

## **TOWN & AREA PLANS POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

Town and Area Plans were introduced by Council in 2011. The first plans, focusing on the County's main towns, were signed off in early 2012. Since 2012, the Plans have been expanded to include the rural communities surrounding the towns.

A review carried out in 2014 identified the need for greater clarity on the role and purpose of Town and Area Plans. This Policy Statement describes the policy objectives Town and Area Plans are intended to address.

An operational framework will accompany this Policy Statement to give greater clarity on how Town and Area Plans should be developed, delivered, monitored and reviewed. The operational framework will also set out the various roles and responsibilities of officers, Members and other key stakeholders involved in the Plans.

### **Policy Context**

Denbighshire County Council has long held an objective to be a high performing Council, close to its communities. Closer to the Community is identified as an overarching aspiration in the Council's Corporate Plan. In a review of the Closer to the Community objective in 2013, Town & Area Plans were identified as one of the components for taking forward the Closer to the Community objective, with a focus on mapping local community needs and aspirations, and building community capacity.

The Corporate Plan 2012/17 sets out an ambitious agenda for change across a range of priority areas. Developing the Local Economy is identified as one of these priorities. Vibrant towns and communities are seen as an important element of a healthy local economy.

In 2011, Denbighshire County Council together with its key partners developed the first Big Plan for Denbighshire. The Big Plan set out a long term vision for Denbighshire and identified a comprehensive set of actions to address elements of that vision. The Big Plan has been reviewed and a new more focused Wellbeing Plan is now emerging. The new Plan focuses on supporting people and communities to become more independent and resilient, and developing the right environment in which people can maintain their individual and community wellbeing.

Town and Area Plans have an important contribution to make to these 3 policy objectives, and are therefore considered to be important mechanisms for:

**Bringing the Council Closer to its Communities**

**Building Vibrant Towns & Communities**

**Supporting the Development of Independent & Resilient Communities**

## **Key Principles**

Taking these 3 policy objectives, Town and Area Plans can be seen to be an important mechanism for articulating the Council's local response to the needs of its communities, and for delivering its overarching priorities at local level.

Town and Area Plans therefore should:

- Identify the needs and the short, medium and longer term aspirations of a local community and set out a vision for a sustainable future
- Act as living documents that can adapt and respond to changing circumstances
- Support the Council's Corporate Plan priorities as a whole, with a particular focus on Developing the Local Economy
- Demonstrate what action is needed at local level to build and maintain the vibrancy of Denbighshire's towns and communities
- Be based on the premise that towns and their surrounding rural communities are economically interdependent and cannot be treated in isolation from each other
- Reflect 'natural' groupings of communities that make sense on the ground regardless of organisational boundaries
- Recognise that we have a network of towns and communities across Denbighshire with similar challenges and opportunities, that should be tackled collectively, but equally some challenges that are unique to a particular community and may need a more tailored response
- Be supported by realistic and achievable action plans that demonstrate how progress towards the future visions can be delivered
- Show a clear link between the evidence of need in a local community, the vision for a sustainable future that is set as a consequence and the activities that are included in the supporting action plan
- Be owned and led on behalf of local communities by their local elected representatives.
- Recognise that everyone – agencies and residents alike - has a responsibility for progressing the priorities set out in the plans.

## **In practice, this will mean that:**

- Plans will show a clear understanding of how towns, their centres and their associated communities interact with each other, and how they affect each other's future sustainability.
- Plans should demonstrate how the issues affecting towns and their associated communities have been considered in drawing up both the vision statements and the resulting action plans. Actions should be based on evidence that an issue requires to be addressed and that the action is an effective means of delivering the anticipated benefit. There should be a clear focus on benefits and outcomes in all Plans.

- Whilst based on local knowledge and reflecting local needs and aspirations, as County Council plans, the responsibility for deciding what to include in plans must remain with the Council. Local consultation will form an integral part of developing the plans. Local Councillors will provide the link from the local community to the Plan. To assist with coordination, a Champion will be appointed for each Town and Area Plan.
- Where actions align with projects supporting the Council's Corporate Plan priorities or individual Service Plan commitments, a case for allocation of resources may be possible. It is a clear expectation that communities will play an important role in identifying sources of funding for their local priorities. There can be no assumption that the Council will fund all or any of the priorities arising from the Plans.
- As agreed statements of evidenced local need and priority, there will be an expectation that Council Services – and increasingly partner organisations – will pay due regard to the issues and actions set out in each Plan. Wherever possible within financial constraints, Services will reflect priority actions in their Service Plans. In recognition of this, actions should only be included a Plan with the involvement of the relevant Service.

**The detail of how Plans are developed, how they are structured and who should be involved at each stage is contained in the Operational Framework document.**

August 2014.

### PROJECT LIST

Town & Area Plan projects were identified as falling into 3 categories:

1. Projects approved by Cabinet and either completed or in progress by 1 October 2014
2. Projects approved by Cabinet but not yet started as of 1 October 2014, including projects approved by relevant MAG following a reallocation; and
3. Projects on the “horizon” that Members are considering (eg Rhuddlan Library)

### CATEGORY 1

Ideas, People & Places Phase 1, Corwen (£11.2k)  
Corwen Station platform contribution (£18.5k)  
Gritter Garage makeover, Corwen (£6.4k)  
Community Buildings survey, Corwen (£6k)  
Youth Club provision, rural communities, Corwen (£3k)  
Feasibility studies – Glyndyfrdwy, Llandrillo & Bryneglws schools (£5k)  
Denbigh Museum project (£50k)  
Chapel Quarter feasibility study, Denbigh (£3k)  
Town Trail Board, Denbigh (£1k)  
Llandyrnog Sports Association kitchen upgrade (£2k)  
Sports Association car park, Llangollen (£30k)  
Footpath feasibility study, A542, Llangollen (£6.25k)  
Chain Bridge restoration works contribution, Llantysilio (£20k)  
Tractor gritter attachments, Llangollen rural areas (£13k)  
Shopping precinct improvements, Prestatyn (£50k)  
Ffordd Talargoch environmental improvements, Meliden (£25k)  
Meliden Football club changing rooms (£25k)  
Signs & orientation, Phase 1, Rhuddlan (£1.3k)  
Dropped kerbs, Phase 1, Rhuddlan (£1k)  
Open the Book/Library feasibility study, Rhuddlan (£3k)  
Marsh Road footpath feasibility study, Rhuddlan (£2k)  
Railing repairs, Rhuddlan (£12k)  
Environmental Improvements, Rhyl High Street (£200k)  
Replacement play equipment, Dyserth (£12k)  
Play area, Rhualt (£12k)  
Ruthin Art Trail contribution (£20k)  
Town Co-ordinator post contribution, Ruthin (£30k)  
Town Marketing Strategy, Ruthin (£5k)  
Llanbedr Village Hall improvements (£8.4k)  
Llanarmon Playing fields improvements contribution (£24k)  
Llanarmon shop, Cyfenter project match (£23.4k)  
Cwrw Ial Brewery, Cyfenter project match (£18k)  
Clawddnewydd Joint Venture (£40K)  
Town Trail boards, St Asaph (£1k)  
Red Hill steps repairs, St Asaph (£8.4k)  
St Asaph Cricket club building contribution (£50k)

**CATEGORY 2**

Pre-school provision, Llangollen (£30K)  
Valuation report, Llantysilio burial ground extension (£0.5K)  
Meliden Goods Shed (£50K)  
Marsh Road pavement construction, Rhuddlan (£25K)  
Interpretation of sculptures, Rhuddlan (£1,200)  
Ditched defences interpretation, Rhuddlan (£0.8k)  
Eyesore properties, Dyserth (£38K)  
Gateway Improvements, Rhyl (£50K)  
Orientation & Signage Strategy, Rhyl (£50K)  
Trefnant Yellow Lines ((£2K)  
Cefn Meiriadog Layby (£5K)  
Bodelwyddan finger posts (£4K)  
IPP, Corwen (£40k)  
Lon Garn footpath, Henllan (£85K)  
Denbigh Golf Club footpath (£85K)  
Aberwheeler footpath (£20k)  
Strategic development and employment sites, Denbigh (£30K)  
Public Realm Improvements – Nova seafront (£92K)

**CATEGORY 3 (This list is not complete)**

Rhuddlan Library  
Rhuddlan highways signs  
Rhuddlan dropped kerbs  
Gwas Gee, Denbigh  
Cilmedw, Llangollen  
Wernfrwdd, Llangollen  
Mile End Mill, Llangollen

## TAP Projects Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Score 2	Score 1	Score 0
Likely to start	Within 6 months of 1 October 2015	Within 12 months	Over 12 months
Future revenue implications	Future revenue implications have been fully considered and are budgeted for	Future revenue implications have had some consideration but insufficient budget provision has been made	Future revenue implications have not been considered or budgeted for
Delivery Confidence	Full confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome	Limited confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome	No confidence in the capacity and capability of the project delivery organisation to deliver and manage the outcome
Budget	Current budget estimates are below the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan	Current budget estimates are the same as the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan	Current budget estimates exceed the original estimates detailed in the Town Plan
Cost/Benefit	Project offers good value for money in terms of cost/benefit	Project offers some value for money in terms of cost/benefit	Project offers poor value for money in terms of cost/benefit
External Funding	Project levers 50% external funding	Project levers between 20% and 50% external funding	Project levers less than 20% external funding
Community Need	Clear and significant evidence of community <u>need</u> for project	Some evidence of community need	No evidence of community need
Clear benefits	Benefits of the project are clear and well articulated	Limited benefits have been identified	No clear benefits have been identified
Local benefit	Some evidenced benefit to a wide range of local residents	Some evidenced benefit to "communities of need" (eg sports club, local interest group)	No evidence of significant local benefit
Corporate Priority	Clear and direct link to corporate priority	Some link/contribution to corporate priority	No link/contribution to corporate priority

## TAP Unstarted Projects Re-assessment – Results

Project	Assessment Score	Comment
Pre-school provision, Llangollen (£30K)	17/20	<b>Recommend to proceed.</b> Spend of up to £30k approved. Any underspend to be returned to TAP budget. Potential for external funding to be explored
Llantysilio burial ground extension (£0.5K)		<b>Proceed, already started</b>
Meliden Goods Shed (£50K)	17/20	<b>Recommend to proceed.</b> Community Group to be aware that DCC will not pick up any revenue costs
Marsh Road pavement, Rhuddlan (£25K)	13/20	<b>Recommend not to proceed.</b> Consideration of need for footpath to be included in development brief for Rhuddlan triangle site as a whole
Interpretation of sculptures, Rhuddlan (£1.2k)		<b>Proceed, already started</b>
Ditched defences, Rhuddlan (£0.8k)		<b>Proceed, already started</b>
Eyesore properties, Dyserth (£38K)		<b>Withdrawn.</b> Funding not now needed. Work appears to be progressing with property owners. Suggest overall allocation for eyesore sites across the County is considered.
Gateway Improvements, Rhyl (£50K)	17/20	<b>Recommend to proceed</b> Town Council will pick up revenue maintenance costs
Orientation & Signage Strategy, Rhyl (£50K)	17/20	<b>Recommend to proceed</b>
Trefnant Yellow Lines ((£2K)	5/20	<b>Recommend not to proceed</b> Limited evidence of need or benefit.
Cefn Meiriadog Layby (£5K)	3/5	<b>Recommend not to proceed</b> Limited evidence of need or benefit
Bodelwyddan finger posts (£4K)	16/20	<b>Recommend to proceed</b> Town Council to be approached to seek contribution to costs
IPP Phase 2, Corwen (£40k) <sup>1</sup>	19/20	<b>Recommend to proceed</b> Significant external funding levered in through project

## APPENDIX 4

Project	Assessment Score	Comment
Lon Garn footpath, Henllan (£85K)		<b>Withdrawn</b>
Denbigh Golf Club footpath (£85K)	4/20	<b>Recommend not to proceed</b> Limited information available on which to assess proposal. Concerns about cost and ability to deliver
Aberwheeler footpath (£20k)	8/20	<b>Recommend not to proceed</b> Costs have increased leading to concerns about value for money. Deliverability also of concern
Strategic employment sites, Denbigh (£30K)		<b>Proceed, already started</b>
Public Realm Improvements – Nova (£92K)	19/20	<b>Recommend to proceed</b> Supports larger Council project. MAG have reprioritised other spend. Town Council will also make contribution.

### Notes:

1. The Corwen Ideas, People & Places Phase 2 grant application to Arts Council Wales was unsuccessful. Funding provisionally from the Town & Area Plan budget (£40k) will be added to the unallocated balance.