

# Housing Rent Setting

## 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:	993
Brief description:	Increasing council house weekly rents
Date Completed:	09/12/2021 10:16:19 Version: 1
Completed by:	Geoff Davies
Responsible Service:	Customers, Communications & Marketing
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	council tenants and households
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 : 35 / 36.

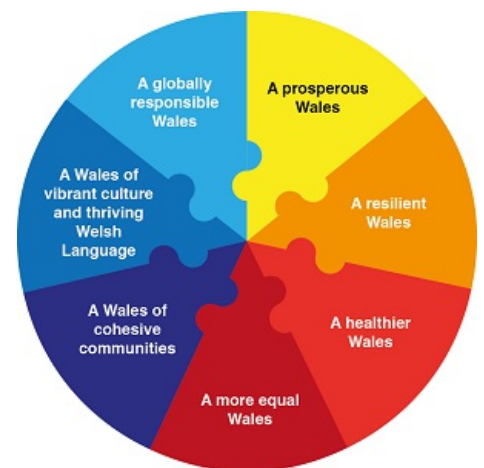
## Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

<b>Long term</b>	The rent increase, whilst impacting on households weekly finances, will support the wider long term development of our service to our tenants. The additional income will be invested in our homes and support the long term quality of homes and services and ensure we can adapt and deliver on supporting decarbonisation of social homes in Wales.
<b>Prevention</b>	The business plan relies on keeping pace with inflation to ensure we can continue to develop tenants to support those that need, build resilience in others and tackle the energy performance issues of our homes. This impacts on the climate and also tackles fuel poverty for households
<b>Integration</b>	The Business Plan will enable us to deliver high quality homes and services for tenants and their communities. we can also build new council homes to meet the significant need.
<b>Collaboration</b>	The HRA 30 year Business plan supports the Asset Management Plan and our approach to improving the lives of our communities.
<b>Involvement</b>	we consult the Tenants Federation on the rent increase each year. Whilst they accept it is not popular they acknowledge the investment needs and the longer term view.

## Summary of impact

### Well-being Goals

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



## Main conclusions

Whilst a rent increase can present challenges for some households particularly due to the additional pressure brought on household finances during Covid 19 we need to continue to invest in our housing stock to ensure our homes are quality and efficient to live in particularly with regards to energy efficiency. In addition we provide and fund support serves, partnerships and projects to support households, if we did not increase our rent with inflation we would not be able to maintain these levels of significant investment.

## **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

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	This will have a positive impact because a sustainable HRA will support the provision of quality social housing for people in Denbighshire into the long term. Whilst any increase in weekly out goings could have an impact on households failure to invest could jeopardise our future growth.
<b>Further actions required</b>	We have a Financial Inclusion Action Plan which will help mitigate the impact on households through a series of actions. The increased income will enable us to increase our investment in our stock, neighbourhoods and support services.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	Increasing our income will allow us to investigate and invest in better ways to provide homes including low carbon homes and investing in improving the efficiency of existing stock.
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	This will enable us to continue to invest in areas we own including open spaces and neighbourhoods
<b>Economic development</b>	A sustainable HRA business plan will support local businesses into the future
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	Increasing our income will help us to meet staffing costs and develop future opportunities
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	This will enable us to continue to invest in skills through improvement works and community benefits.
<b>Childcare</b>	

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	
<b>Economic development</b>	An increase in weekly rent could have an adverse effect on families weekly income and ability to manage their childcare and work balance
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	
<b>Childcare</b>	An increase in weekly rent could have an adverse effect on families weekly income and ability to manage their childcare and work balance

## A resilient Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
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<b>Justification for impact</b>	We are able to invest in promoting healthier communities for our tenants and residents.
<b>Further actions required</b>	We are able to invest in additional services such as community development staff to significantly increase our work to promote health and well being. The negative is increased could increase arrears / debt issues but our resources allow us to invest in projects to mitigate this and far reaching actions to tackle financial exclusion and debt.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	Investment in lower quality stock will enable us to demolish and replace homes and consider biodiversity in this process.
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	Investment in our housing stock is required to ensure we can maximise energy efficiency and reduce fuel use and carbon through poor performing homes.
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
<b>Flood risk management</b>	Ensuring that new build schemes will achieve flood mitigation works by design

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	
<b>Flood risk management</b>	

**A healthier Denbighshire**

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	We are able to invest in promoting healthier communities for our tenants and residents.
<b>Further actions required</b>	We are able to invest in additional services such as community development staff to significantly increase our work to promote health and well being. The negative is increased could increase arrears / debt issues but our resources allow us to invest in projects to mitigate this and far reaching actions to tackle financial exclusion and debt.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	This will allow us to continue to invest in health and well being including physical assets such as play areas and also working with our communities
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	We have staff resources to help our communities develop resilience and promote healthy lifestyles including projects to support healthy eating
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	We have staff resources to help our communities develop resilience and promote health and well being. We have a Financial Inclusion action plan to tackle debt and financial exclusion issues which will support emotional well being.
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	Through having staff resources available we are supporting a Public Health Wales project on Tackling health inequality and can continue with similar work
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	This will allow us to continue to invest in health and well being including physical assets such as play areas and also working with our communities to enhance access to leisure activities.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	

### A more equal Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.
<b>Further actions required</b>	We will mitigate the negatives of the rent increase, which could disproportionately effect households with the protected characteristics through investment in financial inclusion initiatives and support services which will also benefit wider tenant population

### Positive impacts identified:

<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.</p>
<p><b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b></p>	<p>Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.</p>
<p><b>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</b></p>	<p>A sustainable HRA will enable us to continue to provide quality housing and also invest in support initiatives that tackle poverty and provide opportunity in our communities,</p>
<p><b>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</b></p>	<p>An increase in rent could have an adverse effect on households but the rise is on line with CPI inflation and will be offset by significant investment in support services in this area.</p>

**Negative impacts identified:**

<p><b>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</b></p>	
<p><b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b></p>	
<p><b>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</b></p>	
<p><b>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</b></p>	

## A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	A sustainable HRA business plan will enable us to maintain adequate resources to support communities.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The Business Plan has enabled us to deliver increased work with communities to focus on additional areas of work which will support community participation and resilience in the long term.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	A sustainable HRA business plan will enable us to maintain adequate resources to promote safe communities and tackle issues and individuals. These resources can support partnership working to work together to take a strategic approach to promoting safe neighbourhood's and also joint working to tackle issues.
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	The Business Plan has enabled us to deliver a community development team to focus on additional areas of work which will support community participation and resilience. We are developing this through a Community Investment strategy and related work plans.
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	We are able to invest significantly in improving the appearance of our neighbourhoods through the HRA
<b>Connected communities</b>	The Housing team and community development work enables us to ensure that people are connected to services and network as well as through digital inclusion work
<b>Rural resilience</b>	The Housing team and community development work enables us to ensure that people are connected and ensure that our homes in rural areas are able to contribute to the rural economy by providing quality homes and investment projects and opportunities.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	
<b>Connected communities</b>	
<b>Rural resilience</b>	

## A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The service adheres to the Welsh language standards but a sustainable HRA will enable us to consider opportunities to further promote the Welsh Language
<b>Further actions required</b>	This work can include providing community development activities through the Welsh language will be integral with in our Community Development Strategy.



### Positive impacts identified:

<b>People using Welsh</b>	A sustainable HRA enables us to continue to promote the Welsh Language and support staff to work in the medium of Welsh so people can use their first language to access the service. We also adopt a local lettings policy which gives priority in rural areas to people from the community to help with protecting the future use of the Welsh language in our communities.
<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	The service adheres to the Welsh language standards but a sustainable HRA will enable us to consider opportunities to further promote the Welsh Language. This work can include providing community development activities through the Welsh language.
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	A sustainable HRA enables us to continue to promote the Welsh culture and heritage and support organisations and projects in our communities

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>People using Welsh</b>	
<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	

## A globally responsible Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	Good quality social housing is key to ensuring that the local economy can thrive in Denbighshire and North Wales. The continued growth of the business plan will support future provision to meet growing need. The service will be able to develop partnerships and support other organisations who are providing services to our tenants.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The service supports the Council's corporate objectives in addition to the more specific plans such as the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Wider health & well being is promoted in addition to the investment in the local economy.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	The HRA commits significant investment through stock and neighbourhood improvement programmes. In addition new build homes will add significantly to this and we have awarded a significant contract for new homes components that will be manufactured in North Wales. This supports the local economy. Community Benefits are integral to all contracts to ensure employment and training opportunities are mandatory and the impact is captured as evidence.
<b>Human rights</b>	The HRA investment enables us to provide jobs and opportunities which promote excellent employment practices and working conditions.
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	Good quality social housing is key to ensuring that the local economy in Denbighshire and North Wales is sustainable and supports the economic activity of the area by providing affordable housing options in the area. In addition the provision of social housing with increasing stock numbers will support a number of services which seek to support households with settled and secure accommodation in safe neighbourhoods.

<b>Reducing climate change</b>	The HRA Business Plan will invest in existing homes and new homers to deliver the highest standards of energy performance and use of renewable energy sources in our homes.
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**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	
<b>Human rights</b>	
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	
<b>Reducing climate change</b>	