

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	25 th June 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 initiative.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To report back to Cabinet about the delegated decisions and actions implemented by the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy and the Leader/Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation following the Cabinet meeting on 21st May 2024.

3. What are the recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet note and support the information included in, and appended to, this report, including the appointment as Chair of the new Rhyl Board and the proposed membership of the Board. The information submitted to UK Government is attached at Appendix A.

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 were required to invite a suitable person to become Chair of a new Rhyl Town Board by 3rd June 2024. This was to be a respected figure with an obvious passion for Rhyl and be best placed to convene partners, e.g. a businessperson or a local community leader. The person selected to become the Chair is Adam Roche. Among other things, Adam is the volunteer Managing Director of Rhyl Football Club. A pen portrait is included within Appendix A.
- 4.3. By 3rd June 2024, DCC were required to submit the Chair biography, Board Structure, Terms of Reference, Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Town Boundaries form. This task was delegated by Cabinet (on 21st May 2024) to the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy and the Leader/Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation. The information submitted to UK Government is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. 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.

4.6. 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.