

**Working together
for the future of
Denbighshire**

**Corporate Plan
2017-2022**

Appendix 1 – Summary Corporate Performance Report

QUARTER 2 (July-September), 2018-19

This document provides a SUMMARY of performance against the council's corporate priorities at the end of quarter 2, 2018-19

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INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

This performance report looks at the Corporate Plan 2017-22. It provides an evidence-based assessment of the current position. The report contains a summary of the key issues identified.

OVERALL CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Of the five priorities in this Corporate Plan, at the end of September 2018 two remained a 'priority for improvement' in terms of current performance: Resilient Communities and Young People. The remaining three priorities continued to be at an 'acceptable' level: Housing, Connected Communities and Environment. This is to be expected at this early stage in the plan, but progress with designing and implementing solutions is developing well across all five priorities. A comprehensive forward work plan is in place until summer 2019.

Resources for all projects have been identified, either from within services or by monies made available via a Corporate Plan fund. Management of such finances will be reported on regularly through both the programme boards and financial reports to Cabinet.

During quarterly updates to Performance Scrutiny the message has been reiterated that the Committee may wish to invite Programme Board representatives to a future meeting to discuss the Boards' work, remit and the projects they are responsible for delivering, as a means of determining key areas for the Committee to focus on in future. This demonstrates that the governance arrangements are effective too, all of which should be conducive to successful delivery of the overall Plan.

The delivery of the Corporate Plan is via a programme management methodology. At the end of September 2018 all five programmes were progressing at a 'good' level. Two Programme Boards have been established and continue to work with County Council services, programmes and projects which contribute to the overall ambition of the Corporate Plan priorities, and principles of equality & diversity and support for the Welsh language.

Under the Local Government Measure, the Wales Audit Office (WAO) annually reviews the Council's progress towards meeting its objectives and its prospects for continuing to improve in the year ahead. For the year 2017-18, the WAO has concluded overall that: *'The Council continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement' and that: 'Having made significant progress in delivering its current vision, the Council is developing an updated plan to describe its vision and key ambitions for the future'*. The WAO's review of the Council's progress is an important part of understanding our progress towards delivering our Corporate Priorities.

OUTCOME & PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

This is the summary position for each priority in the Corporate Plan as at the end of Quarter 2 (September, 30th, 2018).

For each priority there are two pieces of commentary:

- *Performance Status* provides narrative and an assessment of what the indicators tell us about our communities at present;
- *Programme Progress* sections outline how projects identified in support of each priority are developing.

The *Performance Status* gives an indication about how things are in our communities at present. Having recognised these are areas in which we want to improve during the life of this Corporate Plan, we wouldn't expect to be performing well in relation to these indicators at the present time.

The Programme of work we have in place to address these indicators should have a positive impact over time, so progress in this area is important. The *Programme Progress* status for each priority reflects this. The status will inform readers of whether the projects are being delivered on time, to cost, and to quality. This is an important area for Scrutiny to consider.

It's possible to have a poor *Performance Status* but a strong *Programme Progress* status. As we progress towards the completion of this Plan, we'd anticipate that both would match positively (i.e. both would be at least 'Good').

CORPORATE PLAN 2017-2022

		Performance Status	Programme Progress Status
<u>Priority :</u>	Housing: Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD
<u>Priority :</u>	Connected Communities: Communities are connected and have access to goods and services locally, online and through good transport links	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD
<u>Priority :</u>	Resilient Communities: The council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience	PRIORITY FOR IMPROVEMENT	GOOD
<u>Priority :</u>	Environment: Attractive and protected, supporting well-being and economic prosperity	ACCEPTABLE	GOOD
<u>Priority :</u>	Young People: A place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so	PRIORITY FOR IMPROVEMENT	GOOD

KEY

Each outcome contains a number of indicators, performance measures, and improvement activities. This content is used to determine how good the current position of the council is, which is based on contextual data to enable a more robust understanding of our performance.

THE COLOURS

Colour	Action Status	Measure Status
Green	On Target	Excellent
Yellow	Experiencing Obstacles	Good
Orange	At Risk	Acceptable
Red	Compromised	Priority for Improvement
Blue	Completed	N/A
Grey	No data	No data/count only/unknown

THE EVALUATION

- The default methodology for performance evaluation is where the upper quartile reflects the transition to Excellent, and the Wales median reflects the transition to a Priority for Improvement.
- The default position for activity reporting is documented in the project management methodology, summarised above (Action Status).

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 to expand on those successes over the course of this new Corporate Plan.

Performance Status: Acceptable

Overall our performance is 'acceptable'.

We know that a substantial number of people in Denbighshire are unable to afford market rent or to purchase a home. In response to this a new Affordable Housing Register to help people secure their own home has been launched: Tai Teg. This register offers an opportunity to access a range of opportunities through new builds and vacancies within existing housing for people who are employed but who cannot afford market housing. This is a partnership project being led by Grŵp Cynefin with North Wales local authorities (including Denbighshire) and other Housing Associations. (Note, Tai Teg does not include the traditional Council or Housing Association properties for rent, which are dealt with through SARTH, the single common housing register in Denbighshire.) For details of support available and eligibility criteria, please see www.taiteg.org.uk

Tai Teg deals with all Intermediate & Low Cost Home Ownership (Shared Equity) properties in Denbighshire and across North Wales. Over 250 dwellings of this tenure have been developed in the County since 2004. Tai Teg was re-launched at the end of May 2018 following a review of the registration process, the launch of a new website and branding refresh. Prior to the relaunch there were 244 people registered as interested in Affordable Home Ownership and 118 applicants for Intermediate Rental (there may be some double counting as applicants can register for both).

Applicants were recently required to re-register on Tai Teg, to ensure that all the data was up to date and relevant as per GDPR. As of October 2018 there are now 220 registered users on Tai Teg. 131 applicants have requested Affordable Home Ownership and 141 applicants have registered an interest in Intermediate Rental (again applicants can register for both). There have been five successful applications for the 'Rent to Own' scheme and one successful purchase of

an open market property through the 'Homebuy' scheme so far this year. It's also worth noting that the largest user group for Tai Teg is the 25-34 age category, which demonstrates that young adults needing housing are engaging with the website.

As at 30 September 2018, the number of applicants on the single common housing register in Denbighshire (SARTH) was 1,169 The SARTH is for those who are likely to be eligible for social housing.

A total of 47 Disabled Facilities Grants were delivered (April – September 2018), enabling people to better maintain their independence and continue to live safely in their own homes.

Programme Progress: Good

Projects that are currently being scoped out include an additional supply of private sector homes, and also supporting young people to access suitable and affordable homes.

There are two live projects for the provision of Extra Care Housing:

- Denbigh Extra Care Housing Project intends to develop a supported housing village of 71 units, catering for older people and adults with complex disabilities by 2020. This project remained 'on target', during the period
- The extra 30 units in the Ruthin Extra Care Housing, Phase 2 has been 'experiencing obstacles' due to timescales and milestones being estimates and there has been slippage in terms of time. The delivery confidence, however, remains reasonably high and regular meetings continue to be held.

The project 'Bringing 500 empty properties back into use' has now set up a Project Team who will be developing a business case to be presented to the Young People & Housing Board in autumn 2018. The approach will be delivered through developing an Empty Homes Delivery Plan, to include actions such as:

- Negotiating purchases, enforcement action, compulsory purchase order (CPO) and enforced sale to take a proactive approach to address the most problematic empty homes.
- Developing a publicity action plan to raise awareness of empty homes and publicise success stories whenever possible
- Reviewing the advice pack for landlords and owners

45 of the 260 additional affordable homes we aim to bring forward have been delivered by working with RSLs and the private sector. Currently seven schemes are fully or partially funded through the Social Housing Grant Programme Delivery Plan and work has started on site. These schemes will provide 132 homes in the next three years. A further 147 units are part of schemes that are already approved, currently being drawn up, or that will be achieved through planning obligation requirements on several larger developments.

Work has begun on the 170 council homes through renovation of the former HMO at 40 Brighton Road in Rhyl and demolition of the former Pennant Flats in Denbigh. Planning applications were also submitted for the developments at The Dell in Prestatyn and the site of the former Pennant Flats in Denbigh.

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.

Performance Status: Acceptable

Overall our performance is 'acceptable'.

As at May 2018, the percentage of 4G coverage on A and B roads in Denbighshire had improved from 33.65% to 43.08%; the same as the Wales average (43%). Notwithstanding this improvement, performance is still considered to be "Red: Priority for Improvement". (Please note Ofcom has restated UK and constituent nations' coverage figures provided previously to include corrections to Vodafone's 4G data. A more complete restatement of historic mobile coverage levels will be provided in Ofcom's annual 2018 Connected Nations report, which will be published at the end of 2018.)

Our response to the percentage of damaged roads and pavements made safe within target time slightly increased to an overall 98.11%, between July and September 2018. Of the 265 total for the period, 260 were made safe within timescale.

Programme Progress: Good

A Business Case was presented to the Board in September for the Project to 'make superfast broadband and mobile networks available to everyone'. This project supports the Connected Communities priority and is about identifying and supporting where possible and practical the development of our infrastructure to achieve county-wide superfast broadband and mobile networks, including 4G and 5G. The project will be made up of a number of workstreams that address different elements of the issues present within this context.

The Digital Access Points project has been rejected and has been closed. The project was scrutinised by our Digital Futures Board who agreed there was low confidence in the project's ability to deliver lasting change (i.e. better infrastructure and less digital exclusion). This demonstrates our commitment to test all projects using robust project and programme methodology to ensure we invest in projects that promise clear and deliverable benefits and value for money. A closure report was submitted to the Communities and Environment Programme Board in September 2018.

A business case for the proposed project to "Improve infrastructure to make it easier to stage events" will be submitted for approval to the Programme Board in October 2018. Further work took place over the summer to define the scope of the project. The project, if approved, will need to involve partners and communities to ensure the right community-based event infrastructure investments are made in the right places.

Over the coming months further collaborative work with internal and external partners will be undertaken, and multi-agency groups will be taking forward Travel and Digital Exclusion projects. Workshops took place in September 2018 to agree the scope.

The business case for the proposed project to "Ensure Council information and services will be accessible online where possible" (which is likely to aim to increase online transactions, as discussed above) will be submitted to the Communities and Environment Programme Board in January 2019.

Resilient Communities: The council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience



In Denbighshire we aim to promote people's health and 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.

Performance Status: Priority for Improvement

Although a proportion of the indicators for this priority are either counts or results of the Residents' Survey 2018, there are some important indicators where there is much to achieve before performance will be deemed Acceptable. Therefore the status at present remains a 'Priority for Improvement'.

The average length of time adults (aged 65+) are supported in residential care homes slightly decreased in this period to a total of 1,026 days, but remains a 'priority for improvement'. We acknowledge that it is highly unlikely that we will be able to reach the 'acceptable' Welsh median level of no more than 800 days in the next three years.

The Dewis Cymru website was developed by Data Cymru on behalf of the 22 local authorities in Wales, with a view to being one key resource directory for well-being provision in Wales. To support this particular Corporate Priority for a resilient community, more work is required to ensure we have a consistent approach to providing access to information. A Group has been convened to look at working together to enhance Dewis Cymru and to use this as our focal point for providing information (outside of www.denbighshire.gov.uk). A Project Brief will be taken to the Corporate Plan Programme Board (Communities and Environment) in March 2019; the aim of this project will be to embed use of this resource throughout the Council and with our partners, to ensure it is adopted as the vehicle to publish information moving forward. From figures available from the British Red Cross we note there has been a reduction from 454 to 441 in the number of resources listed for Denbighshire on Dewis Cymru.

Domestic abuse is a community safety issue that has negative implications not just on its direct impact on victims but also (and particularly) affected children, often triggering issues of poverty and adverse childhood experiences that have repercussions into adulthood. There has been an increase from 348 to 408 recorded incidents in the figures compared to April–June 2018. There was an annual increase of 52% from the 268 incidents reported at the same time last year. This is largely attributed to a recent national focus on crime-recording integrity, which has led to changes in the recording of victim-based crime. Previously, if police attended an incident it would only be recorded as one incident, even if multiple offences may have taken place. Now, multiple offences can be attributed to one incident, if relevant. As a result, reports of Domestic Crime being identified in Conwy and Denbighshire (and regionally) continue to increase. We can report that the number of repeat offenders of domestic abuse has fallen in both Denbighshire and Conwy (repeat offenders are people who have committed a domestic abuse offence on three or more occasions in 12 months).

It's important to note that many of the projects under this priority put in place preventative measures that should have a positive effect on the trends of these indicators. However, they are influencing and enabling in their nature (rather than delivering tangible outputs), and we must be conscious that the assumptions we've made could pose a risk to our achieving our goals (e.g. we assume that if advice is made available online our residents and/or those supporting them will access and follow this advice). For these cases it will be important to follow-up post-project implementation to check the impact of our interventions.

Programme Progress: Good

The Community Planning & Development Resource Project is now completed and closed, with functions now considered as business as usual, and many community planning activities in progress throughout the county. A Community Resilience event is being arranged for County and Town & Community Councillors in late October to showcase the support available throughout the county.

Carers play a pivotal role in supporting vulnerable people to live at home. We have asked carers in Denbighshire to have their say on what support would help them and how support can be improved (survey closed end August 2018) and the findings from the survey will inform a cross-sector group who will now develop the business case for the Supporting Carers Project, which is due at the Communities & Environment board in autumn 2018.

A further cross-sector group will be brought together to develop the business case 'Acting to reduce Domestic Abuse in Denbighshire' within the context of the North Wales Strategy to tackle Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The project purpose is to translate the North Wales Strategy into a workable, achievable local action plan for Denbighshire. A business case will be brought to the board in May 2019.

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 and 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.

Performance Status: Acceptable

Overall our performance is 'acceptable'.

2,200 native broadleaved trees will be planted from November 2018 through to February 2019. When choosing the mix consideration has to be given to its windswept coastal location and difficult ground conditions – a legacy of Glan Morfa being a former landfill site. Countryside Services have mitigated against these negative factors and have chosen a broad variety of trees that will provide colour, a nesting habitat, food source and which will completely transform what was previously a derelict landscape. Species include Oak, Silver Birch, Cherry, Hazel, Alder, Field Maple, Rowan, Hawthorn and three varieties of Willow. Children were encouraged to explore the great outdoors during a countryside event at Glan Morfa, Rhyl and celebrated the launch of the 'PLANT' scheme in September. The event 'Wild Rhyl' was organised by Rhyl Town Council and Denbighshire Countryside Services.

Time spent outdoors in nature is known to be beneficial to mental and physical health. A Biodiversity Officer has been appointed, whose role will be to ensure key staff (planning officers, etc.) are make informed decisions about biodiversity in Denbighshire, and to engage residents in activities and projects that will provide many opportunities for local residents to improve their wellbeing. Access to COFNOD - the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Wales data - is also important as it provides information on the location of protected species so that we can target our conservation work. This data will enable us to ensure that important sites, habitats, and

species are considered appropriately during project design and development. This information is also important in the local development plan and the assessment of planning applications.

Seasonal viewing structures and a visitor centre were opened in July at the UK's largest little tern colony on Gronant beach, which is managed by Denbighshire County Council. The structures are put up when the terns are nesting, offering the public closer views of the birds without disturbing them. The visitor centre offers shelter in bad weather along with reference material, images beamed live from nests and a space to learn more about the project. Gronant is the only little tern breeding colony in Wales and contributes more than 10% of the entire UK breeding population. The birds come to the UK every year from West Africa to breed in Gronant. This year a record 171 pairs of little tern raised a total of 192 young, and we increased our efforts to collect scientific information on the terns, and had three students from Bangor University collecting data for their final year dissertations.

With the exception of monitoring surveys, no works relating to sand lizards were undertaken in this period, as this is a sub optimal time of year to work in this habitat. The results of the surveys are still being collated, but the sand patches created earlier in the year are well established, and the dunes at Gronant represent increasingly suitable habitat for sand lizards. Both an adult male and an adult female were recorded on site in 2018 for the first time since 2014. There was evidence of potential breeding on site, with records of potential nesting tunnels recorded in the dunes.

Following the black grouse surveys undertaken at Llantysilio on April 20th the site was devastated by a fire that burnt for four weeks starting in July at the height of this summer's heatwave. Drone surveys carried out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have shown the extent of a wildfire. Mynydd Llantysilio is common land. It is part of the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Initial surveys reveal that 247 hectares (the size of about 247 rugby pitches) has been burnt and there is little vegetation left in the area. The mountain is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its heather moorland habitats and upland breeding birds and is home to rare birds like the black grouse and the curlew. It also provides grazing areas for local farmers and is popular with walkers.

NRW worked with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) and Denbighshire Countryside Services to cut back vegetation and create fire breaks to try to stop the fire spreading. It is anticipated that some heathland plants will grow back from roots that have survived the fire or from the seeds. However, the peatland areas are likely to take much longer to re-vegetate and some areas may not recover naturally.

During the autumn, NRW will work with partners to fully assess the damage and plan what needs to be done to try to restore the mountain to its former glory. NRW will also be working with the other organisations involved to carry out a review of their response. This considerable loss of habitat is expected to have a negative impact on black grouse numbers in Denbighshire, with breeding success for 2018 also expected to be reduced.

The adder population we monitor at Loggerheads is currently being surveyed. A small number of juvenile adders have been recorded this year, which is a good sign, but it will be several years until these are sufficiently developed to have young. For this reason the population remains very vulnerable. Work has begun to identify and create a new Roadside Nature Reserve and subsequent management plan at Boncyn Foel Bach, Hiraethog, to protect adders. This will be the first Roadside Nature Reserve in the county specifically set up to protect an animal rather than a plant community or species.

We have continued to progress with our Bee Friendly work. We have developed a project funded through our ESD grant to collect wildflower seeds from the verges. The seeds were sent to the woodland skills centre in Bodfari, who are germinating them at their facility, and will provide us with the plug plants that will be given to communities and community groups who wish to develop their own Bee Friendly site. This has the advantage of being able to offer wildflowers with a local provenance, rather than introducing wildflowers from further afield with a different genetic makeup. We are also due to purchase a herbicide-free weed control device which uses heat and an organic foam made from olive oil to kill plants. The foam is non-toxic and will enable the Council to reduce the amount of herbicides it uses to control unwanted growth of plants and non-native invasive weeds. This machine is the first of its kind in Wales, and will help us to comply with our 'Bee Friendly' obligations.

The economic benefit of tourism in Denbighshire is continuing to grow. The latest STEAM economic impact figures published in September 2018 show that in 2017 tourism brought £490.35million into the local economy, an increase of 2.3% on 2016, and of 70% since 2007. Last year tourism supported 6,231 jobs in Denbighshire, while 5.93m people visited the county - an increase of 25% since 2007 - for a total of 11.58m days. The number of visitors to the coast increased to 3.16m, as did the number of visitor days spent (6.92m) and the number of staying visitors (900,000). In total last year there were 1.5m staying visitors who contributed a total of £331.46m to the economy. The Council continues to support tourism via strong partnership working in North Wales to capitalise on the growing tourism market.

The Council also runs projects to upskill staff working in tourism-related businesses to improve the visitor experience, creates new tourism leaflets and promotional films to reach wider audiences, as well supporting key events and festivals such as Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

The total number of Council homes in Denbighshire in 2017 was 3,385. During 2017/18 a total of 957 (28%) council surveyed properties were recorded as achieving an energy rating of C or above. This will be the baseline for the project, which aims to achieve 100% by the end of this corporate plan.

Programme Progress: Good

100% of all live projects are 'on target', these being:

- East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme
- PLANT Project : Urban Tree Planting
- Improving biodiversity in Denbighshire

The East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme continues to progress well and remains 'on target'. The Council, supported by the Welsh Government's Coastal Risk Management Programme, has drawn up plans to install rock armouring and increase the height of the sea wall along the promenade between Splash Point and the slipway adjacent to Rhyl Golf Club. Construction is expected to take 18 months and start during 2019, subject to planning permission, other necessary consents being granted and funding agreement. Residents will have the chance to view the plans and comment on them at drop-in sessions to be held in October and November 2018. The rock armouring is being designed to dissipate the energy from storm waves so the impact on the new wall will be substantially reduced and significantly decrease the risk of flooding over the next 100 years. The design life of the scheme also includes allowances for the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. The secondary protection from the inshore walls and flood gates - along with the storm water storage and release facilities at Rhyl Golf Club - will remain to provide another layer of protection for this piece of coastline.

Highlight Reports outlining the progress and plans for all the flooding defence activity and the progress of schemes and studies were presented to the Board in September 2018. We currently have nine schemes underway relating to Coastal and Flood Risk Management.

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) is currently auditing our approach to reducing the number of properties at risk of flooding in Denbighshire. The final report is anticipated early 2019, and it may give us some ideas for how we could further improve our approach to flood management.

The Reducing Carbon Emissions business case will be presented to the Board in October 2018. The business case to Improve Energy Efficiency in [existing and acquired] Council Housing is currently being developed and will be presented to the Board in January 2019. This closely links to the Housing priority, where the ambition is that any new build Council housing will achieve an energy efficiency rating of 'A'.

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, focusing on skills for work and skills for life. We also know that physical and emotional well-being from an early age is important, preventing problems occurring later in life. We want to make sure that we give young people the best start in life, and will work with our partners, schools and businesses to make this happen.

Performance Status: Priority for Improvement

Overall our performance remains as a 'Priority for Improvement'. As reported in the last performance report the following annual indicators remain as a priority for improvement:

- Attendance at secondary school.
- 4-5 year olds who are a healthy weight or underweight.
- Schools providing education through suitability and condition categories C & D.

The percentage increase in the salaries of young people enrolled in the 'Employment Bursary Project' is a new annual measure that has been added to this priority in order to measure the anticipated difference that the project will make for young people. The bursary project seeks to create opportunities for younger people in Denbighshire by enabling employed young people to undertake training / development and access mentoring that will enable them to progress within their current workplace or seek promotion elsewhere. Baseline and thresholds are in the process of being established and will be in place for the project launch in November 2018.

Programme Progress: Good

The Ready for Work project's initiatives are progressing well. Further work has been done on the preparation for the three careers events that are to be held in November. Invitations have been sent to businesses and organisations that expressed an interest.

In September, students from Ysgol Carreg Emlyn and Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd took part in panel-signing ceremonies as work on both schools progresses. They had the chance to sign panels that make up the structure for their new school buildings.

A new bilingual church school, in partnership with the Diocese of St Asaph, is being built in Llanfair while in Clocaenog a new single site school for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn is being built. Both schools are being funded through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme, in partnership with investment from Denbighshire County Council and are both expected to be open by the summer of next year.

Work on a £23m Catholic school in Rhyl is also progressing on schedule. A beam-signing ceremony was held with pupils and staff from Ysgol Mair primary school and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School. The beams will form part of the structure of the new building, which is set to open in autumn 2019.

A Highlight Report will be presented to the Board in October on the 'live projects' in the 21st Century Schools Programme (Band A and B).

The Entrepreneur Space project brief, following approval, has moved into the Business Case stage and will be presented to the Board in December 2018, along with a paper on ways to address the gap in attainment between the end of primary school and secondary school.

The Support for Parents project brief, following approval, has also moved into the Business Case stage and is scheduled to be presented to the Board in February 2019.