

**Report To: Cabinet**

**Date of meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2012**

**Lead Member: Lead Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing**

**Report Author: Corporate Director, Demographics, Wellbeing and Planning**

**Title: People and Places Board Closure Report**

### **1. What is the report about?**

The report details achievements and learning from the People and Places Board which had its final meeting in March 2012.

### **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To seek agreement to action key recommendations from the Closure Report.

### **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 To undertake a review of corporate board/programme management structures on an annual basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose

3.2 To ensure future corporate programmes have outcomes, objectives, indicators and measures which can be delivered within an electoral term

3.3 To agree standards for attendance within the terms of reference of future Programme Boards and how failure to attend consistently will be addressed

3.4 To support the development of a structure to support the Older People's Champion so as to ensure continued delivery of "Communities and Wellbeing" projects

### **4. Report details.**

4.1 The People and Places Programme Board was established in October 2010 following a review designed to simplify the structures by which the council delivered its business. It was one of two Boards established at this time- the other being the Business Transformation Board.

4.2 The agreed purpose of the People and Places Board was to provide leadership and coordination of activity to:

***"tackle the key strategic challenges to the well being and economic circumstance of the County's population and to build the relationship between the Council and the communities it serves. In particular to focus on those challenges which need cross-cutting action to resolve and to ensure delivery on relevant priorities and targets set out in the corporate plan"***

4.3 The following broad workstreams were agreed:

- realigning regeneration, anti-poverty and support programmes in Rhyl to ensure that future Council activity in the area is more corporately delivered and linked to mainstream service delivery
- developing the Town Plans so that they become the primary mechanism for delivering effective change in our communities in a way which reflects local needs and aspirations
- continuing to ensure delivery of the programme to achieve greater efficiency in services for older people including realignment of services corporately to meet the needs of Denbighshire's growing older population

Subsequently, it was agreed that the Board should develop a further workstream relating to

- ensuring there is a compelling "offer" for young people and young families in Denbighshire

4.4 The eighteen months since the Board was set up have seen the development of the BIG Plan, the formal establishment of MAGs, with a particular role in developing the Town Plans, and the development of the delivery plan for Rhyl Regeneration, particularly in the Neighbourhoods and Places theme. Pages 3 – 5 of the Closure Report sets out the impact of these changes on the original brief for the People and Places Board. The role of the Board became principally to focus on the "Responding to Demographic Change" priority.

4.5 Given the context in which the Board was established changed so significantly, It has felt appropriate to review its role, not least with the imminent election of a new Council and likely amendment to corporate priorities.

4.6 The view of the People and Places Board is that it makes sense to formally stand the Board down at this point. Board members have wanted the outcomes from the programme to be documented, though, and to ensure projects are successfully completed.

4.7 The Project Review and Post Programme tasks section of the Closure Report (pp 8 – 13) sets out achievements and how key projects which are not yet complete will be taken forward.

4.8 Highlights include

- the opening of Extra Care schemes in Prestatyn and Ruthin
- the roll out of reablement across Denbighshire, with indicators showing that over 60% of older people receiving this service did not require a long term package of support subsequently
- the establishment of multi agency locality teams in both the north and south of the County
- the successful piloting of a corporate training programme for front-line staff across the Council designed to increase awareness of the impact of an ageing population and networks of help and support for staff and residents

- initial feasibility work for “Community Information Points” building capacity in Town and Community Councils to help older people locally through increasing networks of support
- “Living and Working in Denbighshire” research analysing the issues for young people locally and recommending practical actions
- the development of internship, volunteer, work placement and graduate trainee programmes, partly in response to the “Living and Working in Denbighshire” findings

Detailed arrangements are being put in place to ensure projects are completed and mainstreamed.

4.9 The People and Places Board reviewed the Lessons Learned through operating the board and the key evaluation points are set out in pp 15 – 17 of the Closure Report.

4.10 Some of these have been translated into the Recommendations in Section 3 above but there are a range of other pointers for how we manage the delivery of significant corporate priorities in future. These include

- the need to bottom out project management and resourcing requirements for delivery of corporate priorities, especially where these are cross cutting and do not match budget lines. Managers across the organisation have valued the opportunity to be involved in shaping priorities outside their normal work sphere, but unless there is capacity to back this up, it can create pressures which are hard to manage
- the value that elected members of the Board put on the opportunity for informal discussion and the opportunity to shape policy and direction as well as formal Programme Management disciplines

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

The Board was established to manage the delivery of two of the council’s corporate priorities..

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

6.1 There are no specific cost implications arising from the Closure Report. The report does, however, identify that there can be issues in resourcing cross cutting corporate priorities properly- especially in terms of project management and where priorities do not necessarily coincide with budget setting processes and service priorities.

## **7. What consultations have been carried out?**

7.1 Members of the People and Places Board, officers and members, considered and contributed directly to a draft version of the Closure Report. In addition, the Programme Manager invited contributions from Workstream Leads and Project Managers, and their comments have contributed to the final version of the report. CET also considered and commented on the draft Closure Report.

## **8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

8.1 There are no obvious significant financial implications from the report although it does highlight the need to consider the resourcing of these cross cutting projects at an early stage.

## **9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

9.1 Residual risks and mitigations are explicitly addressed in the Project Review section of the Closure Report. The most significant risk is that momentum will be lost from “Communities and Wellbeing” work. The proposal to re-establish a group linked to the Older People’s Champion is an explicit attempt to mitigate this risk. There are a number of possible ways this could be achieved and these are being explored currently.

9.2 In addition, providing cross- authority support to enhance the wellbeing of “people in need” is a new legislative provision within the forthcoming Social Services (Wales) Bill. This new duty should also ensure continuing focus on supporting communities and the whole range of local government services to promote wellbeing..

## **10 Power to make the Decision**

s2 Local Government Act 2000 provides a power to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion of the social economic and environmental well being of the area.

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Cabinet has delegated to it the function of securing the social, economic and environmental well being of the citizens of Denbighshire