council's Quantity Surveyor from the Design & Construction Service.

4.10. **Step 2 – Approval of the Capital Business case:** The Capital Business Case was reviewed and endorsed by Capital Scrutiny Group earlier this year in line with the Council's usual financial procedures. Due to the value of the grant to be awarded, Cabinet are required to approval the Capital Business Case in line with the Council's Procurement Contract Regulations. The Business Case is attached as Appendix 2).

4.11. Subject to Cabinet being satisfied with the above, the Council's legal team will then issue a Third-Party Funding agreement which will set out the Terms & Conditions of the grant in line with the funder's and Council's requirements.

4.12. It should also be noted that the Third-Party Agreement and release of any grant funding will also be subject to the satisfactory completion of a subsidy control assessment on the contribution to this project, and finalisation of all outstanding planning requirements.

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

5.1. The project seeks to have a visible impact in local areas, particularly those areas most in need. As a condition of the Planning approval there is substantial investment into preserving the site's biodiversity. The bid therefore contributes to the Corporate Plan themes around a Prosperous Denbighshire and A Greener Denbighshire. The work contributes to developing an economic strategy that will regenerate a prominent historical landmark in Denbighshire, its neighbouring town centre and support the growth of the local economy.

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

6.1. The total project cost for Phase 1 of the FNWH Project is £13m of which £3m has been approved by UK Government from the LUF VoC Programme, with £7m Growth Deal via ANW and £3m Private Sector match funding. There is no additional cost to the Council.

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

7.1. The Business Case and Impact Assessment activities have been undertaken by Ambition North Wales as the projects sits within the Land and Property

Programme for the region. The completed Integrated Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) and Benefit Register (Appendix 4).

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

8.1. This project has been in development for over 10 years and has been reviewed by a wide range of stakeholders including Council, elected members, WG Gateway assessors, ANW and regional partners. The project was selected for inclusion for LUF funding and supported by the MAG, Cabinet and MP. The project will be required to continue to engage with the MAG on an on-going basis.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. Levelling Up Funding is an important source of capital funding to regenerate our communities. Given the Council's current financial situation greater reliance will need to be placed on external funding to fund our capital plan in the future. This funding also attracts an additional £10M to the County through other public and private match funding as well as the longer-term potential of a further £97M of inward investment into the County.

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

10.1. Due to challenging timescales, delays in approving the issue of the grant may put the project and match funding at risk.

10.2. Should delays occur in approval process, the window to act on the biodiversity and ecology measures on site to ensure Phase 1 can be completed by March 2026 will be missed and delay the project by a further 6 months.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. General Power of Competence under the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 s.24

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Appendix 1 – Background**

This has been a priority project for Denbighshire County Council for the last 15+ years with the project intended to safeguard the historically and architecturally significant building.

**In 2009**, working in partnership with the Prince's Regeneration Trust, DCC embarked on a lengthy 'routemap' for ensuring the long-term repair and re-use of this important listed building.

The owners failed to carry out any repairs or maintenance and the buildings continued to deteriorate so in **June 2011** the council began to enforce the repairs.

**In June 2011 DCC** - Urgent Works Notice was served. The owner did not respond within the specified deadline and therefore the Council carried out works in default (Works took over a year to complete and cost £939,000. Due to financial constraints, the works only allowed to safeguard the main range i.e. the U-shaped building to the front of the site.

**May 2013** - the Council served a Repairs Notice. There was no meaningful response from FDL allowing the Council to pursue a CPO.

DCC followed the 'Route Map' and embarked on the CPO process under Section 47 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The CPO was confirmed in **September 2015**.

The General Vesting Declaration (GVD) was confirmed in **September 2018** and therefore the site is now owned by DCC.

In **January 2018** Cabinet supported the process and timetable for determining the preferred party to take ownership of the site to allow the CPO process to be completed. This process can be summarised as the "development agreement approach".

In **April 2018** the Council undertook a tender process for a development and Cabinet subsequently confirmed the Council's preferred party to take ownership of the site upon completion of the CPO as Jones Bros (Ruthin).

Ambition North Wales (ANW) then included the project within its Land and Property Programme for the North Wales Growth and have led the further development of the project's business case. This has included the application of a robust 5 stage

business case process which was formally approved by the Regional Partnership earlier this year.

Jones Bros(Ltd) have been working on a planning application for the re-development of the site. This work identified that the redevelopment of the site would have a significant financial viability gap and the need for public sector funding to help plug the gap. That funding gap is in the region of £13 Million.

In **July 2024**, this Cabinet endorsed the urgent decision taken by the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy in consultation with the Leader/Lead Member and Deputy Leader to accept the Grant award offer from UK Government of £19,973,282 under Round 3 of the Levelling Up Fund.

In **July 2024**, Denbighshire County Council's Planning Committee considered and gave approval to the application for the conversion, restoration, part demolition and adaptation of main range listed buildings to residential use (34 dwellings); demolition of Nurses Home, Mortuary, Isolation ward, Aled ward and former gasworks buildings; and development of land within the hospital grounds for mixed use as enabling development, including up to 300 no. residential units and up to 1114 square metres of business units.

In **October 2024** it was confirmed that the grant awarded to LUF VoC by the previous UK GOV would remain allocated following the outcome of the Chancellors Autumn Budget. Confirmation of this decision and the revised signed Memorandum of Understanding was received by Denbighshire County Council at the end of **November 2024**.

## BUSINESS CASE – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

This Business Case provides justification for undertaking a project. The completed form will be reviewed by the Capital Scrutiny Group who will make a recommendation to Cabinet or CET whether the bid should be approved and included within the Capital Plan.

**PLEASE COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-14 ONLY AND SEND TO [CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK).**

*\*PLEASE TURN OFF TRACK CHANGES AND REMOVE ANY COMMENTS BEFORE SENDING\**

THE CAPITAL TEAM WILL REQUEST SUPPORTING STATEMENTS FOR SECTIONS 15-18 TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS CASE AUTHOR FOR INSERTION TO THE BUSINESS CASE.

PLEASE SEND THE FINAL BUSINESS CASE (WITH APPENDIX A COMPLETED) TO [CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK)

For details of Capital Scrutiny Group Meeting dates and deadlines for the submission of this form, please contact [capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Project Name:</b>                          | LUF 3: Vale of Clwyd: Project 2: Former North Wales Hospital  |
| <b>Project Manager:</b>                       | This is a Third-Party project and project management will be delivered by Jones Bros Ltd (Ruthin) under the terms of a Third-Party Funding Agreement.<br>Senior Responsible Officer – Emlyn Jones<br>DCC Programme Manager – Kim Waller |
| <b>Work stream/Programme (if applicable):</b> | Vale of Clwyd Levelling Up Fund Programme (VoC LUF)   |
| <b>Verto project reference</b>                | PR000069  |

### 1. PROJECT TYPE

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Head of Service i.e. Project Sponsor</b> | Emlyn Jones   | <b>Lead member:</b>  | Cllr Jason McLellan                      |
| <b>Service:</b>                             | Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Service | <b>LM Portfolio:</b>   | Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation |
| <b>Form completed by:</b>                   | Gareth Roberts/Jordan Collins                               | <b>Date:</b>   | 10/06/2024                               |
| <b>Finance Capital Team contact:</b>        | Sharon Billingham   | <b>Service Accountant (for revenue implications if applicable)</b> | N/A                                      |

Please categorise your project type. Mark **one** box only.

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>SMALL</b><br><£250k | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|

|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>MEDIUM</b><br>>£251 -<br>£999k | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>LARGE</b><br>>£1m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>DECISION SOUGHT FROM CAPITAL SCRUTINY GROUP:</b> | To provide formal endorsement of the previous Cabinet decision to allocate funding from the Vale of Clwyd Levelling Up Fund grant to Project 2 Inner Denbigh . The request is for £3,000,000 of the £19,973,282 LUF Grant Funding for Vale of Clwyd, subject to the receipt of final formal approval from UK Government |
|---|---|

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights the key points in the Business Case to include: -

- what the project will achieve / important benefits
- estimated costs
- how the project will be funded

*\* Please note that we are in receipt of a draft MoU from UK Government, we are now awaiting final sign-off following the general election \**

This Business Case seeks formal endorsement to release £3,000,000 of the £19,973,282 Vale of Clwyd Levelling Up Fund grant to deliver project 2 – Inner Denbigh.

### Introduction to Levelling Up Fund

The purpose of the Levelling Up Fund is to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

DCC received formal approval for Levelling Up Funding for the Vale of Clwyd constituency as a part of the Round 3 approvals in May 2024.

The Vale of Clwyd Fund application (VoC LUF) is a package bid with 3 projects:

**Project 1: Rhyl Area:** Physical regeneration activities focused on a town experiencing significant deprivation to tackle falling tourism numbers, diminishing high streets and under investment.

**Project 2: Inner Denbighshire:** Physical regeneration aimed at bringing heritage buildings back into use.

**Project 3: Prestatyn:** Improve the perception of place through improved public realm and an enhanced nature walk path

There are a total of 7 project activities included to be delivered under these 3 project headings.

There is only 1 activity within Project 2: Inner Denbigh and that is the Former North Wales Hospital (FNWH)

The Former North Wales Hospital project is the regeneration of the derelict 53 acre North Wales hospital site at Denbigh for a residential mixed use scheme with 334 homes including restoration of a Grade 2\* listed building and extensive green open spaces.

The Project will be undertaken over a 12 year period in 3 phases commencing in 2024. Phase 1 of this scheme funded through LUF VoC is for the demolitions and site remediation inclusive of



primary site infrastructure including main access road, drainage, landscaping, upgrading utilities, establish bio habitat infrastructure e.g., bat roosts, drainage ponds and construction skills centre in full operation.

**The Project**

The overall project will consist of conversion, restoration, part demolition and adaptation of main range listed buildings to residential use, demolition of Nurses Home, Mortuary, Isolation ward, Aled ward and former gasworks buildings and development of land within the hospital grounds for mixed use as enabling development, including residential units and business/commercial units, provision of biodiversity areas and open space, access, drainage and associated works. Additional works include:

- Restoration and conversion of a Grade 2\* Heritage asset of local, regional and national importance
- Bring a 53 acre derelict site back into economic use
- Provide new homes
- Provide new Commercial space
- Provide Employment
- Training and apprenticeships
- Improve and enhance Biodiversity
- Reduce Carbon Emissions

**Economic benefits (12 year project life 2024-2036)**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Jobs created   | 70     |
| Land remediated  | 53     |
|  | acres  |
| New homes  | 334    |
| New amenities – shop, café, workspace, community buildings | 11,900 |
|  | sq ft  |
| Apprenticeships on site                                    | 30 pa  |
| Construction jobs  | 147 pa |
| GVA permanent jobs – project life                          | £35m   |

**Project Outcomes and Impact (per Logic Model)**

|  |
|--|
| New Jobs created                         |
| Environmentally sustainable development  |
| New homes                                |
| Business growth                          |
| Upskilling and apprenticeships           |
| Increased construction industry capacity |
| Net additional GVA                       |

The Project will be undertaken over a 12 year period in 3 phases commencing in 2024.

**Phase 1** is for the demolitions and site remediation inclusive of primary site infrastructure including main access road, drainage, landscaping, upgrading utilities, establish bio habitat infrastructure e.g., bat roosts, drainage ponds and construction skills centre in full operation

- 2025 - 2035 **Phase 2** new build housing and business space and secondary site infrastructure. Build out rate averages 30 units pa. The phasing of the new houses is shown below.
- November 2028-Jan 2032 **Phase 3** restoration of the main range Listed Building 2035 onwards. Handover of common areas of site and green spaces/bio diversity areas to resident management company and local authority countryside management team.

**Estimated costs**

The total estimated project cost for phase 1 is £13,438,828, which will be funded through a combination of funding from LUF (£3m), Ambition North Wales (£7m) and the private sector (£3.5m approx). This includes a contribution to the overall programme management costs. Original scheme estimates were produced for the submission of the application to UK Government in 2022. It is expected that there will be cost increases against those original cost estimates, however, the nature of the scheme will enable costs to be reduced via a value engineering approach and increased contribution from private sector.

Significant changes to the scheme (particularly where changes impact on outputs) will require funder approval. There are processes in place to formalise changes to ensure that the scheme can be delivered within the budget allowed.

Spend for phase1 (excluding profit) is shown below and it should be noted that the £3m LUF and £7m Growth Deal will be used in Phase 1

Phase 1- Demolition and primary site infrastructure £13.4m

| <b>Project Ref. No,</b> | <b>Project Name:</b>                                  | <b>Estimated Cost</b> |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>2</b>                | <b>Inner Denbighshire Former North Wales Hospital</b> | <b>£3,000,000</b>     |

The total Project cost across the 3 Phases is £107m which is funded £7m by ANW grant (6.5%) and £100m by Jones Bros Ltd (93.5%). Note the net grant from ANW will be £6.94m after a £60k administration charge is deducted. The funding package and grant intervention rate is summarised below :

Due to the value of this project, CSG are required to make recommendation to Cabinet, for Cabinet Approval so that the Third-Party Agreement can be issued to Jones Brother Ltd.

**3. BUSINESS OPTIONS**

Analysis and reasoned recommendation for the base business options of: do nothing / do the minimal or do something.

You must include an environmentally enhanced (net carbon zero/ecologically positive compatible) option. If your project is a business development project, then this may not be relevant.

| <b>Option 1:</b>  | <b>Do nothing – maintain the existing situation</b> |
|---|---|
| <b>Please provide brief details:</b>  |   |
| <p>Funding has been secured through the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund for this project. Therefore, the ‘do nothing’ option is not applicable in this context as a decision has already been made to Do something.</p> <p>This project has been developed over many years since DCC served the first enforcement notice on the previous owner in 2012 which led to the subsequent CPO. Securing the grant funding to help bridge the project development funding viability gap is the final piece of the jigsaw.</p> <p>The ‘do nothing’ option is not applicable in this context as a decision has already been made to do something.</p> |   |

**Please mark with an X how this option compares with the preferred option in terms of Cost, Time, Quality and Benefits:**

|                |                      |          |                 |                           |          |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>Costs</b>   | Costs more           |          | <b>Time</b>     | Takes longer to deliver   |          |
|                | Costs the same       |          |                 | Takes the same to deliver |          |
|                | Costs less           | <b>X</b> |                 | Is quicker to deliver     | <b>X</b> |
| <b>Quality</b> | Improves the quality |          | <b>Benefits</b> | Improves benefits         |          |
|                | Is the same quality  |          |                 | No impact on benefits     |          |
|                | Is a lower quality   | <b>X</b> |                 | Worsens benefits          | <b>X</b> |

**What is the main reason this option has not been selected?**

Not applicable as funding has already been accepted on the basis of 'Do Something'.

**Option 2: Environmentally enhanced option**

**Please provide brief details:**

Further feasibility studies are required in order to inform the detailed design. This will consider environmentally enhanced options as well as give due consideration to biodiversity. Environmentally enhanced options will be included. 30% of the site will be allocated for biodiversity and will be managed by DCC.

Option 3 is the preferred option, final detailed design has not yet been agreed. However, as part of this biodiversity and ecological enhancements will feature in the scope. See option 3 for further details.

**Please mark with an X how this option compares with the preferred option in terms of Cost, Time, Quality and Benefits:**

|                |                      |  |                 |                           |  |
|----------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Costs</b>   | Costs more           |  | <b>Time</b>     | Takes longer to deliver   |  |
|                | Costs the same       |  |                 | Takes the same to deliver |  |
|                | Costs less           |  |                 | Is quicker to deliver     |  |
| <b>Quality</b> | Improves the quality |  | <b>Benefits</b> | Improves benefits         |  |
|                | Is the same quality  |  |                 | No impact on benefits     |  |
|                | Is a lower quality   |  |                 | Worsens benefits          |  |

**What is the main reason this option has not been selected?**

As the detailed designs are further developed, environmental enhancements will be considered within the constraints of the funding allocation and timescales

**Option 3: Preferred Option**

**Please provide brief details:**

The ambition of the project is to deliver a scheme of physical regeneration improvements to the site of the Former North Wales Hospital and to save a grade 2\* listed building of significant importance.

The proposal represents a huge economic development opportunity to Denbigh and Denbighshire.

The proposal will include planting / greening, taking into account the expected change to climate that is expected in future years and will consider other opportunities to reduce carbon and improve biodiversity. 30% of the site will be allocated to biodiversity and will be publicly accessible.

All dwellings will be constructed to current Building Regulation requirements which reflect carbon reduction priorities. The developer is also exploring ways of introducing renewable energy on site.

**Please mark with an X how this option compares with the preferred option in terms of Cost, Time, Quality and Benefits:**

|                |                      |          |                 |                           |          |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>Costs</b>   | Costs more           |          | <b>Time</b>     | Takes longer to deliver   |          |
|                | Costs the same       | <b>X</b> |                 | Takes the same to deliver | <b>X</b> |
|                | Costs less           |          |                 | Is quicker to deliver     |          |
| <b>Quality</b> | Improves the quality | <b>X</b> | <b>Benefits</b> | Improves benefits         | <b>X</b> |
|                | Is the same quality  |          |                 | No impact on benefits     |          |
|                | Is a lower quality   |          |                 | Worsens benefits          |          |

**What is the main reason this option has been selected?**

This option has been agreed with UK Government as one of the projects within the Vale of Clwyd Levelling Up Fund Grant so is already included as a core component within the scope of the project and has been considered within the original budget estimates. Proposals will need to be deliverable within the LUF timescales of March 2026.

## 4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

The benefits that the project will deliver expressed in measurable terms against the situation as it exists prior to the project. Remember to capture co-benefits (the added benefits we get from this action/project as well as the direct benefits it will realise).

Since gaining possession of the site, Jones Bros have obtained an outline planning application subject to conditions and S106 to restore the main range listed building into 34 apartments and 300 new houses. There is also 11,900sqft commercial space. This is an enabling development, and the main objective is to restore the grade 2\* main range listed building.

Other benefits include :

- Tackling Denbighshire deprivation.
- Regeneration of a derelict and contaminated 53 acre site - there are underground subways and derelict buildings with asbestos. Years of people trespassing and vandalism has made the buildings structurally unsound and a major health and safety risk.
- 300 new homes and 34 apartments will help the local housing need.
- New jobs will be made during construction phase of the £107m development. Being a local company, Jones Bros will utilise the local supply chain during construction and host a meet the buyer event which will invite local trades people to the site to meet the management team. Jones Bros will recruit local apprenticeships and visit local colleges and schools to ensure people are aware of the opportunities available at Jones Bros Ltd and at the Former North Wales Hospital development. The commercial space after the completion of the development will also create work for the local people.
- 30% of the site is allocated to open space and biodiversity. Two new bat houses will be constructed within the site.
- Transferring the completed estate to residential and community ownership will mean that local people will have a connection to its heritage and future use.
- Supporting this project which has had a 30 year history of failure is a unique opportunity for the Ambition Board to increase its profile and make a visible difference to the North Wales economy.

See breakdown below for detail of phase 1 works (item no.9)

## 5. EXPECTED DIS-BENEFITS

Outcomes perceived as negative by one or more stakeholders

Due to the scale and duration of the project some concerns about traffic issues may be raised. DCC Highways have not raised this as a concern. Detailed discussions have taken place with the applicants about the requirement for some off-site highway improvements to better link the site to the town of Denbigh. It has been suggested that these can be tied into any planning or highways agreement with relevant trigger points for the works to be completed.

## 6. CARBON IMPACT

*Denbighshire has committed to reducing its carbon emissions from buildings and fleet by 60% by 2030, for the Council to be net carbon zero by 2030 (buildings, fleet, waste, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting) and for the Council to reduce its supply chain emissions by 35% by 2030.*

*Please consult with Council's Principal Energy Manager ([robert.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:robert.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk)) and the Council's Climate & Ecological Change Programme team ([climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk)) to complete this section.*

Please provide brief details of the carbon impact of this project, and detail specific actions that will be taken to reduce carbon emissions. If carbon emissions are expected to increase as a result of this project, please provide details of proposed actions to compensate for this increase in other areas of the Service's activity and/or via tree planting/land management for the benefit of carbon sequestration.

DCC statement: The proposals here will not have an effect on the reported carbon emissions from corporate properties.

## 7. TIMESCALE

Over which the project will run (summary of the Project Plan) and the period over which the benefits will be realised

| Date              | Milestone   |
|-------------------|---|
| Q2 2024           | FNWH Project Delivery Board approvals and legal documents completed   |
| Q1 2024           | Phase 1 Pre construction and design   |
| Q2 2024 - Q4 2025 | Phase 1 construction of bat barns, asbestos removals, phased demolitions, site remediation and primary infrastructure and landscaping |
|                   |   |
| 2025 – 2035       | Phase 2 secondary site infrastructure and new build houses construction and commercial development                                    |
| 2026              | New build house sales commence  |
|                   |   |
| 2028              | Phase 3 Listed Building construction works  |
| 2032              | Listed Building apartments sales commence   |
| 2035              | Freehold estate transferred to resident estate management company   |

## 8. CAPITAL COSTS – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

**COMPLETE ALL THREE TABLES BELOW FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS  
 LEAVE BLANK/DELETE SECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

*The capital cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed. Note that even some Business Development Projects may have a requirement for capital costs, for example to fund the acquisition of new ICT hardware or undertaking alterations to buildings.*

- Any costs relating to ICT infrastructure and equipment should have been provided by ICT department
- Any costs that relate to construction should have been provided by Design & Development or Building Services

| Please provide details of any expenditure incurred already on the project: |         |
|--|---------|
| Enter details of cost element below:                                       | Total £ |
| Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)                               |         |
| Client side project management   |         |
| OTHER (please enter)   |         |
| OTHER (please enter)   |         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |         |

| Please provide details of the capital funding requirement (not including amount already spent): |              |              |                      |                         |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Enter details of cost element below:  | 2023/24<br>£ | 2024/25<br>£ | Future<br>Years<br>£ | All Years<br>Total<br>£ |
| Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Client side project management  |              |              |                      |                         |
| ICT infrastructure and hardware   |              |              |                      |                         |
| Building alterations  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.)   |              |              |                      |                         |
| Furniture   |              |              |                      |                         |
| Other professional support (legal, etc.)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Marketing/Consultation  |              |              |                      |                         |
| External Project Support (gateway review, etc.)   |              |              |                      |                         |
| OTHER (please enter)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| OTHER (please enter)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| OTHER (please enter)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| OTHER (please enter)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |              |              |                      |                         |



| Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources |         |              |              |                      |            |
|--|---------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| Enter details of funding source                            | Status: | 2023/24<br>£ | 2024/25<br>£ | Future<br>Years<br>£ | TOTAL<br>£ |
|  |         |              |              |                      |            |
|  |         |              |              |                      |            |
|  |         |              |              |                      |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |         |              |              |                      |            |

**NOTE:** For funding status, please only use the following categories:

- **Approved** – written approval for the funding exists
- **Applied** – no written approval exists but an application has been made
- **Approached** – initial approach to or by funding body has been made but no application submitted
- **None** – no contact or approach has been made to or by the funding body



## 9. CAPITAL COSTS – CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**LEAVE BLANK/DELETE SECTION IF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SECTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED**

**COMPLETE ALL THREE TABLES BELOW FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ONLY**

*The capital cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed.*

- Any costs relating to ICT infrastructure and equipment should have been provided by ICT department.
- Any costs that relate to construction should have been provided by Design & Development or Building Services.

| Please provide details of any expenditure incurred already on the project: |            |
|--|------------|
| Enter details of cost element below:                                       | Total<br>£ |
| Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)                               | 0          |
| Client side project management   | 0          |
| OTHER (please enter)   | 0          |
| OTHER (please enter)   | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>0</b>   |

| Please provide details of the capital funding requirement (not including amount already spent): |              |              |                      |                         |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Enter details of cost element below:  | 2024/25<br>£ | 2025/26<br>£ | Future<br>Years<br>£ | All Years<br>Total<br>£ |
| Prelims inc security, site compound   | 1,994,241.00 |              |                      | 1,994,241               |
| Bat Barn 1  | 172,066.00   |              |                      | 172,066                 |
| Bat Barn 2  | 161,779.00   |              |                      | 161,779                 |
| Earthworks  |              | 736,785.00   |                      | 736,785                 |
| Works to Listed Buildings   |              | 2,020,774.00 |                      | 2,020,774               |
| Foul drainage   |              | 111,909.00   |                      | 111,909                 |
| Demolition  |              | 4,683,846.00 |                      | 4,683,846               |
| Landscaping and fencing   |              | 171,600.00   |                      | 171,600                 |
| Works to Chapel   |              | 198,000.00   |                      | 198,000                 |
| Pre-planning costs  | 700,000.00   |              |                      | 700,000                 |
| Development Costs   | 900,000.00   |              |                      | 900,000                 |
| Site setup  |              | 200,000.00   |                      | 200,000                 |
| Professional fees – Design fees   | 217,362.50   | 217,362.50   |                      | 434,725                 |
| Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Client side project management  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Land/property acquisition   |              |              |                      |                         |
| Land preparation/remediation  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Demolition and/or site security   |              |              |                      |                         |
| Construction, refurbishment or maintenance  |              |              |                      |                         |
| BREEAM rating of “Excellent”  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Security measures (CCTV, door entry, etc.)  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Fire prevention measures (sprinklers, etc.)   |              |              |                      |                         |
| External landscaping and other works  |              |              |                      |                         |
| Highways work   |              |              |                      |                         |
| ICT infrastructure and hardware   |              |              |                      |                         |

|  |                     |                     |  |                   |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| Fixtures & fittings                            |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Furniture                                      |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Planning/Building Regulation Costs             |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.)        |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Legal Costs and Fees                           |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Marketing/Consultation                         |                     |                     |  |                   |
| External Project Support (e.g. gateway review) |                     |                     |  |                   |
| Contingency                                    | 457,137.50          | 457,137.50          |  | 914,275           |
| OTHER (please enter)                           |                     |                     |  |                   |
| OTHER (please enter)                           |                     |                     |  |                   |
| OTHER (please enter)                           |                     |                     |  |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>4,602,586.00</b> | <b>8,797,414.00</b> |  | <b>13,400,000</b> |

| Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources |                 |                  |                  |                      |                   |
|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Enter details of funding source                            | Status:         | 2024/25<br>£     | 2025/26<br>£     | Future<br>Years<br>£ | TOTAL<br>£        |
| UK Government Levelling Up Fund (£3,000,000)               | Applied         | 1,500,000        | 1,500,000        | 0                    | 3,000,000         |
| Growth Deal Funding  | Approved        | 3,500,000        | 3,500,000        | 0                    | 7,000,000         |
| <b>Private sector Funding</b>                              | <b>Approved</b> | <b>1,700,000</b> | <b>1,700,000</b> |                      | 3,400,000         |
|  |                 |                  |                  |                      |                   |
|  |                 |                  |                  |                      |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                 | <b>6,700,000</b> | <b>6,700,000</b> |                      | <b>13,400,000</b> |

**NOTE: For funding status, please only use the following categories:**

- **Approved** – written approval for the funding exists
- **Applied** – no written approval exists but an application has been made
- **Approached** – initial approach to or by funding body has been made but no application submitted
- **None** – no contact or approach has been made to or by the funding body

## 10. REVENUE COST IMPACT

### TO BE COMPLETED FOR ALL PROJECTS

In considering whether a project should be developed due regard should be made to the potential impact on revenue budgets. **Please consult with your revenue finance officer for this section and ensure they sign at the end of the section to confirm they have reviewed the figures provided.**

| If the activity will result in a requirement for additional revenue funding, please provide details below: |                              |                                  |                           |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| What is the impact of this project in terms of the <u>annual</u> revenue requirement for:                  | Existing Revenue Budget<br>£ | Post-project Revenue Budget<br>£ | Increase/ (Decrease)<br>£ |
| staff costs (salaries and associated)  |                              |                                  |                           |
| energy costs (heating, lighting, ICT, etc.)  |                              |                                  |                           |
| property maintenance and servicing costs   |                              |                                  |                           |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>other property related costs (rental, insurance, etc.)</b>                              |  |  |  |
| <b>ongoing ICT costs (licences, etc.)</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>mileage of Denbighshire fleet vehicles</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>mileage for business travel by Denbighshire employees using their personal vehicles</b> |  |  |  |
| <b>OTHER (please enter)</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>OTHER (please enter)</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>OVERALL REVENUE REQUIREMENT</b>   |  |  |  |

Please provide brief details of the revenue impact of this project:

- Where revenue savings are forecast, you should detail what is proposed for the saving (e.g. reduction of an existing revenue budget, re-allocation of revenue to alternative services area, etc.)
- Where revenue increases are forecast, you should provide details of how the revenue shortfall will be addressed. In this instance you should also append a three-year surplus/deficit forecast.
- Details of any one-off revenue cost requirements that may be required post-project implementation (e.g. recruitment, redundancies, etc.). DO NOT include any costs detailed in the capital section of this Business Case

Signature of service accountant to confirm the above figures:

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Signed:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
|----------------|--------------|

## 11. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Please provide details of proposed project management – Establishment of Project Board etc.

This is the only project activity sitting within Project 2 of the Vale of Clwyd LUF programme. The project will be monitored by a Programme Board and will have a project specific project board to manage the delivery of Project 2:Inner Denbigh. The LUF programme team will provide support to the project manager/team to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

The Programme and projects therein will be monitored via quarterly Programme Highlight reporting, quarterly monitoring returns to UK Government, six monthly reports to Performance Scrutiny and reports to CET and SLT via the project register.

All project activities will be developed and delivered in line with the Council’s project management approach following Prince2 Principles. Each project activity will have project teams

as a minimum and project team meetings will be scheduled in to meet at relevant intervals of the project.

It has been agreed with the project sponsor that there will be a Project Board for project 1ab, as this is a large project. The PM will also have regular meetings with the Project Sponsor and Project Team, and will produce regular highlight reports, and maintain a daily log of all major milestones and decisions. In addition to this, the PM will attend regular meetings with the full PM team on the VoC LUF Programme.

Monitoring formats are in place to manage project progress and inform Project Board meeting. VERTO will be updated and highlight reports produced to provide a corporate overview and assurance regarding the delivery of the project.

## **12. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS / HEALTH & SAFETY**

*This section should identify how the activity will help Denbighshire meet any of its statutory requirements. Please include any Health & Safety Issues that the activity will address in this section. Please leave blank if not applicable.*

The design brief will ensure that all H&S legislation and responsibilities relating to public realm and Highways management (if appropriate) are addressed through the proposals.

### 13. MAJOR RISKS TO THE PROJECT

A summary of the key risks associated with the project together with the likely impact and plans should they occur is provided below:

| Title  | Inherent Risk | Mitigating Action   | Residual Risk |
|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| Planning consent not granted.                              |               | Jones Bros Ltd and DCC working closely to agree necessary requirements in order to satisfy Members and present to planning committee. Key details will relate to ecology, highway improvements and phasing of works to listed building. |               |
| Environmental licences (NRW) and consents not granted.     |               | Jones Bros Ltd have appointed a new ecologist to navigate process. Ecologist / Jones Bros Ltd liaise with NRW / DCC to ensure support. Consultant to advise what information is required to obtain necessary consents / NRW license.    |               |
| Relationship between DCC and Jones Bros breaks down        |               | Relationship between both parties is good and both remain committed to delivering the project. Monthly meetings continue to take place to maintain progress.  |               |
| Increased costs due to inflation prevent progress on site. |               | Allowances have been incorporated into the Viability Assessment. The S106 agreement will ensure that minimum expectations are delivered.  |               |

| Title  | Inherent Risk | Mitigating Action   | Residual Risk |
|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| Risk of further structural damage to any part of the main range listed buildings |               | Appropriate phasing of the works on site will be considered as part of the planning agreement (S106) and will hopefully minimise the risk. i.e. Works on the listed building start as soon as possible. |               |
| Ensure value for money for all public funding                                    |               |   |               |
| Risk of contaminated land / materials being more than anticipated                |               | Appoint specialist contractors to investigate site and provide appropriate surveys. Amend construction practices / design to minimise adverse effects.  |               |

|            |                    |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Likelihood | A - Almost Certain |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|            | B - Highly Likely  |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|            | C - Probable       |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|            | D - Possible       |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|            | E - Rare           |                    |            |               |             |                     |
|            |                    | 5 -<br>Very<br>Low | 4 -<br>Low | 3 -<br>Medium | 2 -<br>High | 1 -<br>Very<br>High |
|            |                    | Impact             |            |               |             |                     |

## 14. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*Please list any supporting documents that accompany this Business Case*

*Documents required to be presented with Business Cases:*

*For bids >£1m: Wellbeing Impact Assessment*

*For grant funded schemes: Grant application or offer letter*

*For external contributions: written confirmation from contributor*

*For CERA: confirmation from Management accounts*

*For Prudential Borrowing: quote from Capital Team*

Available on request from [levellingup@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:levellingup@denbighshire.gov.uk)

WBIA

ANW grant offer

Cabinet reports

WIA for VoC LUF Bid with further WIA to be undertaken for each sub-project.

**WHEN SECTIONS 1-14 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED PLEASE SEND TO  
[CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK).**

THE CAPITAL TEAM WILL REQUEST STATEMENTS FOR SECTIONS 15-18 TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS CASE AUTHOR

PLEASE INSERT THE STATEMENTS AND SEND THE FINAL BUSINESS CASE (WITH APPENDIX A COMPLETED) TO [CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK)



## 15. CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPACT

**For completion by the Climate & Ecological Change Programme team and / or the Council's Principal Energy Manager.** The Business Case requires you to make a forecast for the anticipated carbon emissions impact of the project.

| Annual Forecasts:  | Annual (current) | Carbon (kgCO2e) | Annual (Post Project) | Carbon (kgCO2e) | Carbon Variance | Comments |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Money spent on external goods and services (UNIT= £)                     |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Energy consumption in buildings: (UNIT = kWh)                            |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Energy consumption in Street Lighting: (UNIT = kWh)                      |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Fuel consumption of Denbighshire Fleet vehicles: (UNIT = litres/ kWh)    |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Mileage of Business Travel (personal vehicles): (UNIT = miles travelled) |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Mileage of Staff Commute: (UNIT = miles travelled)                       |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| Tonnes of waste produced: (UNIT = tonnes)                                |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| One off Forecasts:   |                  |                 | Project cost (£)      | Carbon (kgCO2e) |                 | Comments |
| Money spent on external goods and services (UNIT= £)                     |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |
| <b>TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS</b>  |                  |                 |                       |                 |                 |          |

| Annual Forecasts:                | Current | Carbon Absorption (kgCO2e) | Post Project | Carbon Absorption (kgCO2e) | Carbon Absorption Variance | Comments |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Hectare of Grassland (UNIT=ha)   |         |                            |              |                            |                            |          |
| Hectares of Forestland (UNIT=ha) |         |                            |              |                            |                            |          |
| <b>TOTAL CARBON ABSORPTION</b>   |         |                            |              |                            |                            |          |

Please highlight the appropriate cell depending on whether on balance this project helps, hinders or is neutral to the Council's goal to become net carbon zero by 2030 (reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon absorption).

|  |       |         |         |
|--|-------|---------|---------|
| <b>Net Carbon Zero Council Summary</b> | HELPS | HINDERS | NEUTRAL |
|--|-------|---------|---------|

**Climate Change Lead Officer statement:**

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>Supplied by:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
|                     |              |

## 16. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT

**For completion by Denbighshire's Biodiversity Lead Officer** – Joel Walley  
([joel.walley@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:joel.walley@denbighshire.gov.uk)).

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure compliance and enforcement of the Habitats Regulations (as amended in 2017). Furthermore, the Environment (Wales) Act, 2016 requires the Council to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems. At this pre-feasibility stage, please determine the anticipated impact of the project on biodiversity, and proposed measures to ensure the project results in an overall biodiversity enhancement.

Please mark a cross in the appropriate box.

|   |            |  |           |  |
|---|------------|--|-----------|--|
| <b>Will this project impact on a habitat that supports living organisms (plant or animal), or involve physical works to property or Land?</b> | <b>Yes</b> |  | <b>No</b> |  |
|---|------------|--|-----------|--|

If you have answered yes to the above question, please complete all the following biodiversity sections. If answered no, please leave blank

|  |            |  |           |  |
|--|------------|--|-----------|--|
| <b>IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY</b>   | <b>Yes</b> |  | <b>No</b> |  |
| <b>Has an ecological appraisal or survey of the site or proposals taken place?</b>                             |            |  |           |  |
| <b>Cofnod eMapper Link:</b>  |            |  |           |  |
| <b>Please provide brief summary of survey findings, or provide a copy of the ecological report for review:</b> |            |  |           |  |
|  |            |  |           |  |

Please provide brief details of how the project will avoid harm to biodiversity.

Please provide brief details of how the project will mitigate and compensate for any harm to biodiversity.

Please provide brief details of how the project will enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystem resilience.

Please highlight the appropriate cell depending on whether on balance this project helps, hinders or is neutral to the Council's goal to become ecologically positive by 2030 (increasing the species richness of land).

|  |       |         |         |
|--|-------|---------|---------|
| <b>Ecologically Positive Council Summary</b> | HELPS | HINDERS | NEUTRAL |
|--|-------|---------|---------|

**Ecology Officer summary:**

**Name:**                      **Date:**

## 17. COUNTY LANDLORD STATEMENT

Please provide a statement from the County Landlord and where applicable the recommendation of the Asset Management Group..

Business Case is supported for:

**Project 2: Inner Denbighshire:** Physical regeneration aimed at bringing heritage buildings back into use.

The project has been developed over many years since DCC served the first enforcement notice on the previous owner in 2012 which led to the subsequent CPO. Securing the grant funding to help bridge the project development funding viability gap is the final piece of the jigsaw to bring employment and homes to local people.

Corporate Plan  
 Phase 1 will be funded through a combination of grant funding and private sector investment and will bring (but not limited to); significant economic benefits, the restoration of a Grade II\* listed heritage asset, provide new homes and commercial space and provide employment opportunities.

The project will promote a Denbighshire of quality housing, a prosperous Denbighshire, and a learning and growing Denbighshire.

Project Oversight

This is the only project activity sitting within Project 2 of the Vale of Clwyd LUF programme. The project will be monitored by a Programme Board and will have a project specific project board to manage the delivery of Project 2: Inner Denbigh. The LUF programme team will provide support to the project manager/team to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Costs and on-going revenue liability

Original scheme estimates were produced for the submission of the application to UK Government in 2022. It is expected that there will be cost increases against those original cost estimates, however, the nature of the scheme will enable costs to be reduced via a value engineering approach and increased contribution from private sector.

The total estimated project cost for phase 1 is £13,438,828, which will be funded through a combination of funding from LUF (£3m), Ambition North Wales (£7m) and the private sector (£3.5m approx.).

**Supplied by:** Robin Evans **Date:** 19 July 2024

## 18. CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER STATEMENT

*Please provide a statement from the Chief Finance Officer.*

Supportive of utilising grant funding in this way for regeneration purposes as it aligns with our capital principles of improving our assets through maximising grant funding. Works will need to be designed to minimise any ongoing revenue maintenance of open spaces / public realm works etc. Also, note due to incredibly challenging timescales the retention payments will fall outside of the current deadline for claiming grants. Project Managers are pushing UK Gov to be more realistic in terms of timescales for this project and will work to seek additional funding to cover the overall potential shortfall in funding £243k (across projects in Rhyl and Prestatyn)

**Supplied by:** Liz Thomas **Date:** 22 July 2024

## APPENDIX A – PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

|   |   | COMPLETED DATE                       |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
|   |   |                                      |
| <b>Draft Business case sent to <a href="mailto:capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk">capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> for distribution to relevant officers</b> | <b>N.B. A minimum of five working days must be allowed for these officers to respond</b>  | 11 July 2024                         |
|   |   |                                      |
| <b>TO BE COMPLETED BY CAPITAL TEAM:</b>   |   |                                      |
| VAT accountant <a href="mailto:rhys.i.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk">rhys.i.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> to check for vat implications                           | N.B. The Chief Finance Officer must be copied in to the email to these officers to demonstrate they have been advised/consulted |                                      |
| Finance Capital Team contact as detailed on page 1  |   |                                      |
| Service accountant if revenue implications applicable   |   |                                      |
| Chief Finance Officer statement obtained  |   | 22/07/2024                           |
| County Landlord statement obtained  |   | Received by capitalbids 26 July 2024 |
| Carbon management impact statement obtained   |   |                                      |
| Biodiversity impact statement obtained  |   |                                      |
|   |   |                                      |
| <b>Final completed Business Case sent to <a href="mailto:capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk">capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk</a></b>                             |   | 18 July 2024                         |

This page is intentionally left blank

## North Wales Growth Integrated Impact Assessment Report

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Programme                                | Land and Property Programme |
| Project                                  | Former NW Hospital          |
| Lead officer responsible for assessment  | David Mathews               |
| Office responsible for monitoring impact | David Mathews               |
| Date assessment completed                | 27/11/2023                  |
| Version                                  | V 0.145257                  |

### DETAILS OF PROPOSAL - Aim/Purpose/Outcome

\*Proposal refers to what is being assessed and includes, policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals

Background: The main building is a Grade II\* Listed structure constructed in 1848 which had numerous extensions and detached ancillary buildings constructed up to the 1960's. The hospital closed in the mid 1990's and was sold into the private sector. The whole complex of buildings fell into disrepair after closure and a number of failed planning proposals to redevelop the site. In July 2018 Denbighshire County Council (DCC) acquired the site by use of a Compulsory Purchase Order and after a competitive process DCC appointed a preferred partner for the site and entered into a Development Agreement with NHW Limited and Jones Bros Ruthin Development Holding Limited (Jones Bros). In 2019 Jones Bros were granted control of the site by DCC and initially undertook safeguarding and security works to the buildings and they currently have a training facility set up in the grounds – cabins as training rooms and offices, specific areas for plant operations etc to upskill workforce. They also responsible for security on site, which is necessary to prevent further vandalism.

**North Wales Growth Deal Funding** of just under £7m of capital investment will contribute towards the following works on site:

Conversion, restoration, part demolition and adaptation of main range listed buildings to residential use (up to 34 dwellings);

Demolition of Nurses Home, Mortuary, Isolation ward and former gasworks buildings;

Development of land within the hospital grounds for mixed use as enabling development, including 300 residential units and approximately 1114 square metres of business space.

**Provisional outcomes for the project are:** up to 74 new jobs, new business space providing 1,100m<sup>2</sup> of commercial accommodation suitable for a variety of businesses. Residential Developments of residential land for 300 homes. It has been agreed that the project will be broken into three phases:

Phase 1 works to commence Q1 2024 (demolition, remediation, ecology, archaeology, and other activities as agreed between Jones Bros and Ambition North Wales).

Phase 2 works commence mid 2024-2034 (new build enabling development)

Phase 3 works (TBC) anticipated post 2028 (conversion and adaptation of the main range listed building).

**Other Strategies and Policy fit:** WG Prosperity for All Strategy - Poor quality housing contributes to poor health. Addressing local housing need with the provision of appropriate, quality housing will support the delivery of healthier communities and better environments and directly delivers the priority action area of housing. Taking steps to stabilise rural towns and villages will support businesses to drive prosperity and support the development of entrepreneurialism, building ambition and encouraging lifelong learning. This delivers the priority action area of skills and employability.

Other national policies. Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Net Zero Wales Plan Carbon Budget (2021-25). Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales ; net zero skills. Future Wales the national plan 2024. details of how the Project will contribute towards these are seen below under the 7 well-being goals below.

The Project will contribute to these policies by:

JBLs policy alignment and contributions are shown in these documents

•Equalities Policy

•Welsh Language Policy

•Sustainability Policy

Additional regional level policy fit. The compliance with Growth Deal objectives has been confirmed in the SOC. There are the following additional regional policy contributions –

Regional Economic Framework – the Project is one of the region's largest housing and brownfield developments and a leading example of a public-private delivery model.

Growth Vision for North Wales – the Project sustains a population and workforce in Denbigh contributing to economic growth

Ambition North Wales carbon reduction and bio-diversity gain in Growth Deal programme (2022) – the Project makes significant gains through remediation of brownfield contaminated land, preserving heritage buildings, increasing bio habitats and green space, improving sustainable transport, employing and training local labour and

sustainable construction techniques.

### Purpose

The document outlines the integrated impact assessment undertaken as part of this proposal. This integrated approach ensures that the impact assessment is proportionate and at the centre of policy making and delivery. The aim is to take a rounded view of the main impacts, both positive and negative and involve all persons affected by the proposal; and uses evidence to meet both the requirements of the *legislations* in the short-term and long-term.

The Integrated Assessment covers 3 key areas: Well-Being, Equalities and Welsh Language and provides an overall conclusion as to the impact the proposal will have. It will highlight any positive outcomes, ensure consideration is given against each of the elements within these 3 keys areas and detail any mitigating actions required using the Five Ways of Working.

### Well-being:

The assessment will record any positive contributions and potential negative impacts against each of the 7 Well-Being goals in line with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015. The objective will be to seek and secure where possible, sustained improvements in the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of people in the region and Wales as a whole. To identify key learning points through the 5 ways of working and seek to embed these improvements through a range of mediums: stakeholder engagements, looking at the long-term effects of the proposal and implementation of an agreed action plan to ensure monitoring of negative mitigations and contributions to positive impacts.

### Equalities:

The duty to undertake Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) arises from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2010. This assessment will help to ensure that any policies and decisions do not discriminate, that they promote equality wherever possible and that they foster good community relations. This will involve assessing the likely effects on people in respect of disability, gender, race, language, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and religion or belief. Where relevant, consideration will also be give to marriage and civil partnership and maternity and pregnancy. Additionally, it will consider it essential the policies and decisions are assessed in order to determine their impact on Welsh language. The assessment will proactively consider the positive and negative impact against the 11 Protective Characteristics as required under the equalities legislation (Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. This will ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation and there is an equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic. Due regard will be given for advancing equality throughout the proposal.

### Welsh Language:

The assessment reviews the impact of the proposal against the 3 Themes within the WG guide in line with The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011; Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the The Wales Spatial Plan

### Monitoring and Review:

Any actions identified as part of this impact review will be included in the action plan and reviewed regularly by the programme board. This document may be updated to include additional actions as identified as part of this monitoring process.

| Supplementary Evidence - Links to documents/webpages<br>(5 Ways of Working)   | Well-Being  | Equalities   | Welsh Language  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Integration:</b> What evidence and data has informed your proposal?<br/>Detail any policies and processes used in support of the assessment</p> | <p><b>ETHICS AND BUSINESS INTEGRITY POLICY</b><br/>Behaving ethically is essential to working with Jones Bros, their values of openness, collaboration, mutual dependency, professional delivery, sustainable profitable growth and innovation are the standards by which they have been judged since Jones Bros foundation.<br/>As individuals, collectively and as a company they will:<br/>• Apply the principles set out in the Ethics and Business Integrity Policy in everything they do<br/>• Ensure that they comply with company policies and procedures<br/>• Comply with applicable laws, rules and regulations and where the standards of behaviour expected by Jones Bros are higher, they will apply these higher standards<br/>• Seek guidance where they are unsure of the appropriate course of action.<br/>This Ethics and Business Integrity Policy sets out the standards and behaviours that all Jones Bros employees are expected to meet.</p> <p><b>ANTI-SLAVERY POLICY</b><br/>Modern slavery is a crime that affects many people across the world. All in Jones Bros have a responsibility to be alert to the risks, however small, in their business and in the wider supply chain. All Staff are expected to report concerns and management are expected to act upon them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levelling Up Agenda</li> <li>• Low carbon impact</li> <li>• Housing supply and affordability</li> <li>• Heritage &amp; Conservation</li> <li>• Denbighshire Adopted Local Plan - specific policy for Enabling Development which is applied to FNWH</li> <li>• Housing Market Needs Assessment shows a need for 155 homes per year for the whole of the County over the period of the Local Development Plan (2018 - 2023)</li> <li>• Employment Land and Needs Assessment suggests need for 47.60 ha of land for employment development over the whole of the County to 2033.</li> <li>• North Wales Regeneration Plan 2018-35 - Priority Regeneration Area : Denbigh Thematic Priority : Housing Renewal</li> </ul> | <p><b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY</b> Jones Bros Ruthin believes that everyone should be treated fairly and that they are entitled to work in an environment which respects their personal dignity and is free from harassment, victimisation and bullying. Everyone is valued irrespective of age, race, gender, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, disability, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation or employment status.<br/>This policy is to ensure that all employees and prospective employees are treated fairly, and no one receives less favourable treatment on any of the above grounds or is to be disadvantaged by requirements, conditions or practices which cannot be shown to be justifiable. The policy is aimed at ensuring the fair treatment of all people at work. It intends to put standards in place which will prevent all forms of unfair treatment, harassment, bullying, offensive, unfair and unacceptable behaviour, whether or not such behaviour is unlawful. In 2022, Rayhannah Saboonpaz, (Quality Manager) for Jones Bros lifted the lid on life at Jones Bros as part of a Women in Construction and Engineering event at Coleg Cambria in Wrexham. Around 75 schoolgirls from eight schools attended the event held at the college's Bersham Road site, which featured leading names from both construction and engineering.</p> | <p><b>Welsh Language Policy</b> Jones Bros is committed to treating Welsh and English on the basis of equality, as far as they are reasonably able to do so. They will ensure that they make constant progress towards achieving this ambition, and this Welsh Language Policy sets out their current commitments in relation to using Welsh.<br/>The scope of their commitments in this policy is limited to activities and services in Wales or which are delivered to people who are Welsh speakers, and is also limited to activities and services which they are able to control or influence.<br/>Wherever reasonable, they will produce external facing published communications in Welsh. This includes:<br/>• Permanent and temporary signage<br/>• Website content<br/>• Recruitment advertising<br/>• Printed Publications<br/>• Promotional literature and display items<br/>Whenever appropriate and possible, they will communicate with our business contacts in Welsh. They are aware of the language choice of established business contacts.<br/>Most of Jones Bros staff are bilingual and are encouraged to offer this service to anyone they communicate with.<br/>This includes:<br/>• Face to face communication;<br/>• Telephone conversations;<br/>• Paper and electronic correspondence</p> |
| <p><b>Collaboration:</b> Stakeholders involved in the impact assessment and consultation process</p>  | <p>Denbighshire County Council<br/>Residents<br/>Supply Chain<br/>NRW<br/>Residents Association<br/>North Wales Police<br/>Welsh Water</p>  | <p>A copy of this policy will be displayed on staff notice boards and will be brought to the attention of all new employees at the time of their joining the staff team.</p> <p>Regional Skills Partnership</p>  | <p>Jones Bros encourages every contractor or third party that delivers services within Wales their behalf to comply with this policy.</p> <p>Regional Skills Partnership</p>  |
| <p><b>Page 48</b><br/><b>Involve:</b> Who does this proposal affect and how have they been involved in the consultation process</p>                   | <p>Residents<br/>Local Businesses - SME's on Site<br/>Other community interests - new green spaces/public realm, local sports clubs,<br/>External professional advisers - design, planning, legal, business case, funding, cost, marketing (Avison Young)<br/>Stakeholder sub groups eg skills centre,<br/>Community assets, listed building</p>  | <p>Local Residents<br/>Potential employees<br/>Supply Chain</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Long-term:</b> Base line information used to balance short-term needs and safeguard meeting long-term needs</p>                                 |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Prevention:</b> Details of any action plans following consultations to include monitoring</p>   | <p>This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees.</p>   | <p>This policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees.</p>  | <p>This policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all employees.</p>  |



## WELL-BEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment will identify the impact against each of the 7 Well-being Goals and provide an overall Well-being rating being Positive / Neutral / Negative. It will also provide evidence in support of the results and detail any mitigating actions required to minimise any negative effect.

The overall impact rating for this section will be determined on the highest number of Positive, Neutral and Negative impacts recorded against each Well-Being goals.

Where there may be a negative impact identified a proposed action plan must be completed to determine what mitigating actions will be undertaken and monitored to minimise the effect.



| IMPACT AGAINST THE 7 Well-being Goals |          |  |                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|-----------------|
| A prosperous NW Region                | Positive | A NW Region of cohesive communities                        | Positive        |
| A resilient NW Region                 | Positive | A NW Region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language | Positive        |
| A healthier NW Region                 | Positive | A globally responsible NW Region                           | Positive        |
| A more equal NW Region                | Positive | <b>OVERALL WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT</b>                       | <b>POSITIVE</b> |

**Note the overall Well-being assessment conclusion below:**

The Project will re use a derelict, historic building, remove derelict assets and remediate a contaminated site. This will provide new homes and business premises, create new employment opportunities to benefit the local economy. The development will incorporate the use of low carbon construction materials and on site renewable energy, it will incorporate active travel and on site open space and integrate this into the adjacent town. The developer has a well developed recruitment process for new members of staff and a strong ethos of offering training and apprenticeships opportunities to all parts of society. The safeguarding of an important historic building has an important cultural impact with its links to its former use and the reuse of the site will mitigate developments on greenfield areas and avoid loss of biodiversity.

**A prosperous NW Region:**  
An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

|                          |   |          |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| <b>Overall Impact</b>    | <b>Result:</b>  | Positive |
| Justification for Impact | The Project will create construction jobs, and permanent jobs plus construction and civil engineering training and apprenticeships.   |          |
| Further actions Required | Taking steps to stabilise rural towns and villages will support businesses to drive prosperity and support the development of entrepreneurialism, building ambition and encouraging lifelong learning. This delivers the priority action area of skills and employability. The Project will provide long term skills development and apprenticeships in the construction and civil engineering sector for local people. The Project will also engage local construction labour and supply chain through a Jones Bros local labour plan. |          |

**A resilient NW Region:**  
A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

|                          |  |          |
|--------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>Overall Impact</b>    | <b>Result:</b>   | Positive |
| Justification for Impact | <p>The Project will increase the 8600 population of Denbigh by c 700 people contributing to the long term sustainability of the town. 2 no bat houses to be constructed. The Biodiversity and Eco-Resilience Masterplan identifies the areas set aside for biodiversity which are to be managed and maintained in perpetuity. These include areas with public access and ornamental planting.</p> <p>Infrequently mown grassland/traditional hay meadow - e.g. areas to the south boundary of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wet meadow e.g. area around the pond to the east, this would be created and retained as wet meadow.</li> <li>• Woodland and mature trees creation, retention and protection • Hedgerows creation, retention and protection to provide shelter, foraging and connectivity</li> <li>• Ornamental planting to include formal shrubberies and planting associated with the retained historic buildings</li> <li>• Wildflower planting- e.g. smaller areas around the site where suitable, and on terraced areas adjacent to pond in the centre of the site</li> <li>• Ponds - two ponds - area dependent upon future designs, topography and Sustainable Drainage Systems</li> <li>• Green infrastructure - biodiversity within the built environment</li> <li>• Bat roosting habitat - two bespoke bat buildings, hibernacula, bat boxes (on existing trees and proposed and retained buildings) • Retention and creation of foraging and dispersal habitat for bats and other wildlife including the retention and/or creation of 'dark corridors'</li> <li>• Reptile and amphibian hibernacula at suitable locations</li> <li>• Nesting birds - installation of bird boxes on existing trees and proposed buildings</li> </ul> |          |
| Further Actions Required | The Project will be built to reduced carbon emissions both embodied and operational with on site renewable energy to mitigate reliance on the national grid. The existing bio diversity on site will be enhanced in line with the target of a 10% increase. Habitat mitigation measures will be in place during demolition phase. Ecologist Consultant appointed and working with NRW to ensure provisions are in place.   |          |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A healthier NW Region:</b><br>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood. |  |
| <b>Overall Impact</b>   | <b>Result:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>  |
| Justification for Impact  | The Project creates a sustainable extension to the town with green spaces and enhanced active travel and pedestrian links to the town and its amenities  |
| Further Actions Required  | <p>Poor quality housing contributes to poor health. Addressing local housing need with the provision of appropriate, quality housing will support the delivery of healthier communities and better environments and directly delivers the priority action area of housing. The Project will enhance the pedestrian and cycle network between the site and town centre and extending bus routes and will meet the needs and aspirations of the site for businesses and communities.</p> <p>As discussed in the Transport and Access Statement the site is located in a sustainable location on the outskirts of Denbigh. This will result in shorter car journeys being made and will allow journeys to be made on foot or by bike. This will contribute towards the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.</p> <p>To allow the future residents to have the option to work from home and to ensure that the development meets the needs of the present and future generations the applicant intends to install infrastructure which will allow for super-fast broadband.</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A more equal NW Region:</b><br>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). |  |
| <b>Overall Impact</b>   | <b>Result:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>  |
| Justification for Impact  | Jones Bros will use its equality policies across its supply chain for construction workers and apprentices A derelict listed building and inaccessible site will be opened up with latest accessibility standards within its boundaries and linked to the town   |
| Further Actions Required  | Jones Bros have a well established ethos of recruiting local labour for its projects in an open, fair and transparent manner offering opportunities to all applicants. They actively engage with local communities, schools and colleges to recruit under represented members of the society into their workforce. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A NW Region of cohesive communities:</b><br>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities. |  |
| <b>Overall Impact</b>   | <b>Result:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>  |
| Justification for Impact  | <p><del>The objective of the Project is to become an integrated part of Denbigh and its communities and to strengthen and complement the town.</del></p> <p>Community cohesion and retention of young people - Boost to regional visitor economy through increased visits. Protect listed building, reduce current anti social behaviour/vandalism, blight on local area, creating jobs new housing through regeneration of site. Strong community engagement ethos - involving local communities in project development, supporting local business, providing career opportunities, and playing an active role in the local community</p> |
| Further Actions Required  | The Project will increase Denbigh's population by c 10% making town facilities, businesses and schools more viable. The redevelopment of the site and the conversion/refurbishment of the listed building will provide a link to its previous use and its importance to the local community given its historic long term impact on the town. The provision of open space, improved access and community facilities will help integrate the site into the town.   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A NW Region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b><br>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation. |   |
| <b>Overall Impact</b>   | <b>Result:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>   |
| Justification for Impact  | <p>The Project restores an important historic building in North Wales</p> <p>The Project helps to sustain and grow a population in Denbigh and therefore contributes to its long term culture and vibrancy Jones Bros adhere to a Welsh language policy for their projects</p>  |
| Further Actions Required  | The Project will protect and enhance heritage buildings and will create social amenities on site for the resident community and wider town. The former hospital has had an important cultural impact on the town and its safeguarding is an important measure culturally. The former hospital has played an important role in Welsh culture, sport and recreation and the new use will continue these benefits into the future. |

Page 00

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A globally responsible NW Region:</b><br>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being. |  |
| <b>Overall Impact</b>   | <b>Result:</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>  |
| <b>Justification for Impact</b>   | The Project is a major contributor to ANWs strategy to strengthen the local and regional economy in an environmentally sustainable manner  |
| <b>Further Actions Required</b>   | The Project will create a new sustainable homes and business premises for Denbigh on a derelict brownfield site. The Project will demolish and remediate contaminated land and buildings, protect and enhance green spaces, provide improved habitat for biodiversity, reuse materials on site and mitigate disposal of materials to landfill. The development will be future proofed by providing reduced carbon during construction, the provision of onsite renewable energy systems and the delivery of high insulation homes. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment</u> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal                                       |

## EQUALITY IMPACT

This sections seeks to identify the impact the proposal will have on the protective characteristics. The aim will be to actively encourage equality and recognise the different needs, requirements and goals; to actively work against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relationships and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members and workforce. The aim is to be inclusive and create equality irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh Language in line with the Equality Act 2010.

This will included our duty to:

**Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010**

- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

**Having due regard for advancing equality involves:**

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.



| IMPACT AGAINST THE 11 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS |          |                     |                 |
|---|----------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Race  | Positive | Gender Reassignment | Positive        |
| Sex   | Positive | Religion or Belief  | Positive        |
| Disability                                      | Positive | Age                 | Positive        |
| Welsh Language                                  | Positive | Pregnancy           | Positive        |
| Sexual Orientation                              | Positive | Marriage            | Positive        |
| Civil Partnerships                              | Positive |                     |                 |
| <b>OVERALL EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT</b>            |          |                     | <b>POSITIVE</b> |

**Note the overall conclusion below:**

Positive assessment due to the Equality and Diversity Policy in place. Jones Bros is committed to actively upholding social values and providing positive opportunities to all. From employee relations and diversity, to working conditions, local communities, health and safety, and conflict, Jones Bros are always striving for ways to improve on an already impressive track record. This Project will facilitate inclusive growth in new and sustainable jobs in the local community to raise standards of living, reduce inequality, deprivation and poverty. New jobs created and upskilled workforce Jobs in new low carbon industries and the service sector will encourage the development of new skills and career opportunities for the local community.

| Race                     |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: Positive   |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Sex                      |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: Positive   |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Disability               |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: Positive   |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Welsh Language           |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Welsh Language Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Sexual Orientation       |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Gender Reassignment      |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Religion or Belief       |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Age                      |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Pregnancy                |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Marriage                 |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

| Civil Partnerships       |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Overall Impact           | Result: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Positive</span>                         |
| Justification for Impact | See Equality and Diversity Policy information above  |
| Further Actions Required | This Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all Jones Bros employees. |

## WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As a general rule, if your policy has the potential to impact on people, it will impact in some way on Welsh speakers and therefore on the Welsh language.

On 10 July 2017, the First Minister and the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language launched their strategy Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers. The vision of the strategy is to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050 where "The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales." The strategy identifies that the challenge of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050 calls for far-reaching changes. Three strategic themes have been identified within the strategy to achieve its vision:

- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers;
- Increasing the use of Welsh; and
- Creating favourable conditions infrastructure and context.



Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh Language?

**OVERALL WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Positive**

Justification for Impact

Positive assessment due to the Welsh Language Policy in place. This Project will facilitate inclusive growth in new and sustainable jobs in the local community to raise standards of living, reduce inequality, deprivation and poverty. Jones Bros will incorporate various environment, social and governance policies for this project including : An agreed Welsh Language and Culture strategy providing support from the development towards community facilities and groups, education programmes, employment initiatives and training. In the areas that Jones Bros work, they recruit and train local personnel. This was particularly successful during the construction of the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm in South Wales and the extension to the Clyde Wind Farm in Scotland.

Further Actions Required

This policy will be reviewed annually and any changes made communicated to all employees.

How does the proposal align with Welsh Government strategy for the Welsh language - Cymraeg 2050: A national strategy for increasing the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050

Jones Bros is committed to treating Welsh and English on the basis of equality, as far as they are reasonably able to do so. They will ensure that they make constant progress towards achieving this ambition, and their Welsh Language Policy sets out their current commitments in relation to using Welsh.

How will you mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language or promote the positive impact on the language?

Promote Positive Impact

Jones Bros is committed to treating Welsh and English on the basis of equality, as far as we are reasonably able to do so. We will ensure that we make constant progress towards achieving this ambition, and this Welsh Language Policy sets out our current commitments in relation to using Welsh. Jones Bros encourage every contractor or third party that delivers services within Wales on our behalf to comply with their Welsh Language policy.

Mitigate Negative Impact

Jones Bros encourage their staff to use the medium of Welsh within the workplace on projects in Wales.

| Cymraeg 2050 Strategy Themes  | Yes                                 | No                       | N/A                      |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Does the proposal have the potential to increase the number of Welsh Speakers? <i>Workforce, Resources, Qualifications?</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If the policy has the potential to decrease the number of Welsh speaker outline steps to mitigate the adverse effect        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Provide details to support this**

An agreed Welsh Language and Culture strategy will provide support from the development towards community facilities and groups, education programmes, employment initiatives and training.

|   |                                     |                          |                          |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Does the proposal encourage the use of Welsh?<br><i>Opportunities in the Workplace, Services or Social use of Welsh</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

**Provide details to support this**

Whenever appropriate and possible, Jones Bros will communicate with our business contacts in Welsh. They are aware of the language choice of established business contacts. Most of the staff are bilingual and are encouraged to offer this service to anyone Jones Bros communicates with.

This includes:

- Face to face communication;
- Telephone conversations;
- Paper and electronic correspondence

Jones Bros endeavour to provide Welsh speakers whenever they are conducting public meetings within Wales. As a training provider, Jones Bros assesses and records the Welsh language skills of applicants for posts within the Training Centre. Most of the Training Centre staff are bilingual and will conduct training in the medium of Welsh to any learner who requests it.

|  |                                     |                          |                          |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Does the proposal look to create favourable conditions - Infrastructure and context?<br><i>Community &amp; Economy, Culture &amp; Media, Wales &amp; the wider world, Digital technology, Linguistic infrastructure, Language planning, Evaluation &amp; Research.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

**Provide details to support this**

The project will re-use a derelict historic building and demolish and clear a substantial area for new homes and business premises. This will provide employment opportunities for young people with training and skills that are beneficial to them and the Country. The site has an important role in local culture and history and its safeguarding will ensure that this will continue into the future. The provision of new employment to local young people will help maintain the Welsh language in the area and provide the opportunity for it to increase in its daily use both in work and socially.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Former North Wales Hospital (FNWH), Denbigh

### Benefits Register

Notes:

- Target as specified below (Please note to assist interpretation for delivery of the Spending Objectives the following approach will be adopted):
  - **Spending Objective SO1** - it is probable that not all the FTE accommodated within the proposed new commercial units will be 'new FTE' and that there could be displaced employment, and this is reflective of the general demand in the market for the new units from established businesses.
  - **Spending Objective SO2** – This is a factor of SO1, and the total number of FTE accommodated within the units.
- Timeline is within total project period unless otherwise specified
- Benefit description as specified in ANW benefits definitions document, unless otherwise described
- Data source for each indicator as specified in project benefits framework
- Evidence for each indicator as specified in ANW benefits definitions document

| <b>Spending objectives</b><br><i>Absolute requirement to deliver these</i> | <b>Core Benefits (from Benefits plan)</b>   | <b>Target</b>                               | <b>Responsible officer in Jones Bros</b> |
|--|---|---|--|
| SO1: To create 70 FTE jobs up to 2035                                      | (1.1) New direct gross jobs created (FTE)   | Up to 70 (mixture of new and existing jobs) | Project Manager (PM)                     |
| SO2: To create net additional GVA of £35m through the project by 2035.     | To be calculated as part of an independent evaluation at 5-yearly intervals to commence at 2030 and on completion of the Benefits Monitoring and Evaluation Period on 31st December 2035. | £35m  | PM                                       |
| SO3: To deliver a total capital investment of £107m by 2035.               | (2.1) Capital income secured by project (match)   | £107m                                       | PM                                       |
| SO4: To bring 53 acres (21.44 ha) of land back into use by 2035.           | (3.1) - New or upgraded commercial/research floorspace created (m2)   | 1,114m2                                     | PM                                       |
|  | (3.3) - Serviced Residential land created (Hectares)  | 12.48ha                                     | PM                                       |



| <b>Targeted benefit</b>                                    | <b>Indicator (from Benefits plan)</b>   | <b>Target (from Benefits framework)</b>  | <b>Responsible officer</b> |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| <i>To be delivered requiring all reasonable endeavours</i> |   |  |                            |
| Digital connectivity                                       | Premises in North Wales that have at least 1000 Mbps connection (OC11)                                    | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to provide broadband infrastructure with up to 1000mgps speed in new build premises.                       | PM                         |
| Reducing out-migration                                     | (OC28) Jobs created/safeguarded filled by those 16-34   | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier.   | PM                         |
| Rural community sustainability                             | (OC30) Jobs created/safeguarded filled by individuals with a rural home postcode                          | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier.   | PM                         |
| Addressing economic inequality                             | (OC33) Jobs created/safeguarded filled by individuals with a postcode in an area of multiple deprivation. | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Sustained effort in line with organisational policy.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier. | PM                         |
|  | (OC39) Students / individuals completing qualifications   | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier.   | PM                         |
|  | (OC43) Students / individuals completing qualifications from an area of multiple deprivation.             | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier.   | PM                         |
|  | (OC45) Students / individuals completing qualifications with a rural home postcode.                       | Reporting required, but no project target.<br>Jones Bros to use reasonable endeavours to obtain this information from a tenant/occupier.   | PM                         |



| Targeted benefit   | Indicator (from Benefits plan)  | Target (from Benefits framework)  | Responsible officer |
|--|---|---|---------------------|
| <i>To be delivered requiring all reasonable endeavours</i> |   |   |                     |
| Low carbon buildings                                       | (OC48) New buildings constructed that operate at net zero emissions, disaggregated by homes / other | Reporting required, but no project target.<br><br>Design and specification for net zero buildings (Sponsor will use reasonable endeavours to meet this specification subject to the design and specification being economically viable to deliver by the private sector). | PM                  |
| Biodiversity enhancement                                   | (OC50) Biodiversity conserved / enhanced  | Reporting required, but no project target.<br><br>Project Masterplan assessed against ANW/Arup Biodiversity Assessment 6.   | PM                  |

*Targeting the numbers as set out in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.*

This page is intentionally left blank

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025  |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets /<br>Head of Finance and Audit |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Head of Finance and Audit  |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Welsh Government's Provisional Funding Settlement for Local<br>Government 2025/26        |

## 1. What is the report about?

Updating Cabinet on the Welsh Government's (WG) Provisional Funding Settlement for Local Government 2025/26 and its implications for setting a balanced budget for 2025/26.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Council is legally required to set a balanced budget before the start of each financial year and to set the resulting level of Council Tax. Cabinet, at its next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 will consider a report to set a balanced budget and Council Tax for 2025/26. This report will then be considered by Council at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 To note the impact of the WG Provisional Settlement 2025/26 in section 4.1 of the report and the updated budget pressures in section 4.2 of the report.

3.2 Consider the feedback from the Governance and Audit Committee as set out in 4.4 of the report.

## 4. Report details

4.1 Provisional Funding Settlement for Local Government 2025/26

4.1.1 The Provisional Settlement for 2025/26 was received by the Council on 11th December 2024. The Council’s provisional AEF (Aggregate External Finance, which consists of the Revenue Support Grant [RSG], and our share of the non-domestic rates pool [NDR]) from WG for 2025/26 equates to £215.222m.

4.1.2 WG have produced tables so that funding levels in 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be compared on a like for like basis across all Welsh councils. The restated 2024/25 figure has been slightly amended by WG since its initial publication. The council’s 2025/26 funding compares with a restated 2024/25 AEF of £205.729m. A headline increase of £9.493m or 4.6%.

4.1.3 It is important to understand the detail behind the restated 2024/25 AEF, as it has an impact on 2025/26. Following the UK Government budget in October 2024, Welsh Government allocated additional in year funding to Local Government, which is summarised in the table below.

| <b>2024/25 Adjustments to AEF</b> | <b>£m</b>    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Teachers Pay                      | 0.619        |
| Teachers Pensions                 | 2.069        |
| Non-teaching Pay                  | 1.799        |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>4.487</b> |

This has been amalgamated into the base budget, but as this is a recent movement it has had the effect of increasing the funding in 2025/26 over and above the 4.6% quoted. The true impact of the provisional settlement is an increase of £14.427m or 7% (the council’s 2025/26 funding compared with the original 2024/25 AEF of £200.795m).

4.1.4 Denbighshire’s increase compares favourably to the Welsh average of 4.3% and follows increases in pupil numbers and free school meals data being used in the formula to distribute funding. We must recognise though that there is also a corresponding increase in demand for services as a result.

4.1.5 Within the announced figure WG have advised the following:

- All pay increases for both teaching and non-teaching posts are included within the settlement.
- The costs of enabling authorities to continue to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage (RLW) for care workers are included in the settlement.

4.1.6 The UK government's Autumn Statement referred to changes in rates and threshold for employers' National Insurance Contributions from 1st April 2025. The increase in contributions will impact on the costs of employees the council directly employs and will also impact indirectly through increased supplier costs and, the cost of commissioned care from care providers in particular. The increase in the direct costs of employers' contributions is certain and will be included in the council's cost pressures for 2025/26. An estimate of indirect costs will also need to be included. Some uncertainty remains around funding for this cost pressure from both UK and Welsh Governments; WG expect funding to be provided by UK government during the first half of 2025/26 financial year following assessment of costs of public sector workers in Wales. This means we will not know the position with regards to funding for the increase in employers National Insurance until after our budget for 2025/26 has been set.

4.1.7 The Final Settlement is expected in March. Given the range of increases (across different Council's) WG state that they are open to considering providing additional floor funding at final budget and this would protect council's that have received a lower percentage increase in funding. WG cannot guarantee that there will be no other changes between the provisional and final settlements, but do not intend to make changes to methods or data underpinning the distribution of the settlement.

4.1.8 The provisional settlement provides no indication of what future year settlements are likely to be, though the WG states it is expecting multiyear settlements following the UK governments Spending Review during the first half of 2025. They hope to be able to provide a more than one-year indicative local government settlement in future years which will assist medium term planning.

4.1.9 Part of WG Programme of Government commits to ensuring local authorities are not hampered by unnecessary bureaucracy. A programme of work to reduce the number of separate grants paid to local authorities continues to move grants into the settlement. As a result there have been 'transfers in' and 'transfers out' included in the draft settlement. Grant funding ceases to be ringfenced for a specific purpose or initiative, with any grant 'transferring into' the settlement alongside the ongoing responsibility to deliver that initiative. Homelessness grants have 'transferred in' which relates to the 'No-one left out' (NOLO) approach and the discretionary homelessness prevention grant.

4.1.10 In summary, whilst the increase in the settlement is above the planning assumption used in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is positive and welcomed it does not

resolve the financial challenges the council faces in setting a balanced budget in 2025/26, which will still require a combination of savings and increases in Council Tax.

## 2025/26 Budget Setting

### 4.2 Budget Pressures

4.2.1. Our medium-term financial updates reported to various committees throughout the year have explained that demand for services from our communities is growing and that the complexity of needs has intensified in areas such as education, children’s services and adult social care. Whilst the headline rate of inflation has eased it continues to have an impact on the council by increasing costs of service delivery by exerting pressure on pay, commissioned care, food and fuel prices etc.

4.2.2. The current pressures being included in the 2025/26 budget total £21.325m. This equates to 8% of the 2024/25 budget and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year consecutive year of pressures in excess of £20m. Details are listed below:

| Pressure                               | £m     | Description   |
|--|--------|---|
| Pay                                    | 3.000  | Non-schools April 2025 pay award estimated at 3.8% in line with Office for Budget Responsibilities estimate of wage growth for 2025/26.   |
| Increase in employers NI contributions | 2.733  | Non-schools – directly employed   |
| Pay Grading                            | -1.760 | See paragraph below   |
| Adult Social Care                      | 4.165  | Forecasts of increased costs updated in October 2024 currently being updated to reflect higher than forecast increases in real living wage and employers NI costs.  |
| Childrens Services                     | 4.284  | Forecast based on current placements (Oct 2024) and estimates for inflationary uplifts. Assumes no additional residential placements.   |
| Highways and Environmental Services    | 1.667  | Increase in Recycling and Waste budget as agreed by Cabinet in October 2024 £1.067m. Increase in costs of delivering highways winter maintenance £0.600m.   |
| Schools                                | 5.586  | This includes funding for teaching and non-teaching pay awards estimated at 3.8%, employers NI, and leisure service level agreements. Also, includes funding for 0.5% to cover the shortfall in September 2024 pay award. |



|                                     |               |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Schools - Demography                | -0.480        | Reflect an overall decrease in September 2024 pupil numbers used in the schools funding formula.  |
| Fire Levy                           | 0.500         | The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is funded by a levy based on population is charged on all 6 North Wales councils. The levy is set by the Fire Authority, not by the councils, which ultimately must be paid. Current estimates are that the levy will increase by 7%. |
| Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) | 0.500         | Funding for CTRS transferred into the settlement several years ago and has not increased. Additional costs as a result of increases in council tax therefore requires funding.  |
| Investment in Priorities            | 0.250         | Impact of capital programme repayment of borrowing and interest costs – this pressure relates specifically to the Climate and Nature Strategy.  |
| Other                               | 0.508         | Indexation on corporate contracts and costs   |
| Transfers In / Out                  | 0.372         | Increases for NOLO and Homeless prevention less reductions for coastal risk management programme.   |
| <b>Total Pressures</b>              | <b>21.325</b> |   |

4.2.3 Pay Grading pressure. In recent years increases to the National Living Wage driven by high levels of inflation has had an impact on the Council's pay structure. Grades have compressed at the lower end of the structure due to the removal of some spinal points and there is an increasing need to review the structure. The pressure whilst still included in the MTFP has been pushed back reflecting the commitment made by the national employers in recent pay negotiations to redesign the national pay spines and the time that may take. The Council recognises the need to review its pay structure, but it would not be feasible to complete that review when changes to the national pay spine are planned.

4.2.4 Work continues on refining the budgetary pressures for inclusion with the final budget setting report, in particular on the adult social care budget.

4.2.5 The increase in employers' national insurance (NI) contributions from April 2025 has been included as a cost pressure separately for directly employed non-schools employees and within the schools figure for employees directly employed by schools. As explained above work continues on refining cost pressures in social care which includes the impact of the increase in NI. As set out previously in the report (para 4.1.6), funding is anticipated from governments to cover the costs but has not been confirmed at this stage.

4.2.6 The majority of the pressures faced by the council are outside of its control, for example pay inflation is set nationally, the council must also fulfil its statutory duties to provide demand led services such as social care, etc.

### **4.3 Setting a balanced budget in 2025/26**

4.3.1 The current estimate of additional budget requirement for 2025/26 is £21.325m. This is more than the increase in funding the council will receive from the settlement from Welsh Government. A draft settlement of around 11% would have been required to fund all these pressures. Setting a balanced budget in 2025/26 will therefore still require a combination of savings and an increase in the level of Council Tax.

4.3.2 As previously reported the approach to setting balanced budgets over the next few years set out within the MTFS is the need to both identify savings and invest in transformational projects. To deliver savings in 2025/26, target percentage service reductions have been issued which services have been working towards achieving whilst balancing the impacts on service delivery, many of which are statutory. Early savings proposals were included in an update report to Council in November 2024 that Lead Members and Heads of Service considered sufficiently developed totalling £4m. Work has been ongoing since to provide further savings for setting the 2025/26 budget, all of which will be considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2025 meetings.

### **4.4 Comments and feedback from reviews of MTFS/P from other Committees**

4.4.1 The Governance and Audit Committee considered the third iteration of the MTFS / MTFP at its November 2024 meeting. Feedback to Cabinet was as follows:

- Consider presenting an alternative option to balancing the budget within the MTFS, entirely through increasing Council Tax, reflecting the differing powers available to Welsh council's when compared with English council's where a cap on Council Tax applies. The committee understood that the option might be considered politically unpalatable given the impact on residents but that it was important that Members understood all of the options available to them and the risks and benefits of each option.
- Focus on delivering statutory services and have a clear understanding of what they are when setting budgets.
- The Council continues to do all that it can to keep residents informed of choices the Council has to make and the implications of those choices.

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

Effective management of the Council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas. The proposals include allocations to continue to support both corporate and service priorities.

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

As set out within the report.

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

7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment (WIA) was completed for each major savings proposal in setting the 2024/25 budget. All assessments were collated and reviewed by strategic planning and performance officers to highlight any themes and patterns emerging to provide regular updates on the aggregate impact in respect of each of the well-being goals and whether the savings were disproportionately affecting any particular protected group. These were collated to form an overall WIA of the combined budget reduction measures. This has been updated throughout 2024/25.

7.2. A similar process is being implemented for 2025/26 budget setting.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Governance and Audit Committee and Performance Scrutiny Committee the budget process has been considered regularly 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.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 The Council, along with all other Welsh councils, has been facing unprecedented financial challenges. The aim of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan that has been reported regularly to different committees to ensure that the council delivers future balanced budgets. Setting out the details and implications of the WG provisional settlement in this report will help ensure that the council is informed and prepared to set a budget at this challenging time.

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

10.1 The budget process itself is a risk management measure with the aim of identifying, assessing and agreeing budget proposals in a planned and timely way. Failure to agree these proposals without viable alternatives will risk not achieving a balanced budget for 2024/25.

10.2 A detailed analysis of risk and steps that will be taken to mitigate those risks will be provided in the final budget report to Cabinet in February 2025.

## **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.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 21 January 2025  |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets /<br>Head of Finance and Audit |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Head of Finance and Audit  |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Capital Block Allocations for inclusion in the 2025/26 Capital<br>Plan.                  |

## 1. What is the report about?

Capital block allocations for inclusion in the 2025/26 Capital Plan.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

The role of the Capital Scrutiny Group (CSG) is to provide an independent review of all business case proposals for capital investment, other than schemes under £0.250m that are funded 100% by external grant funding. CSG considered the block allocations for 2025/26 prepared by each service at its meeting on 29 November in preparation for the Capital Plan being considered by full Council at the end of January 2025.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the principles for funding capital schemes set out within the report.
- 3.2 That Cabinet supports the projects shown in Appendix 2 for inclusion in the 2025/26 Capital Plan and recommends to full Council.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1 The Council's Capital Plan encompasses investing significant resources in a broad range of assets for the long term to enable the delivery of public services. Assets

include buildings (such as schools, office accommodation and care homes), infrastructure (such as highways and ICT networks), and assets not owned by the Council (such as works to improve and adapt private sector homes).

- 4.2 Some capital schemes are one-off in nature, involving remodelling and / or investing in the way services are delivered in the future. Examples of recent schemes would include our school building programme, new waste and recycling operating model, North East Wales Archives, etc. Other capital schemes require an annual block allocation of capital funding. These can be capital schemes of a statutory / regulatory nature. Examples include providing support to improve and adapt private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities and any works required to keep buildings open by meeting Health and Safety requirements. There are also capital schemes that maintain, improve, or lengthen the economic life of the retained assets and infrastructure that we use in delivering services. Examples of service areas included are schools, highways, and other properties etc.
- 4.3 The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government (WG) to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities; however, it has the powers to fund capital schemes by borrowing, but this is temporary and ultimately the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council's revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing must be carefully considered due to the long-term impacts on the Council's revenue budget.
- 4.4 In setting the revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25, the Council recognised the need to limit the impact of the capital plan on the revenue budget and approved the following approach and principles in determining support for capital projects:
- The Council to work towards capping the block allocations at the level of the capital funding from WG.
  - Urgent Health and Safety issues to be prioritised.
  - Consideration to Invest-to-Save schemes where benefit is reducing revenue pressures in the short and/or medium term.
  - Capital Receipts or delays to other projects will be the only source of funding available for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

- Grant Funded Schemes – more reliance on using grant funding as effectively as possible. 100% grant funded schemes are obviously preferable, but it is recognised that sometimes match funding will be required.

4.5 In setting the 2025/26 Capital Plan at meetings in July and November, Capital Scrutiny Group considered how to build on the broad principles developed in 2024/25. They focused on reducing the block allocations towards the level of capital funding received from Welsh Government, which at this stage was assumed to be the same as the 2024/25 funding (£6.185m).

4.6 Services presented how the allocations will be spent in 2025/26 and provided an assessment of the impact and risk of any reduction in funding for Members' consideration and scrutiny. This review required input from all services around their annual level of need, and input from Cabinet, CSG and back bench Members on their priorities. Affordability and links to the Council Plan guided those discussions and outcomes. The total of the block allocations for 2025/26 supported by CSG at its November meeting is £7.227m (reduced from £8.362m in 2024/25). A narrative to support the recommendations of the Capital Scrutiny Group is included as Appendix 1.

4.7 Appendix 2 shows the proposed block allocations, with the recommended funding source for each entered in the appropriate column. The proposed blocks in 2025/26, though reduced from 2024/25, still require £1.542m to be funded from capital receipts, reserves and to a much lesser extent prudential borrowing. The following points have been considered:

- Statutory nature of some schemes, for example Disabled Facilities Grant
- Revenue consequences for some schemes, for example reducing the allocation for minor adaptations, community equipment and telecare could lead to packages of social care being commissioned.
- Not allocating further funding in 2025/26 to block allocations that have some slippage built up from prior years and taking a single year approach for those block allocations to spend what funding they already have. This is unlikely to be sustainable going into 2026/27.
- Allocating less to some of the larger block allocations for property and highways in recognition that some expenditure can be deferred into future years. It should, however, be noted that, in real terms, allocations have effectively been reduced for

a number of years due to above inflation increases to construction costs etc, and necessary works are now building up.

4.8 In December, Welsh Government announced the capital funding available in the Local Government Provisional Settlement. Denbighshire's allocation for 2025/26 is £6.945m, this is £0.760m higher than the assumed funding level above. This additional funding is shown in Appendix 2 as additional contingency for now, while we await further information from WG on additional Capital grants available in 2025/26 which will assist in determining how to allocate the additional funding.

## **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 2.

### **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 by Capital Scrutiny Group.

### **6.3 Assessment of impact on Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation**

New capital projects are subject to scrutiny by Capital Scrutiny Group. 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 Capital Scrutiny Group. 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 which were then reviewed by 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 January.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The Capital Finance Budget currently stands at £20.534m (2024/25) which equates to approximately 7.6% of our net revenue budget. It is important that all aspects of the budget contribute to ensuring that the Council remains financially sustainable over the coming very difficult period. A reduction in the capital programme is something that Members have suggested the Council consider as part of overall work to set balanced budgets in the future. This needs to be considered alongside the requirement for the Council to continue to invest appropriately in its assets. Not to do so can incur more significant costs in the long term.

## **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 Capital Scrutiny Group and are also subject to on-going regular 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix 1

### Recommendations of Capital Scrutiny Group – Capital Plan 2025/26

Membership of the Capital Scrutiny Group (CSG) is as follows:

- Cabinet Member – Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (Chair)
- Cabinet Member – Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation
- Cabinet Member - Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities
- Representative from each scrutiny committee
- Chief Executive
- Corporate Director – Governance and Business
- Head of Finance (S.151) and Audit
- County Landlord

### Recommendations

Block allocations for 2025/26 were reviewed by CSG on 29 November 2024. Bids submitted to CSG totalled £7,227k, plus an initial proposed contingency of £500k. The capital funding assumed to be available in the provisional WG settlement for 2025/26 was £6.185m, leaving a difference of £1.542m to be funded from capital receipts, reserves and prudential borrowing. Services were asked to provide a business case to support their bids. Each bid was submitted with approval of the relevant Head of Service.

The proposed allocations are detailed in Appendix 2 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 £1.25m be allocated to schools capital maintenance works. It is also proposed to allocate £1.0m 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.
- It is proposed to allocate £2.0m towards Highways Maintenance and £337k block allocation for bridges & structures and public rights of way. Also included within

this recommendation is a further £400k for repairs to bridge structures. This is the ninth year of a proposed ten-year Highways Structure Backlog Project.

- An allocation of £250k is recommended for the replacement of structurally unsafe lighting columns. This is the third year of a six-year programme.
- It is proposed to allocate £250k of the £1m four-year rolling programme to fund the annual desktop refresh and a number of other projects in order to maintain the Council's ICT infrastructure. Years 3 to 4 to be reviewed in 2025/26.
- Capital Scrutiny Group recommends maintaining the allocation set aside for any contingencies at £500k, in line with 2024/25.

2025/26 Capital Bids - Proposed Block Allocations

APPENDIX 2

| WIA Ref     | Project Name  | Head of Service     | Capital Plan Requirement 2025/26<br>£000 | Source of funding        |                           |                              |                                 |                       | TOTAL 2025/26<br>£000   | Brief Description |
|-------------|---|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
|             |   |                     |  | Capital Receipts<br>£000 | Earmarked Reserve<br>£000 | Prudential Borrowing<br>£000 | General Capital Funding<br>£000 | TOTAL 2025/26<br>£000 |   |                   |
| G01         | Minor Adaptations; Community Equipment, Telecare      | Ann Lloyd           | 240                                      |                          |                           |                              | 240                             | 240                   | Minor Adaptations and Equipment   |                   |
| G02         | Private Sector Housing Assistance                     | Liz Grieve          | 1,500                                    | 300                      |                           |                              | 1,200                           | 1,500                 | Housing Improvement Works to Private Sector Dwellings   |                   |
| G03         | Schools Capital Maintenance Works                     | Helen Vaughan-Evans | 1,250                                    | 242                      | 500                       |                              | 508                             | 1,250                 | Works to a range of work streams in schools.  |                   |
| G04         | Non School Public Buildings Capital Maintenance Works | Helen Vaughan-Evans | 1,000                                    |                          |                           |                              | 1,000                           | 1,000                 | Works to a range of work streams for Public Buildings   |                   |
| G05/G06/G07 | Highways works  | Paul Jackson        | 2,737                                    |                          |                           |                              | 2,737                           | 2,737                 | Improvements to roads and bridges. Coastal Protection   |                   |
| G08         | Street lighting                                       | Paul Jackson        | 250                                      | 250                      |                           |                              |                                 | 250                   | Year 3 of 6-year rolling programme to replace lighting columns  |                   |
| G09         | Desktop & ICT Infrastructure Projects                 | Helen Vaughan-Evans | 250                                      |                          |                           | 250                          |                                 | 250                   | £1m 4-year rolling programme  |                   |
|             | Capital Contingency                                   |                     | 500                                      |                          |                           |                              | 500                             | 500                   | £500k as agreed at Nov 2024 Capital Scrutiny Group in line with previous years.   |                   |
|             | Capital Contingency                                   |                     | 760                                      |                          |                           |                              | 760                             | 760                   | £760k additional general capital funding awarded in December 2024 WG provisional settlement (unknown when CSG met in November). |                   |
|             | <b>TOTALS</b>   |                     | <b>8,487</b>                             | <b>792</b>               | <b>500</b>                | <b>250</b>                   | <b>6,945</b>                    | <b>8,487</b>          |   |                   |

This page is intentionally left blank

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to</b>             | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>       | 21 January 2025  |
| <b>Lead Member / Officer</b> | Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets /<br>Head of Finance and Audit |
| <b>Report author</b>         | Chief Accountant (Deputy s151 Officer)   |
| <b>Title</b>                 | Finance Report (December 2024/25)  |

## 1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the Council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2024/25.

## 2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The report provides an update on the Council's current financial position and confirms the agreed service budgets for 2024/25.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 Members note the budgets set for 2024/25 and progress against the agreed strategy.

## 4. Report details

4.1 The Council's net revenue budget is £271.021m (£250.793m in 23/24) as detailed in Appendix 1. The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast underspend of £3.924m (£4.285m underspend last month). The movement of £361k relates mainly to increased cost of school transport and children social care offset by reduction in pressures this month by Adult Social Care. Further details are outlined in Section 6 and Appendix 2.

4.2 In setting its budget for 2024/25 the Council faced pressures of £24.6m from inflationary increases such as pay and increases in demand and costs of providing social care. The increase in Welsh Government funding and in the level of Council Tax meant the 2024/25 budget required service savings and efficiencies of £10.384m to be identified, as summarised below:

- **Major Savings Proposals** – large-scale saving projects (£2.388m)
- **Non-Strategic savings** – Operational efficiencies/smaller scale savings within Head of Service delegated responsibility in consultation with Lead Members (£5.296m).
- **Schools** received funding to cover all inflationary pressures including pay awards, pension contributions and energy, and an increase for demography. Given the scale of the challenges, schools were asked to find savings of 3% (£2.7m). The net position was an increase of £4.916m (5.82%).

4.3 **Monitoring Delivery of Savings** – an update of the progress in delivering the savings is provided in Appendix 3. Two of the major saving proposals and 70% of the non-strategic savings have been achieved. Due to the timing of implementation, some of the proposals will not realise a full year saving in 2024/25 and these in-year pressures are monitored with the service budget.

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

Effective management of the Council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas. The 2024/25 budget include allocations to continue to support both corporate and service priorities.

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

Significant service narratives explaining pressures and risks of over- and under-spend are detailed in Appendix 2, however the following should also be noted:

6.1 **Education and Children's Service** –The current outturn prediction is £2.063m overspend (previously £1.956m). The pressures in Children's Social Care (£1.631m) increased by £88k this month due to cost of new placements. The overspend in Education services (£432k) increased by £19k this month, relates to pressures in additional learning needs and education packages in out-of-county settings.



**6.2 Highways and Environmental Services** – The current outturn prediction for the service as a whole is £1.124m overspend (no change since last month). Although the overall overspend has not changed this month, savings achieved from service reviews have been offset by other pressures within the service. The budget overspend relates mainly to pressures on the winter maintenance budget and not achieving full year savings from the budget proposals.

**6.3 Planning, Public Protection and Countryside** - The budget projection is an overspend of £680k due to Car Park income shortfall (£236k), an increase in the costs for the school transport contracts (£431k) and pressures across the service (£13k). Increased pressure for the school transport service has been a high risk throughout the year and the overspend is based on the current transport contracts. A risk remains for further pressures due to emergency or new transport routes requirements during the remainder of this school term.

**6.3 Adult Social Care and Homelessness** –The current outturn prediction is £800k underspend (previously £578k underspend). The movement this month of £222k relates to reduced pressures within Adult Social Care services due to the good progress made in implementing the saving proposals which is helping to offset the overall pressure. The total underspend in Homelessness (-£1.3m) from reduced emergency temporary accommodation placements is netted off by a total overspend in Adult Social Care (£500k) due to pressures across older people services, mental health services, complex disabilities and community living.

**6.4 Corporate Budgets** – The budget is projected to underspend by £7.128m (no change since last month) due to an in-year grant award received from Welsh Government (WG) (£3.868m) and release of contingency budgets for pension costs (£500k), energy (£1m), and the pay and grading review (£1.76m) released due to delays in the process nationally. The grant award from WG is to support in year pay pressures and the cost of the increase in Teachers' pension contributions; the costs of both formed part of the pressures in setting the 2024/25 budget. Whilst some funding was expected for the Teachers' pension contribution, the amount was uncertain. WG released this funding further to its supplementary budget, reflecting the impact of the UK Government budget (October 2024), on the Welsh budget.

6.5 **Schools** - The budget agreed by Council for 2024/25 included a total net additional investment (excluding increases in Welsh Government grants) in schools delegated budgets of £4.9m. School balances carried forward into 2024/25 of £3.681m are low compared to recent years. Schools forecast a reduction to school balances of £6.185m resulting in a net debit balance of £2.504m carried forward into 2025/26. The non-delegated budget is projected to overspend by £432k due to pressures within additional learning needs and education packages in Out of County settings.

6.6 **The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**. The HRA revenue balances brought forward to 2024/25 of £1.180m are forecast to reduce by £420k to £760k at the end of the year. This movement relates to reduced rental income and an increased revenue contribution to the HRA capital programme, offset by reduced estimated debt charges. The HRA capital budget of £20m is largely allocated between planned improvements to existing housing stock (£14m) and new build developments and acquisitions (£6m).

6.7 **Treasury Management** – At the end of December, the Council's borrowing totalled £318.123m at an average interest rate of 4.47%. Investment balances were £4.4m at an average interest rate of 4.62%.

6.8 A summary of the Councils' **Capital Plan** is enclosed as Appendix 4. The approved capital plan is £81.8m with expenditure to date of £37.7m.

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

A Well-being Impact Assessment (WIA) encompassing the combined budget reduction measures and impact for the Council Tax rise was presented to Council on 30 January.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Governance and Audit 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.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 The Council, along with all other Welsh councils, face unprecedented financial challenges in the medium term. The pressure in the school transport service has been a known risk throughout the year and remains a risk as the costs could increase with any emergency or new transport requirements for the remainder of the school term. Other high-risk areas include changes to residential placements in Children's Services and Adult Social Care placements. As we had included the Teachers' pension cost and the NJC pay award within the pressures for setting the 2024/25 budget; the grant award released from Welsh Government to reflect the impact of UK Government fiscal events will bolster our reserves to help boost the Council's financial resilience over the medium term. The pressures included in the Medium Term Financial Plan will be kept under review. The pressures faced by services remain a concern and will need to be closely monitored as further risks and pressures are expected in the coming months.

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

10.1 The Council faced a significant financial challenge in setting its 2024/25 budget due to our funding not increasing sufficiently to keep up with continued inflationary pressures, increased service demand and complexity of needs for services. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy forms the basis of approach to managing these risks.

10.2 There are risks regarding the capacity within the Finance team due to continued development of the new financial system, implemented in April, and with some vacancies in the service. As with the introduction of any new system there has been some disruption as a result, with teams needing to work to find solutions to these issues. To mitigate the risk, the finance team are focusing on high-risk areas, to update Cabinet on areas of significant risk of overspend.

## **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 2024/25

| Dec-24  | Net Budget     | Budget 2024/25 |                 |                | Projected Outturn |                 |                | Projected Variance |               |               |                | Variance        |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
|   | 2023/24        | Expenditure    | Income          | Net            | Expenditure       | Income          | Net            | Expenditure        | Income        | Net           | Net            | Previous Report |
|   | £'000          | £'000          | £'000           | £'000          | £'000             | £'000           | £'000          | £'000              | £'000         | £'000         | %              | £'000           |
| Housing and Communities                           | 2,822          | 3,143          | -744            | 2,399          | 5,416             | -2,935          | 2,481          | 2,273              | -2,191        | 82            | 3.42%          | 82              |
| Education and Children's Service                  | 22,016         | 35,515         | -11,572         | 23,943         | 36,337            | -10,331         | 26,006         | 822                | 1,241         | 2,063         | 8.62%          | 1,956           |
| Corporate Support: Performance, Digital, Assets   | 8,024          | 11,448         | -3,830          | 7,618          | 11,530            | -3,805          | 7,725          | 82                 | 25            | 107           | 1.40%          | 74              |
| Corporate Support: People                         | 4,351          | 6,135          | -1,929          | 4,206          | 6,027             | -1,873          | 4,154          | -108               | 56            | -52           | -1.24%         | -52             |
| Finance and Audit                                 | 3,200          | 5,279          | -2,264          | 3,015          | 5,645             | -2,630          | 3,015          | 366                | -366          | 0             | 0.00%          | 0               |
| Highways and Environmental Services               | 18,366         | 29,012         | -10,334         | 18,678         | 33,442            | -13,640         | 19,802         | 4,430              | -3,306        | 1,124         | 6.02%          | 1,124           |
| Planning, Public Protection and Countryside       | 12,150         | 19,210         | -8,324          | 10,886         | 20,027            | -8,461          | 11,566         | 817                | -137          | 680           | 6.25%          | 237             |
| Adult Social Care and Homelessness                | 52,397         | 82,037         | -22,292         | 59,745         | 79,652            | -20,707         | 58,945         | -2,385             | 1,585         | -800          | -1.34%         | -578            |
| Leisure - Retained Budgets                        | 3,402          | 3,434          | 0               | 3,434          | 3,434             | 0               | 3,434          | 0                  | 0             | 0             | 0.00%          | 0               |
| <b>Total Services</b>                             | <b>126,728</b> | <b>195,213</b> | <b>-61,289</b>  | <b>133,924</b> | <b>201,510</b>    | <b>-64,382</b>  | <b>137,128</b> | <b>6,297</b>       | <b>-3,093</b> | <b>3,204</b>  | <b>2.39%</b>   | <b>2,843</b>    |
| Corporate   | 18,285         | 50,338         | -29,272         | 21,066         | 43,210            | -29,272         | 13,938         | -7,128             | 0             | -7,128        | -33.84%        | -7,128          |
| Precepts & Levies                                 | 6,064          | 6,780          | 0               | 6,780          | 6,780             | 0               | 6,780          | 0                  | 0             | 0             | 0.00%          | 0               |
| Capital Financing                                 | 15,243         | 20,534         | 0               | 20,534         | 20,534            | 0               | 20,534         | 0                  | 0             | 0             | 0.00%          | 0               |
| <b>Total Corporate</b>                            | <b>39,592</b>  | <b>77,652</b>  | <b>-29,272</b>  | <b>48,380</b>  | <b>70,524</b>     | <b>-29,272</b>  | <b>41,252</b>  | <b>-7,128</b>      | <b>0</b>      | <b>-7,128</b> | <b>-14.73%</b> | <b>-7,128</b>   |
| <b>Council Services &amp; Corporate Budget</b>    | <b>166,320</b> | <b>272,865</b> | <b>-90,561</b>  | <b>182,304</b> | <b>272,034</b>    | <b>-93,654</b>  | <b>178,380</b> | <b>-831</b>        | <b>-3,093</b> | <b>-3,924</b> | <b>-2.15%</b>  | <b>-4,285</b>   |
| <b>Schools &amp; Non-delegated School Budgets</b> | <b>84,473</b>  | <b>102,217</b> | <b>-13,500</b>  | <b>88,717</b>  | <b>108,402</b>    | <b>-13,500</b>  | <b>94,902</b>  | <b>6,185</b>       | <b>-0</b>     | <b>6,185</b>  | <b>6.97%</b>   | <b>6,185</b>    |
| <b>Total Council Budget</b>                       | <b>250,793</b> | <b>375,082</b> | <b>-104,061</b> | <b>271,021</b> | <b>380,436</b>    | <b>-107,154</b> | <b>273,282</b> | <b>5,354</b>       | <b>-3,093</b> | <b>2,261</b>  | <b>0.83%</b>   | <b>1,900</b>    |
| <b>Housing Revenue Account</b>                    | <b>922</b>     | <b>19,831</b>  | <b>-19,770</b>  | <b>61</b>      | <b>20,034</b>     | <b>-19,614</b>  | <b>420</b>     | <b>203</b>         | <b>156</b>    | <b>359</b>    |                | <b>359</b>      |

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix 2 - Service Variance - Overspend and Underspend Risks Narrative

| Service   | Variance Last Month £000 | Variance This Month £000 | Change £000 | Description   |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| Housing and Communities                         | 82                       | 82                       | 0           | Budget overspend due to libraries saving proposal being implemented two months into the financial year and from pressures across the service including not achieving a full-year saving on some of the proposals.   |
| Education and Children's Service                | 1,956                    | 2,063                    | 107         | Budget pressure in Children's Social Care ( £1.543m) mainly due to a significantly complex placement after budget was set, increased this month by £88k due to new placements. All placements have been costed to realistic timescales, however no allowance has been made for any new or changes to placements for this year. Budget pressure in Education services (£432k) due to education placements and additional learning needs increased by £19k this month.  |
| Corporate Support: Performance, Digital, Assets | 74                       | 107                      | 33          | Pressures from non-achievement of full-year savings on the asset saving proposals   |
| Corporate Support: People                       | -52                      | -52                      | 0           | Budget underspend from non-replacement of staff offsetting pressures within the budget from increased translation costs. Non-replacement of staff enables early-realisation of 25/26 savings.   |
| Finance and Audit                               | 0                        | 0                        | 0           | Balanced budget projected, with costs of the implementation of the new finance system funded from the reserve.  |
| Highways and Environmental Services             | 1,124                    | 1,124                    | 0           | Budget overspend from not achieving full-year savings from the saving proposals and other pressures from across the service (£554k) and on winter maintenance (£570k) based on the level of costs incurred in 2023/24; the extent of the pressure from additional support to safeguard highways during severe weather conditions will become clearer during the winter months up to the year-end. Costs associated with the roll-out of the new waste collection model is netted off by a windfall payment (£1.2m) as a result of the refinancing of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership contract.   |
| Planning, Public Protection and Countryside     | 237                      | 680                      | 443         | Budget pressure reflects a projected shortfall against the car parking and traffic income saving proposal for 2024/25 (£236k), pressures across the service (£13k) and increased costs of school transport (£431k). The movement this month relates mainly to increased cost of school transport contract costs. There continues to be risks, outside of the Council's control, in under-achieving income budgets for both planning and parking fees. The risks around the School Transport budget remains due to emergency and/or discretionary transport requirements throughout the school year.   |
| Adult Social Care and Homelessness              | -578                     | -800                     | -222        | The £800k underspend is due to a budget underspend in Homelessness (-£1.3m) netted off by overspend in Adult Social Care services (£500k). The pressures in Adult Social Care relate to pressures from costs and demand for Complex Disabilities, Mental Health and Older People and Community living. The reduction this month of £222k relates to the good progress which is being made with implementing the saving proposals which helps to offset these pressures. A risk remains as new demand on the service may create a budget pressure where that increased demand also has more complex need requirements. The underspend in Homelessness (-£1.3m) (no change from last month), is due to a reduction in emergency temporary accommodation placements. |
| Leisure - Retained Budgets                      | 0                        | 0                        | 0           | Balanced budget projected   |
| Corporate & Miscellaneous                       | -7,128                   | -7,128                   | 0           | Budget saving relates to Welsh Government grant towards the costs of the Teachers' pension costs and NJC pay pressures (£3.868m), release of contingencies with the savings achieved in 2023/24 projected to recur; pension costs (£500k) and energy (£1m) and a release of the contingency held for the pay and grading review (£1.76m) due to delays in the process nationally.   |
| Precepts & Levies                               | 0                        | 0                        | 0           | Balanced budget projected   |
| Capital Financing                               | 0                        | 0                        | 0           | 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.   |
| <b>Council Services &amp; Corporate Budget</b>  | <b>-4,285</b>            | <b>-3,924</b>            | <b>361</b>  |   |

This page is intentionally left blank



## Major Savings Proposals 2024/25

| Service: Title  | Brief Description   | Original Budget Saving £'000 | OCTOBER CABINET EST. £000 | Current Status | Current Update   | JANUARY CABINET EST. £000 |
|---|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| Childrens' Services: Fostering Care                   | Project to invest to save in the fostering service - aim to reduce reliance on external agencies and increase in house foster carers.   | 141                          | 141                       | In Progress    | Recruitment officer (grant funded) has seen an upturn in enquires; 2 general approvals made (target to year end is 5), 9 Connected Person Foster Carers approved. Monitoring analysis of savings/cost avoidance for these new carers ongoing. Project to improve the corporate offer to foster carers is ongoing.                            | 141                       |
| PPP: Car Parking fees and project to review provision | Report detailing proposals went to Scrutiny in October - main aspect to review fees that has been delayed due to the pandemic.  | 700                          | 478                       | In Progress    | New charges implemented from the 4th of March. Saving achievement reduced due to delay in implementing some service changes (eg implementation of charging in some carparks) and a less than predicted increase in parking fees over the summer.   | 464                       |
| H&C: Review of Libraries Provision                    | Reduction in opening hours but keeping all libraries open.  | 360                          | 300                       | In Progress    | New model went live on 2 June as planned; part year savings to be achieved in 2024/25 (full-year savings in 2025/26) Total cost of redundancies = £79k   | 300                       |
| ASC&H: Social Care Packages                           | Review of adult social care packages.   | 416                          | 470                       | Achieved       | Revised practice guidance for adult services' packages of care implemented to support the right-sizing of care packages. Work has continued on reducing double-handed care packages to single and revised processes put in place to approve care fees.   | 470                       |
| ASC&H: Homelessness prevention                        | Homelessness Prevention Service - Rapid rehousing plan  | 421                          | 421                       | Achieved       | Homelessness activity has seen a reduction in numbers in emergency accommodation through targeted intervention.  | 421                       |
| CSSPDA: Asset Strategy                                | Review of all aspects of asset management. Revenue savings on a number of properties already agreed for disposal. Consideration to reduce office accommodation and possible alternative uses. | 150                          | 150                       | In Progress    | Caledfryn has been decanted and is now empty. A certain level of savings being achieved already in reduced running cost. Sale of Caledfryn has been approved and negotiations continue at pace for the completion of the sale to happen by end of FY 2024/25. Only once sale had been completed will full £150k p/a saving be achieved.      | 150                       |
| HES: Public Conveniences                              | Project to review provision   | 200                          | -                         | Deferred       | Consultation undertaken on the needs analysis and will inform an updated PC Strategy. The strategy will be consulted upon in due course, and a report to Cabinet in Spring. The delay to the needs analysis consultation due to the election period has meant a delay to the decision process and any potential savings deferred to 2025/26. | -                         |
|   |   | <b>2,388</b>                 | <b>1,960</b>              |                |  | <b>1,946</b>              |

Not reported as major project:

|  |  |     |          |
|--|--|-----|----------|
| HES: Reduction to capital investment in highways                               | Highways capital budget is funded by prudential borrowing, by reducing the capital budget the associated costs of borrowing (revenue) also reduce.   | 150 | Achieved |
| CSSPDA: Reduce net carbon zero and ecologically positive council 2030 pressure | During 2024/25 prioritise workstreams that reduce costs as well as carbon (buildings and fleet) at an investment level that enables the prudential borrowing costs in 2024/25 and 2025/26 for new projects initiated in 2024/25 to be funded from reserves held. | 200 | Achieved |

### Appendix 3: £3m Savings and Non-Strategic Savings 2024/25

| Service   | Category                     | OCTOBER<br>CABINET<br>EST. £000 | Current Status           | JANUARY<br>CABINET<br>EST. £000 | Service<br>Total £'000 | Service<br>Target<br>(Budget<br>Report)<br>£'000 | Shortfall /<br>Over (-/+)<br>£'000 |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Education &<br>Childrens Service                                    | Voluntary Exit Scheme        | 23                              | In Progress              | 23                              | 309                    | 309  | 0                                  |
|   | Insourcing of contracts      | 22                              | In Progress              | 22                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   | Service Change               | 13                              | In Progress              | 13                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 82                              | Not Achieved or Replaced | 82                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 170                             | Achieved                 | 170                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Adult Social Care and<br>Homelessness                               | Other                        | 104                             | Review                   | 104                             | 427                    | 427  | 0                                  |
|   | Service Review               | 20                              | In Progress              | 20                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   | External Income Maximisation | 36                              | In Progress              | 36                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 44                              | Not Achieved or Replaced | 44                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 223                             | Achieved                 | 223                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Corporate Support<br>Services:<br>Performance Digital<br>and Assets | Technical Budget Reduction   | 60                              | In Progress              | 60                              | 683                    | 683  | 0                                  |
|   | Review of vacant posts       | 22                              | In Progress              | 22                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 0                               | Not Achieved or Replaced | 0                               |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 601                             | Achieved                 | 601                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Corporate Support<br>Sevices: People                                | External Income Maximisation | 20                              | In Progress              | 20                              | 360                    | 360  | 0                                  |
|   |                              | 42                              | Not Achieved or Replaced | 42                              |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 298                             | Achieved                 | 298                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Finance and Audit   | Service Review               | 65                              | In Progress              | 65                              | 407                    | 407  | 0                                  |
|   | External Income Maximisation | 150                             | In Progress              | 150                             |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 0                               | Not Achieved or Replaced | 0                               |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 192                             | Achieved                 | 192                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Capital and Corporate   | Technical Budget Reduction   | 300                             | In Progress              | 300                             | 928                    | 928  | 0                                  |
|   |                              | 0                               | Not Achieved or Replaced | 0                               |                        |  |                                    |
|   |                              | 628                             | Achieved                 | 628                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Housing and<br>Communities  |                              | 0                               | Not Achieved or Replaced | 52                              | 190                    | 190  | 0                                  |
|   |                              | 138                             | Achieved                 | 138                             |                        |  |                                    |

| Service  | Category                     | OCTOBER<br>CABINET<br>EST. £000 | Current Status              | JANUARY<br>CABINET<br>EST. £000 | Service<br>Total £'000 | Service<br>Target<br>(Budget<br>Report)<br>£'000 | Shortfall /<br>Over (-/+)<br>£'000 |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Highways and<br>Environment Service                        | Service Review               | 213                             | In Progress                 | 213                             | 1,157                  | 1,157  | 0                                  |
|  | Service Review               | -                               | Not Achieved                | 171                             |                        |  |                                    |
|  | External Income Maximisation | 100                             | In Progress                 | 100                             |                        |  |                                    |
|  | Voluntary Exit Scheme        | -                               | Achieved                    | 100                             |                        |  |                                    |
|  | Review of vacant posts       | -                               | Achieved                    | 73                              |                        |  |                                    |
|  | Service Review               | 60                              | In Progress                 | 60                              |                        |  |                                    |
|  |                              | -                               | Not Achieved or<br>Replaced | 10                              |                        |  |                                    |
|  |                              | 430                             | Achieved                    | 430                             |                        |  |                                    |
| Planning, Public<br>Protection and<br>Countryside Services |                              | 0                               | Not Achieved or<br>Replaced | 0                               | 835                    | 835  | 0                                  |
|  |                              | 835                             | Achieved                    | 835                             |                        |  |                                    |

**TOTALS**

**TOTALS**

**5,296**

**5,296**

**0**

| By Status                | Jan Est and<br>Target | %age          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Achieved                 | 3,688                 | 69.6%         |
| In Progress              | 1,104                 | 20.8%         |
| Shortfall / Not Achieved | 400                   | 7.6%          |
| Review                   | 104                   | 2.0%          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>5,296</b>          | <b>100.0%</b> |

This page is intentionally left blank

**Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2023/24 - 2026/27**  
**Position to end December 2024**

|  | 2023/24<br>OUTTURN<br>POSITION<br>£000s | 2024/25<br>ORIGINAL<br>ESTIMATE<br>£000s | 2024/25<br>LATEST<br>ESTIMATE<br>£000s | 2025/26<br>LATEST<br>ESTIMATE<br>£000s | 2026/27<br>LATEST<br>ESTIMATE<br>£000s |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b><u>Capital Expenditure</u></b>          |   |  |  |  |  |
| Total Estimated Payments - Other           | 30,859                                  | 27,361                                   | 37,156                                 | 17,512                                 | 5,022                                  |
| Total Estimated Payments - Major Projects: |   |  |  |  |  |
| Housing Improvement Grants                 | 1,693                                   | 1,500                                    | 1,725                                  | 0                                      | 0                                      |
| Highways Maintenance                       | 4,366                                   | 3,217                                    | 3,329                                  | 0                                      | 0                                      |
| Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme   | 10,741                                  | 9,199                                    | 8,144                                  | 6,713                                  | 0                                      |
| Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme        | 28,270                                  | 24,340                                   | 26,161                                 | 10,969                                 | 0                                      |
| Waste Service Remodelling                  | 6,932                                   | 0  | 4,982                                  | 0                                      | 0                                      |
| Contingency                                |   | 171                                      | 334                                    |  |  |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>82,861</b>                           | <b>65,788</b>                            | <b>81,831</b>                          | <b>35,194</b>                          | <b>5,022</b>                           |
| <b><u>Capital Financing</u></b>            |   |  |  |  |  |
| External Funding                           | 23,349                                  | 22,230                                   | 31,164                                 | 12,678                                 | 2,442                                  |
| Receipts and Reserves                      | 3,715                                   | 738                                      | 2,755                                  | 893                                    | 778                                    |
| Prudential Borrowing                       | 55,797                                  | 42,820                                   | 47,912                                 | 21,623                                 | 1,802                                  |
| Unallocated Funding                        | 0                                       | 0  | 0                                      | 0                                      | 0                                      |
| <b>Total Capital Financing</b>             | <b>82,861</b>                           | <b>65,788</b>                            | <b>81,831</b>                          | <b>35,194</b>                          | <b>5,022</b>                           |

Note: 2024/25 Original Estimate is the position as approved by Council on 27 February 2024

This page is intentionally left blank

## Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting       |   | Item (description / title)   | Purpose of Report  | Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer  | Date Entered / Updated By                                  |
|---------------|---|--|--|----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>18 Feb</b> | 1 | Corporate Joint Committee Governance Arrangements                            | To agree the governance arrangements for the transfer of the NWEAB into the CJC  | Yes                        | Cllr Jason McLellan<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Gary Williams  | rescheduled<br>17.12.24 KEJ                                |
|               | 2 | North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement                                       | Contract Award Agreement of the formal tender  | Yes                        | Cllrs Elen Heaton & Diane King<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd / Llinos Howatson | 17.09.24 KEJ<br>rescheduled<br>12.12.24 from<br>Jan to Feb |
|               | 3 | Panel Performance Assessment Response  | To approve the Council's management response to the Panel Performance Assessment Report  | Yes                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Heidi Barton Price                  | 12.04.24<br>KEJ,<br>rescheduled<br>25.10.24 KEJ            |
|               | 4 | Interim Position on the Proposal for a new National Park in North East Wales | To consider a draft interim position on the National Park proposal that attempts to capture the initial view of members and officers. To then confirm the 'next steps' process for DCC to adopt the interim position before it is sent to NRW. | Yes                        | Cllr Alan James<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Emlyn Jones / Huw Rees                                       | 28.11.24<br>KEJ  |
|               | 5 | Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter                            | To provide an overview of Denbighshire's summary of performance from the PSOW and  | Yes                        | Cllr Julie Matthews<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Ann Lloyd /  | 10.09.24,<br>rescheduled<br>02.10.24,                      |

## Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting         | Item (description / title) |  | Purpose of Report   | Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer   | Date Entered / Updated By                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|
|                 |                            |  | actions required  |                            | Kevin Roberts  | 22.10.24,<br>11.12.24 KEJ                                  |
|                 | 6                          | Updated Contract Procedure Rules   | To seek approval of the updated Contract Procedure Rules  | Yes                        | Cllr Julie Matthews<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Karen Bellis                                    | 12.11.24 KEJ<br>rescheduled<br>11.12.14 from<br>Jan to Feb |
|                 | 7                          | HR Policies: Sexual harassment Policy (new) , Foster Friendly Policy (new) , Redeployment Policy (revised) | To obtain Cabinet approval to adopt the 3 policies  | Yes                        | Cllr Julie Matthews<br>Lead Officer – Catrin Roberts / Report<br>Author – Louise Dougal / Andrea Malam | 18.12.24<br>KEJ  |
|                 | 8                          | Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting 2025/26   | To review and approve the budget and Council Tax setting proposals for the forthcoming financial year 2025/26 | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas   | 15.05.24<br>KEJ  |
|                 | 9                          | Finance Report   | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25                                     | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas   | Standing Item  |
|                 | 10                         | Items from Scrutiny Committees   | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention   | Tbc                        | Lead Officer –<br>Scrutiny Coordinators  | Standing Item  |
|                 |                            |  |   |                            |  |  |
| <b>25 March</b> | 1                          | Residential Care Fees 2025/2026  | To seek Cabinet approval for the setting of care home fees for the financial year 2025/26.                    | Yes                        | Cllr Elen Heaton<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Nicola   | 25.09.24<br>KEJ  |



## Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting         | Item (description / title) |  | Purpose of Report   | Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer   | Date Entered / Updated By                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|
|                 |                            |  |   |                            | Stubbins / Ann Lloyd   |  |
|                 | 2                          | End of School Improvement Agreement (GwE)        | To approve the termination of the agreement to work in partnership with other North Wales local authorities in the context of the regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) | Yes                        | Cllr Diane King<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Geraint Davies                                  | 09.01.25<br>KEJ  |
|                 | 3                          | Finance Report                                   | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25   | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas                                     | Standing Item  |
|                 | 4                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees                   | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention   | Tbc                        | Lead Officer –<br>Scrutiny Coordinators  | Standing Item  |
|                 |                            |  |   |                            |  |  |
| <b>29 April</b> | 1                          | Draft Local Toilet Strategy and Savings Proposal | To approve the Local Toilet Strategy  | Yes                        | Cllr Barry Mellor<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Paul Jackson / Hayley Jones / Kimberley Mason | 14.10.24<br>KEJ  |
|                 | 2                          | Denbighshire's Economic Strategy                 | Outline of Denbighshire's new Economic Strategy & Action Plan and request for Cabinet to approve the final documents  |                            | Cllr Jason McLellan<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Emlyn Jones / James Evans                   | 27.09.24 KEJ<br>rescheduled<br>13.12.24 from<br>Feb to April |
|                 | 3                          | Finance Report                                   | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for   | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report  | Standing Item  |

## Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting        | Item (description / title) |   | Purpose of Report   | Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer   | Date Entered / Updated By |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|                |                            |   | 2024/25   |                            | Author Liz Thomas  |                           |
|                | 4                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees                              | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention         | Tbc                        | Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators   | Standing Item             |
|                |                            |   |   |                            |  |                           |
| <b>27 May</b>  | 1                          | Finance Report  | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25 | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas                         | Standing Item             |
|                | 2                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees                              | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention         | Tbc                        | Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators   | Standing Item             |
|                |                            |   |   |                            |  |                           |
| <b>24 June</b> | 1                          | Council Performance Self-Assessment 2024 to 2025 (year-end) | To consider a report on the Performance Self-Assessment                   | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Emma Horan | 03.10.24 KEJ              |
|                | 2                          | Finance Report  | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25 | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas                         | Standing Item             |
|                | 3                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees                              | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention         | Tbc                        | Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators   | Standing Item             |
|                |                            |   |   |                            |  |                           |
| <b>29 July</b> | 1                          | Second Home / Long-term Empty Council Tax Premium           | To provide information and an update on the proposed Council              | Yes                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report  | 04.12.24 KEJ              |

## Cabinet Forward Work Plan

| Meeting | Item (description / title) |                                | Purpose of Report   | Decision required (yes/no) | Author – Lead member and contact officer                       | Date Entered / Updated By |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|         |                            |                                | Tax premiums for second homes and long-term empty properties              |                            | Author – Liz Thomas / Paul Barnes / Elaine Edge / Leah Gray    |                           |
|         | 2                          | Finance Report                 | To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25 | Tbc                        | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author Liz Thomas | Standing Item             |
|         | 3                          | Items from Scrutiny Committees | To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention         | Tbc                        | Lead Officer –<br>Scrutiny Coordinators                        | Standing Item             |
|         |                            |                                |   |                            |  |                           |

Page 99

### FUTURE ITEMS 2025

|               |   |  |     |  |              |
|---------------|---|--|-----|--|--------------|
| <b>18 Nov</b> | Council Performance Self-Assessment Update - April to September (QPR1&2) 2025 | To consider an update report on the Performance Self-Assessment April to September | Tbc | Cllr Gwyneth Ellis<br>Lead Officer/Report<br>Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Emma Horan | 03.10.24 KEJ |
|---------------|---|--|-----|--|--------------|

### 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 January</i> | <b>7 January</b> | <i>18 February</i> | <b>4 February</b> | <i>25 March</i> | <b>11 March</b> |

# Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Updated 09/01/2025 – KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc