



Denbighshire County Council

Corporate Plan 2017-2022

Working together for the future of Denbighshire

This document is also available in Welsh, and maybe available in other formats on request.

Language Signpost

Os oes angen mwy o wybodaeth arnoch, gofynnwch i rywun yr ydych yn eu hadnabod sydd yn siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg ffonio 01824 706291

If you need further information, please ask someone you know who speaks English or Welsh to telephone 01824 706291

Jeżeli potrzebują państwo dalszych informacji, proszę poprosić kogoś, kto mówi po angielsku lub walijsku żeby zadzwonił pod numer 01824 706291

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إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مزيد من المعلومات ، يرجى الطلب من شخص ما تعرف من يتحدث الإنجليزية أو الويلزية الهاتف 01824706291

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Denbighshire County Council's Priorities for 2017-2022:

1

Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs

2

Communities are connected and have access to goods and services locally, online or through good transport links

3

The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience

4

The environment is attractive and protected, supporting well-being and economic prosperity

5

Younger people want to live and work here, and have the skills to do so

Welcome to the Council's 2017-2022 Corporate Plan

When we published our last Corporate Plan we had promised that it would make a significant and lasting difference to the people and communities of Denbighshire. Over the lifetime of that Corporate Plan we delivered over £200m of investment in improving our schools, leisure and library facilities, roads and flood defences. We achieved this while maintaining our position as one of the highest performing councils in Wales and protecting front-line services from the cuts to local authority budgets. We are now ready to turn that track record of delivery to our new Corporate Plan: 'Working together for Denbighshire's future'.

The overall ambition of this Plan is to ensure that Denbighshire is a place where residents and businesses are well connected and resilient; where young people have opportunities for affordable housing and acquire skills and jobs to lead successful and fulfilling lives and where we all enjoy an attractive and protected environment. Like the last plan, this Corporate Plan contains specific actions that will be delivered over five years but, perhaps even more importantly, these actions are designed to have an impact beyond the next five years with future generations in mind.

Fully implementing this plan would require an additional £135m of investment. At a time of continuing reductions in budgets this is an ambitious amount, but we believe ambition is important. Our ability to attract funding, pool resources with partners and harness the capacity within our communities will give us a good chance of success.

We recognise that the council must work closely with our partners and wider community and that is why the priorities in this Corporate Plan have been directly derived from our County Conversation exercise and consultation with partners. Denbighshire strongly believes in developing a single public service culture, informed by strongly active communities. We will, therefore, actively look at regional and sub-regional solutions and establish a permanent 'Citizens Panel' which will play a key role in both monitoring and helping to steer the implementation of the plan.

Denbighshire, like all local authorities, will continue to face challenges, most notably reducing budgets. We will almost certainly have to take some difficult decisions, including possibly having to cut things that we would rather continue. But that will not stifle our vision of being an excellent council, working with our partners and communities to make a lasting difference for generations to come. This Corporate Plan aims to help achieve that ambition.



Hugh H Evans

Hugh H Evans, OBE
Leader of the Council



Dr Mohammed Mehmet

Dr Mohammed Mehmet
Chief Executive

FINANCE INFO**

Housing:

Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs

It is recognised that there is a need to ensure housing is available to meet the needs of Denbighshire residents and that this is an important factor in retaining or attracting young people to live in the area. During the last Corporate Plan, we made a commitment to develop housing availability and we want to continue and expand on those successes over the course of this new Corporate Plan.

To achieve this we will:

- Support the development of 1000 more homes in Denbighshire by 2022:
 - 170 of these will be Council homes
 - 260 of these will be affordable homes provided by private developers and RSLs
- Provide more Extra Care housing in Denbigh and Ruthin.
- Deliver additional specialist housing to support people with learning disabilities and low level support needs.
- Support young people to access suitable homes they can afford.
- **TBC Over the lifetime of the plan we will bring back XX empty homes into use (i.e. on average XX per year).**

If we are successful we expect to see:

- A wide range of accommodation available to suit different needs.
- Fewer people in residential care homes.
- More people living in their own homes for longer (including people with support needs).
- More young people (up to the age of 35) able to afford housing in Denbighshire.
- More empty dwellings returned to occupation.



Connected Communities:

Communities are connected and have access to goods and services locally, online and through good transport links

Denbighshire understands that access to goods and services is key to maintaining people's independence. However, depending on where you live, this is not always easy. During the course of this new Corporate Plan Denbighshire will make it a priority to ensure that communities throughout the county are connected and have access to the goods and services they need.

To achieve this we will:

- Better enable people to travel to work, education and services.
- Invest in roads and bridges to maintain a viable, sustainable infrastructure.
- Make superfast broadband and mobile networks available to everyone.
- Ensure frequently-requested Council information and complex services that can be provided online will be easy to access.
- Target those most likely to be digitally excluded so they have the skills and means to use digital services.
- Improve infrastructure to make it easier to stage events.

If we are successful we expect to see:

- Improved travel connectivity across the county
- County-wide superfast broadband and mobile networks, including 4G.
- An increased proportion of Council transactions taking place online.
- All residents skilled and confident in accessing goods and services online.



Resilient Communities:

The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience



In Denbighshire we aim to promote people's health & well-being and encourage them to remain as independent as possible. In order to do this, we need to work with everyone in the community, to ensure that there are strong support networks in place and ensure people have more involvement in decisions affecting their future well-being. At the same time, we will continue to make sure that people at risk of abuse or exploitation are safeguarded.

To achieve this we will:

- Support people to plan and shape their communities.
- Provide information that supports people's independence and resilience that is easily accessible.
- Ensure people are involved in shaping and improving services.
- Act to reduce Domestic Abuse
- Ensure all carers in Denbighshire are well supported.
- Ensure adults and older people who need health and social care in Denbighshire will experience a seamless service.



If we are successful we expect to see:

- Thriving community groups.
- People will be more resilient and independent.
- Residents feeling informed and empowered to influence services.
- Everyone feeling safe in their community.
- People able to live in their own homes for longer.
- Vulnerable people being supported by their community.



Environment:

Attractive and protected, supporting well-being and economic prosperity

Denbighshire aims to ensure that the environment is both attractive and protected, but also supports community well-being and economic prosperity. To achieve this we will reduce our carbon impact and increase the use of renewables throughout the county. We also plan to increase the biodiversity value of the county by protecting vulnerable species & habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and people who live and visit Denbighshire. Alongside this, Denbighshire aims to raise the profile of the county as a place to hold outdoor events that capitalise on our unique environment.

To achieve this we will:

- Reduce carbon emissions from Council assets by at least 15% by 2022.
- Improve the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock.
- Increase renewable energy provision across the county, and double the amount of energy that the Council uses from renewable sources.
- Increase the biodiversity quality of important habitats and species across the county.
- Reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire.
- Raise the profile of the county as a location to visit, in order to capitalise on economic potential.

If we are successful we expect to see:

- Improvements in existing and acquired Council housing energy ratings, achieving an 'Excellent' energy rating for all new builds.
- Double the amount of energy we use in our council buildings that comes from renewable sources.
- Growing numbers of black grouse, little terns, adders, sand lizards & bees.
- 18,000 more trees across Rhyl and Denbigh.
- A reduction in the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire.
- An increase in the value of tourism spend in the county.



Young People:

A place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so

We want Denbighshire to be a place where young people can and want to flourish. To do this there must be excellent education provision working alongside a strong employment offer for all. We will work with our partners, schools and businesses to make this happen.

To achieve this we will:

- See that every child achieving the expected standard at the end of primary school (Level 4, Key Stage 2) will achieve 5 GCSEs A*-C (Level 2 Key Stage 4), including English or Welsh (1st language) and Maths, by the end of secondary school.
- Continue to modernise schools via the 21st Century Schools programme.
- Help young people to develop practical 'life skills' and behaviours that contribute to good health and well-being.
- Deliver support for parents that is appropriate and accessible to give our children the best start.
- Provide young people with effective career advice and mentoring.
- Offer young people the opportunity to develop skills for life and work through volunteering opportunities and meaningful work experience.
- Develop greater employment opportunities for younger people.

If we are successful we expect to see:

- All young people being supported to achieve their potential.
- Modern school facilities that further enhance pupils' learning.
- Young people are resilient and have the right skills to prosper.
- Parents can give their children the best start in life, to grow into independent and fulfilled adults.
- Young people make the right choices to prepare them for the work that they want to do, and feel confident and well-supported to enter employment.
- Quality mentoring and work opportunities to help further develop skills.
- An employment offer that appeals to young people and matches their skills.



Key principles in all that we do

Our Equalities Commitment

Our Corporate Plan adopts an approach that we believe will equip the council to deliver significant progress for all, by reducing current inequalities. The principles of equality are embedded throughout the council's functions and services.

During the lifetime of this plan and beyond, we will ensure that all new projects and areas of work will:

- **Engage, where appropriate, with groups that represent people with protected characteristics.**
- **Consider limitations to physical access, in particular with new builds, but also in regards to access to information and services.**
- **Consider the appropriateness of the facilities that we have available within the council's estate for use by those people with protected characteristics.**
- **Engage, challenge and, where possible, remove barriers to opportunities (including work) for those with protected characteristics.**
- **Condemn hate related bullying and harassment.**



Working to ensure that the Welsh Language thrives in Denbighshire

We have drawn up our vision for the Welsh Language:

- **Denbighshire is a predominantly bilingual county with a rich culture and heritage. We are proud of this and want this pride to be reflected in our day to day interaction with communities, residents and with our staff.**
- **We are committed to ensuring that the principles of the Welsh Language Standards underpin the way we deliver services to the public; we want people to be able to access services through the language of their choice naturally, at all stages of their lives.**
- **We want to enhance the bilingual culture and ethos of the organisation, providing training and social opportunities for our staff to work in Welsh and increase their confidence in using the language in the workplace.**
- **We want to work with partners and the wider communities to ensure that Welsh is a thriving language in Denbighshire.**
- **We have an ambition to be sector leaders in the development of the Welsh Language in Wales**



County Conversation

How the plan was developed

During the summer of 2016, Denbighshire County Council asked people about their long-term, future aspirations for their communities. This coupled with statistics enabled us to draft a list of what Denbighshire residents thought was important. At the end of 2016, we then asked people of Denbighshire to choose the level of importance for each aspiration, with over 1500 responses received. Following the feedback received over phase 1 and 2 of the County Conversation, we were then able to identify priorities for Denbighshire going forward.



Discussions then took place over summer 2017 with staff and colleagues from other organisations (including Health, North Wales Fire & Rescue, Natural Resources Wales) to generate actions under each priority, before presenting the new proposed priorities to the Elected Members of Denbighshire. These priorities and actions were then adopted by the Council and formed the basis of Denbighshire's 2017-2022 Corporate Plan.

Further Consultation & Monitoring

We will continue the County Conversation throughout the life time of this Corporate Plan through Annual Reporting and explaining what we expect to deliver during each year to support our priorities.

In order to contribute to the debate, make comments or suggestions, or to request further information, please feel free to contact the Strategic Planning & Performance Team:



Email: strategicplanningteam@denbighshire.gov.uk



Phone: 01824 706291 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm)



Write to us: Strategic Planning & Performance Team, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ



Online: [short url address??](#)



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