

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 26 September 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance, and Strategic Assets / Alan Smith, Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation

Report Author: Nicola Kneale, Strategic Planning Team Manager

Title: **Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022**

1. **What is the report about?**
Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022
2. **What is the reason for making this report?**
To seek approval from Cabinet on this near-final draft (Appendix A) so that it can be submitted to, and recommended for adoption by, County Council on 17 October 2017.
3. **What are the Recommendations?**
That Cabinet approves this near-final draft so that it can be submitted to, and recommended for adoption by, County Council on 17 October 2017 subject to:
 - a. Final refinement of wording, and
 - b. Inclusion of a supporting financial plan.
- 3.1 That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix B) as part of its consideration.
4. **Report details**
- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement that Local Authorities publish an Improvement Plan, and also Well-being Objectives. Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2017-2022 serves both of these functions, but it's a vital document for us for a number of additional reasons:
 - a. Agreeing and articulating our vision and ambition in this way helps us communicate.
 - b. The corporate leadership that ensues as a result of having a Corporate Plan enables us to tackle cross-cutting goals, e.g. retaining young people.
- 4.2 The criteria for what makes a Priority is "something new that will make a significant difference to our residents". The key pledges we've committed to achieve in this plan are important because they either:
 - a. Require significant capital / revenue funding: e.g. roads and new schools (but not everything requires extra funding);

- b. Require significant cultural / organisational change: e.g. the way we engage with communities, and/or
- c. Will impact across the whole county: e.g. 1000+ extra homes.

4.3 All other activity will be covered in our Corporate Portfolio.

4.4 The priorities outlined in this Corporate Plan have been arrived at via a thorough and clear process of evidence-gathering and analysis (Well-being Assessment) and in-depth consultation with our communities (County Conversation).

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

This decision is a key step in establishing the Corporate Priorities for the Council term 2017-2022, as it recommends endorsement of this draft set of priorities.

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

The immediate and direct impact of this decision is - in itself - cost neutral, but a financial strategy for delivering the Corporate Plan will be developed for inclusion in the final document, and a governance structure will be established in order to drive and monitor progress against the priorities.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report

This impact assessment considers the impact of our approach and proposal to developing the next corporate plan. We have completed phases 1 and 2 of our county conversation and we have worked with the new Council to shape 5 priorities and the ambition for each.

Our Sustainable Development score tells us there is more scope to consider the relationship between the LDP (current and proposed, when it is developed) and the draft housing priority. We are confident the new corporate plan will deliver a plan for community resilience through, in part, maximising our assets. However, we feel that the focus of the draft priorities is over the medium term. We need to ensure communities and stakeholders have continued opportunity to be involved in the development of the plan, and indeed in its implementation.

The proposed priorities are focussed on community resilience and will prompt alternative approaches to prevent problems from occurring.

Overall the impact on the 7 well-being goals is largely positive. We need more information to determine the impact on a more equal Wales, and crucially, what we can do to maximise a positive impact for people with protected characteristics. There are potentially negative consequences on some protected characteristics and these could be addressed and managed to avoid them occurring. We have found there to be a neutral impact on Welsh language and culture, but note that the Welsh Language Strategy underpins all that we do.

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

- 8.1 Much consultation has been carried out in order to – initially - establish the priorities, and then to test whether our interpretation of people’s views on ‘what should be a priority’ was correct. Consultees included the general public, partners, staff, Members, and Town & Community Councillors.
- 8.2 Once priorities were drafted, a series of workshops were held with staff from Denbighshire County Council and relevant partner organisations to generate ideas for how the priorities should be addressed.
- 8.3 The ideas that were generated have been developed with a cross-party group of Members with the support of some officers too, in order to reach consensus that the pledges to which we’ve committed are sufficiently ambitious but also realistic.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

A supporting Financial Plan will be included as part of the Corporate Plan document itself once it’s submitted to Council.

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

There are no obvious risks that are anticipated if we are successful in delivering these priorities.

There will be risks that could jeopardise delivery, and these will be considered and managed at programme board level once the Plan moves to its delivery phase.

11. Power to make the Decision

Wales Programme for Government 2009
Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015