

Community Benefits Policy

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	797
Brief description:	Policy to support the development and delivery of community benefits within Denbighshire County Council via commissioning and procurement. Also, policy will be basis for newly launched Community Benefits Hub programme of work and activity.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Legal, HR & Democratic Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Denbighshire County Council, its residents, commissioners, suppliers, local business, third sector & Educational establishments.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★ ★ ★ ★ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 28 / 30.

Implications of the score

Continued internal and external stakeholder engagement is key to securing and delivering significant and sustainable community benefits. We need to ensure that any benefits gained are going to be of use and are to be valued by not only DCC (Members and officers) but also the community that we serve.

The corporate plan 2017-2022 sets out our five corporate priorities designed around the WFG Act this was developed on the back of the County Conversation which provided feed back from our residents. We asked people to comment on what was good, bad, needed developing in the areas in relation to the seven goals. This provided the priorities Denbighshire developed.

1. Housing = Community Cohesion, (environmental) Resilience & Global (energy efficient homes), Prosperous (enabling people to settle in the area), equality (considerations of young and old people)
2. Connected communities – Cohesion, Prosperous, Equality, Healthier
3. Resilient communities – Cohesion, Equal, Healthier
4. Young People = Prosperous, Healthier
5. Environment – Prosperous, Resilient, Healthier

The Community Benefits Hub is now active (as of mid March 2020) and this policy will guide and enable the CB Hub to offer practical and relevant support to officers during the commissioning and procurement of goods and services, and also to undertake meaningful engagement with external stakeholders.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire
A resilient Denbighshire
A healthier Denbighshire
A more equal Denbighshire
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive
Positive
Positive
Positive
Positive
Positive
Positive



Main conclusions

The Council spent £116m in 2017/18 so with a modest 1% CB return this could generate £1.16m in new benefit per annum. This Policy will support the work of the CB Hub, and the council officers it supports, to access such funding and benefits to reinforce our corporate plan priorities that will help our communities to become more independent and resilient.

The Council delivers its services directly through its own workforce, and through private and third sector organisations. The Council procures a wide range of goods, services and works from over 4,500 suppliers, service providers and contractors.

The CB Policy will provide a framework for internal and external stakeholders to be active in continued and developing engagement allowing us to monitor and evaluate, learn lessons, measure impact, and design fit for purpose CB planning the future. Policy will also support the CB Hub to track, monitor and report on community benefit outcomes across the council and become a means of assessing the strength, vitality and performance for the Corporate Plan 2017-2022. This in turn will be used to formulate strategies for improvements and influence policy decisions.

There could be opportunities to involve local communities in the delivery of community benefits.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- ☒ We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- ☐ We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
- ☒ We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The expected impact of the Policy is to support the intended actions of the CB Hub to co-ordinate and support inclusion and consideration of CBs into commissioning and procurement activity. The inclusion and consideration of CBs, when applied to annual DCC spend, could bring significant additional value for the area. The Policy validates the role of CB Hub in building long term and meaningful engagement with internal and external stakeholders, including but not limited to, Members, Officers, potential suppliers, community groups, special interest groups (such as Ambition Board and Public Service Board) and individuals. The Policy will guide the DCC and the CB Hub to attract meaningful and real benefit to needs as identified by CB Hubs liaison and engagement with these stakeholders. The CB Hub's co-ordination of Section 106 agreements and the production of case studies and reporting will contribute to a wider picture of benefits brought through development and spend.
Further actions required	Review and report on outcomes and impact of CB Hub's implementation of this Policy. Producing robust reporting that will be used to continue engagement and collaborative review involving all affected stakeholders.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	DCC declared a climate emergency in 2018 and is committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. Policy has potential to contribute to shaping of Community Benefits menu that could include benefits designed to reduce carbon based transport and ways of living. Such benefits could increase options via practical interventions for reduction of carbon expenditure, e.g. improved walking routes, improved house insulation, innovations in non-carbon energy generation etc.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Policy would support officers to consider impacts of commissioning on further development of connected communities. CB Hub's role in coordinating between CBs and Section 106 projects could lead to an increase in joined up thinking and approach thereby increasing potential for additionality
Economic development	Policy will provide approved framework for DCC to maximise social, environmental, economic, cultural and health well-being delivered via considering Community Benefits throughout the commissioning cycle. The inclusion of CB criteria can enable alternative providers, such as third sector organisations, e.g. community groups, voluntary or social businesses, to compete in the tendering process. It is to be expected that Policy will support capacity building within this sector that would contribute towards sustainability of the sector.
Quality skills for the long term	Using experience from the North Wales Construction Framework (NWCF) the CB Hub, supported by this Policy, has the potential to drive up-skilling of the local workforce
Quality jobs for the long term	Based on experience of NWCF Capacity building within third sector organisations and other local SMEs or providers it is to

Childcare	The CB Hub will be able to direct officers to the relevant third sector organisations, educational establishments that can help parents obtain skills, training and job opportunities to re-enter work. It can also strengthen parents' job stability and wages.
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Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Economic development	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality skills for the long term	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Quality jobs for the long term	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.
Childcare	Lack of buy-in from Services, business as usual, i.e. not considering Community Benefits during commissioning and procurement stages.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Policy will encourage the consideration of Community Benefits at planning and also at commissioning stages. The CB Hub will work with stakeholders, both internal and external, to maximise the resilience of Denbighshire and also potentially increase innovative actions as proposed by winning tenders.
Further actions required	Any identified risks centre on lack of education and public and stakeholder engagement. Mitigation would include co-operation with special groups such as Countryside Services, Natural Resources Wales, AONB, and local community nature groups, to provide information and engagement opportunities.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Advice and training on how to include identified biodiversity themed needs on the menu of community benefits. Policy works in tandem with S106 agreements and DCC Countryside Services
Biodiversity in the built environment	Advice and training on how to include identified biodiversity themed needs on the menu of community benefits. Policy works in tandem with S106 agreements and DCC Countryside Services
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Policy will support measurement of increase in recycling and reduction of waste as a positive Community Benefit outcome.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Considering CBs at initial planning or commissioning stage would increase potential for actual reductions in energy/fuel consumption to be measured and reported as actual CBs.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Working with special interest groups, stakeholders and Countryside Services and possibly Education Services to increase people's awareness of how protecting existing environment and biodiversity and potentially improving biodiversity and quality of environment could directly impact well being and quality of life.
Flood risk management	When CBs are aligned with Biodiversity and Environmental considerations resulting flood risk management and mitigation can be reported and monitored as benefit.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Lack on public engagement on value of biodiversity and natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Resistance to any perceived increase in cost due to consideration of biodiversity in the built environment. Also, potential for some lack of sympathy for any biodiversity supporting mitigations.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Lack of public engagement and understanding
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	None identified
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Lack of engagement
Flood risk management	None identified

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Adoption of CB Policy will have a generally positive impact by enabling the CB Hub to better encourage, support and monitor effect and impact of CBs in Denbighshire.
Further actions required	The identified risk of receiving negative feedback regarding resistance to choosing healthy food over convenience food would be addressed by working in partnership with community based education groups and also school settings.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Policy will promote and support application and consideration of CBs early on in planning and commissioning cycle. It is expected that CBs will include increase in local employment; increase in existing, or training in new, skills; improved sense of belonging, and well-being arising from increased resilience self reliance; easier and safer access to outdoors environment encouraging interaction and increased walking and cycling.
Access to good quality, healthy food	Through consideration of CBs at planning and commissioning stage access to good quality, healthy food may be improved in a community benefit focused on food provision and supply, e.g. support for community kitchen; community shop; education and training on healthy food preparation and cooking; and production of local food via allotment scheme.

People's emotional and mental well-being	This policy, via consideration of CBs at planning and commissioning stage, will encourage relevant CBs contributing to emotional and mental well-being, e.g. increased access to outside areas; support for community led groups from which participation can support sense of purpose and create new friendships widening social circles among other benefits.
Access to healthcare	CB based support to community initiatives offering advocacy, chaperoning, self-help groups, medicine pick-up and delivery, etc. CBs could also improve access to education and information on how to access relevant healthcare and provide support via healthcare outreach. Policy will support CB Hub to engage with Community Health Board and other patient representative bodies and organisations to support identification of benefits that would be valued within Denbighshire..
Participation in leisure opportunities	Aligned with CBs identified under Resilient Denbighshire improved access to open spaces along with an increased interest in nature and biodiversity and participation in locally led groups would potentially increase opportunities for outdoors based leisure. Increased CB based support for development of community based fitness groups could also improve indoor and outdoor opportunities, e.g. community based bowls groups offering social and fitness improvements.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None identified
Access to good quality, healthy food	Resistance to choosing healthy food over convenience foods.
People's emotional and mental well-being	None identified
Access to healthcare	None identified
Participation in leisure opportunities	Non identified

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The impact is expected to be positive as Policy will support the measurement, monitoring and reporting of impact of community benefits on all groups of people. The Policy will support continual appraisal and evaluation of the DCC CB Hub approach.
Further actions required	Currently no negative impacts are identified. However, continued monitoring, appraisal and evaluation will recognise if any are developing in future.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Improved opportunities have the potential to improve well-being of all people within Denbighshire including those with protracted characteristics. The CB Hub will report on impact and benefit to those people with protected characteristics
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	This Policy will support the CB approach to working closely with various stakeholders to create and improve opportunities for various disadvantaged groups.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Policy will support the CB Hub to encourage all services to consider, implement and monitor community benefits and their impact upon challenging wards.
People in poverty	Policy will support the CB Hub approach to encouraging consideration of inclusion of CBs in planning and commissioning stages thus leading to increases in real opportunities and targeted support that delivers measurable benefit to those people and their communities.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None identified
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None identified
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	None identified
People in poverty	Non identified

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Policy will support the CB Hub to work in partnership with DCC services, communities and stakeholders to strengthen cohesiveness within Denbighshire communities.
Further actions required	No negative impacts have been identified but Policy will support CB Hub to monitor and report on an ongoing basis.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Policy will support consideration and implementation of CBs throughout DCC. Benefits contributing to safer surroundings and safeguarded locations will form part of the menu of benefits DCC would value.
Community participation and resilience	Policy will support continued engagement with Public Service Board, Community and Town Councils. CBs are expected to offer practical and measurable supports to communities to become more self reliant and resilient. Outcomes and impacts will be monitored and assessed.
The attractiveness of the area	Policy will support the consideration of social value in new housing and infrastructure developments.
Connected communities	Policy will support measurement and reporting on connectivity within the County and any improvements stemming from CBs
Rural resilience	policy will support co-ordination of application of gained CBs with other benefits such as S106, Rural Development initiatives and rural support organisations.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	None identified
Community participation and resilience	None identified
The attractiveness of the area	None identified
Connected communities	None identified
Rural resilience	None identified

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	All CB Hub activity will be aligned to Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh Language Strategy. The CB Hub will engage and work with Officers, Members, Community and Town Councils, Local community and special interest groups to identify community benefits that would be valued in promoting use of Welsh language. The CB Hub will also engage and work with a wide variety of organisations to protect and promote cultural heritage, e.g. AONB, County Libraries, historic locations and buildings, etc.
Further actions required	Policy will support continued engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	All CB Hub activity will align with Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh language Policy. It may be expected that CB activities would include Welsh language promotion or support for business or community activity to be undertaken using Welsh language.
Promoting the Welsh language	All CB Hub activity will align with Welsh Language standards and DCC Welsh Language Strategy.
Culture and heritage	The Policy supports co-operation with DCC officers to ensure culture and heritage are considered for potential community benefit where appropriate.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Possibility that CBs increase economic activity that in turn creates employment opportunities that will attract non-Welsh speakers.
Promoting the Welsh language	None identified
Culture and heritage	None identified

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The impact of the community benefits, once secured, will be positive for all public bodies that share similar well-being objectives.
Further actions required	By continued monitoring and evaluation on the impact of Policy on community benefits.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The Policy will support CB Hub to monitor supply DCC chains by both measuring and reporting on proportion of local, regional and national spend according to nationally accepted baselines.
Human rights	Through the procurement process all contractors are required to meet at least minimum standards for H&S, employment rights, etc. this requirement feeds down to their subcontractors and suppliers.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	The CB Hub is supporting DCC Planning to record, monitor and report against S106 agreements. This provision will generate a countywide picture of S106 supported activities and create regular updates and points of information for members and officers on the impact of S106 undertakings. The alignment of S106 with community benefits will also increase potential for additionality.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None identified
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Human rights	None identified
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	None identified