

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 st May 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation / Tony Ward, Corporate Director: Environment and Economy
Report author	Tony Ward, Corporate Director: Environment and Economy
Title	Long Term Plan for Towns: Rhyl

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report is about the recently announced c.£20m fund for Rhyl, which is part of the UK Government's Long-Term Plan for Towns initiative¹.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. Denbighshire County Council (DCC) are required to take certain actions by 1st June 2024 (such as appointing an independent Chair of a new Town Board), and support from Cabinet is sought for our proposed response to the required actions.

3. What are the recommendations?

3.1. That Cabinet delegate authority [to the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy and the Leader/Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/long-term-plan-for-towns-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-town-boards/long-term-plan-for-towns-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-town-boards>

Deprivation] for submitting the necessary information to UK Government in order to meet the requirements of the funding by the deadline of 1st June.

4. Report details

- 4.1. In September 2023, the UK Government launched the Long-Term Plan for Towns initiative as part of its levelling up programme. On 6th March 2024, it was announced that Rhyl would receive c.£20m as one of the 2nd tranche of towns to be included in the initiative. The funding will be awarded to DCC, and we remain accountable for the funding and for delivery of the plan.
- 4.2. DCC is required to invite a suitable person to become Chair of a new Rhyl Town Board. This should be a respected figure with an obvious passion for Rhyl and be best placed to convene partners. The Town Board should be chaired by a businessperson or a local community leader, to ensure that the board fully reflects the priorities of the town, and the Chair should not be an elected representative.
- 4.3. Given that the Chair must be appointed by 1 June 2024, the process for selecting the Chair has needed to be relatively light touch. Nominations were sought from the Rhyl Reference Group, and the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy and the Leader/Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation have had discussions with individuals nominated for the role. These discussions were designed to explore a number of areas, such as their interest, capacity, and suitability to undertake the role. The appointment process for Chair had not been completed at the time of submitting this paper, hence the request for delegated authority to confirm all the necessary arrangements by 1st June (see recommendation 3.1).
- 4.4. Once appointed, DCC will work with the Chair to confirm membership of the Town Board, using the parameters provided by UK Government. The Board will need to bring together community leaders, employers, the Council, and the local MP to oversee and deliver the Long-Term Vision and 3-year delivery plans.
- 4.5. There are two key deadlines for DCC (and the Board) to deliver on particular requirements set out by UK Government. First, DCC must submit the Chair biography, Board Structure, Terms of Reference, Conflict of Interest Policy, and

the Town Boundaries form **by 1 June 2024**. We are seeking Cabinet approval to delegate this task to the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy and the Leader/Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation (see recommendation 3.1). Subsequently, by **1 November 2024**, the Board must do the following:

- Agree Governance.
- Agree an engagement plan.
- Undertake a data review.
- Undertake public engagement.
- Develop the 10-year Vision.
- Develop the delivery plan for the first 3-year period.

4.6. A Board comprising 12-15 Members is recommended, and the guidance (more information is attached at Appendix A) suggests that this should consist of:

- 2 Elected County Council Members
- The MP
- Senior Police Representative
- Reps from a range of community-based organisations, which might include the Town Council, school/college, DVSC, business, etc.

4.7. The Long-Term (10-year) Vision for the town must be based on the priorities of local people. It must set out the town's vision and priorities for investment and regeneration, aligned to the three themes of: 1) safety and security; 2) high streets, heritage and regeneration; and 3) transport and connectivity. This, and the 3-year Delivery Plan, need to be agreed and submitted by 1st November 2024.

4.8. Rhyl will receive a 10-year endowment-style fund of c.£20 million. The intention is that this will provide long term certainty to deliver projects over multiple years and the flexibility to invest in interventions based on evolving local needs and priorities. Although DCC/the Board will receive an annual amount (c.£2m per year), the funding does not all have to be spent each year and it can be rolled forward, at least within the period of each 3-year delivery plan.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. The Long-Term Plan for Towns will support the Council's corporate plan themes, but in particular the Prosperous Denbighshire Board.

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

6.1. The Town Board will need to be supported by officers from a range of council services. Funding is available to help with the tasks required to be completed by 1 Nov 2024, for example, £200k will be available for public engagement work and to support the development of the 10-year vision and 3-year delivery plan.

7. What are the main conclusions from the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. No WBIA has been undertaken in relation to this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. Given the timescales, there has been little opportunity for consultation so far. However, updates have been provided to Rhyl MAG by email, and the item was an agenda item in the Rhyl Reference Group on 25th April 2024.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The report sets out the headline terms and conditions for the £20m of funding announced for Rhyl as part of the UK Government's Long-Term Plans for Towns initiative.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. The main risk initially is not meeting the deadlines for submitting information to UK Government, which would result in not being awarded the funding.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. s24 Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 – general power of competence.

11.2. Table 4, Appendix 1 to Section 13, Council Constitution.