

Appendix A

Denbighshire County Council

Progress Report

June 2013

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Progress since the last update

- 1.1. Since the last update for the Scrutiny group, a public consultation event was held in Ruthin on the 5th of June.
- 1.2. It was a well-attended event and included presentations from Shelter Cymru on the issue of Welfare Reform, North Wales Housing on tackling Empty Homes, as well as shorter information sessions with Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council regarding digital inclusion, and from the lead officer on the Single Access Route to Housing. A full list of attendees is available from Sue Lewis.
- 1.3. The response to the event on the feedback sheets filled by participants at the end of the session, were positive or very positive.
- 1.4. The event's true success was in the 'Cocktail Party' session where the Vision, 3 Themes and the 3 objectives for each theme (which were those presented to Scrutiny on the 23rd of May) were revealed to the whole group on sheets of flipchart paper on the walls of a room. Participants were then given a pack of post-it notes and a marker pen and invited to walk around the room, discuss the information on the sheets with others as well as myself and the other facilitators (Sue, and Brett Sadler of North Wales Housing). As they went around, they added their thoughts and comments to the post-it notes and stuck them to the relevant sheets.
- 1.5. At the end of the 'Cocktail Party' the participants gathered around each sheet and directed myself and the facilitators to re-group and reorganise the post-it notes according to their collective opinions; rather than relying on myself to take the sheets away and organise them away from their input. The reorganising itself sparked further debate and eventually I, Sue and Brett took a group off and evaluated a selection of sheets with them to make sure no discussion was cut short by time constraints.
- 1.6. The written feedback from this event has been added as an appendix to the Draft Strategy Framework included as part of this report.
- 1.7. The highlights of the Cocktail Party feedback were:
 - a. As was noted at the start of the event by myself, the Vision for the strategy was considered 'too long and wordy' and was edited down by the attendees as well as by myself as the event proceeded.

- b. Based on the feedback received, the draft Vision has been shortened to the following statement with the words 'pride' included on the suggestion of a number of attendees:

Everyone is supported to live with pride in homes that meet their needs, in the vibrant and sustainable communities Denbighshire aspires to.

- c. With regards to the 3 themes of **Communication, Consolidation & Construction** the attendees made a series of both general and specific comments on what the Strategy should include under these themes, as well what the Council could itself be doing. None of the comments were about the wording of the three themes and so these will be carried forward into the consultation stages and strategy drafting to follow.
- d. With regards to the 3 objectives under each of the 3 themes, with the exception of suggestions for delivering a 'Transparent' service rather than a 'See Through' housing service under the Communication theme, all the comments were on the content and direction of these objectives and so they too will be carried on into the next stages.
- e. The many comments, including an entire sheet relating to who we need to speak to next, have been an excellent guide for the drafting of the action plan to support the Strategy.

1.8. **Next Steps:**

- 1.9. With Sue Lewis and Simon Kaye the responses from the event have been evaluated and used to update the Draft Strategy Framework attached. They have also been used to map out the initial Action Plan that will now be drafted and applied to the Draft Strategy Framework to form a full working Draft.
- 1.10. On the basis of the success of the consultation event, and the suggestions of other organisations and groups to contact, I will be developing a survey for wide distribution based on the feedback from the event and the Draft Strategy Framework as well as directly contacting groups to invite them to respond.
- 1.11. Where possible I will attend events in the County to further promote the Strategy.
- 1.12. It is not my intention to have a 'closing date' for all feedback, rather I will maintain consultation opportunities through the drafting of the strategy and will make the necessary amendments where there is a clear benefit and connection from this to the Vision and themes of the strategy.