

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 26th November 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Hugh Evans

Report Author: Tom Booty, Economic & Business Development Manager

Title: Town and Area Plans

1. What is the report about?

This report is an update on Town and Area Plans.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Cabinet previously agreed Town Plans to be widened into Area Plans encompassing associated rural communities. This report enables Cabinet to approve the first phase of the new Area Plans and sign off the priorities for spend from the Town & Area Plans Priority Funding pot/pool. The report also provides Cabinet with the timetable for future plan approvals, and the current financial position.

3. What are the recommendations?

The recommendations area for Cabinet to:

1. Approve the adoption of Area Plans (incorporating the existing Town Plans) for Llangollen, Corwen and St. Asaph;
2. Approve the funding for the priorities detailed in the above referred Area Plans;
3. Note the timetable for future Town & Area Plans;
4. Note the position statement on the current financial position for Town & Area Plans.

4. Report details

4.1 Llangollen Town and Area Plan

The Llangollen Town & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 1. This Plan was approved by the Dee Valley MAG on 11 November 2013, and we are now seeking Cabinet's approval of the Plan and the following priorities and related funding commitments:

Priority:	Funding Requirement:
Engineer's Report on feasibility of providing footway on dangerous stretch of A542	£5,000
Valuation Report for Burial Ground in Llantysillio	£500
Purchasing gritter attachment for tractors (includes £500 for report and 5 years revenue costs)	£13,000
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET	£18,500

4.2 Corwen Town and Area Plan

The Corwen Town & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 2. This Plan was approved by the Dee Valley MAG on 11 November 2013, and we are now seeking Cabinet's approval of the Plan and the following priorities and related funding commitments:

Priority:	Funding Requirement:
Match funding for Feasibility Study on Community Uses for redundant School buildings	£5,000
Youth Club Provision	£3,000
Training & Business Support for development of new businesses	£10,000
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET	£18,000

4.3 St Asaph City and Area Plan

The St Asaph City & Area Plan is attached as Appendix 3. This Plan was approved by the Elwy MAG on 8 November 2013, and we are now seeking Cabinet's approval of the Plan and the following priorities and related funding commitments:

Priority:	Funding Requirement:
Legal and other costs for transfer of Rhallt Playing Fields to Community Council	£12,000
Extension of double yellow lines at Trefnant	£2,000
Extension of layby at Cefn Meiriadog	£5,000
Fingerposts for historic sites in Bodelwyddan	£5,000
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM TOWN PLAN BUDGET	£24,000

4.4 – Timetable for the remaining Town and Area Plans

Appendix 4 details the timescales for the 9 Town & Area Plans, with the timetable for when they will be presented to Cabinet with recommendations for funding allocations for priorities is summarised below:

Plan	Champion	EBD Officer Rep	Cabinet Endorsement
Llangollen	Cllr Stuart Davies	Carolyn Brindle	26 Nov 2013
Corwen	Cllr Huw L Jones	Carolyn Brindle	26 Nov 2013
Ruthin	Cllr Huw Hilditch-Roberts	Emma Wynne	17 Dec 2013
Denbigh	Cllr Gwyneth Kensler	Emma Wynne	25 Mar 2013
St Asaph	Cllr Dewi Owens	Helen Telford	26 Nov 2013
Rhuddlan	Cllr Arwel Roberts	Helen Telford	25 Mar 2013
Prestatyn	Cllr Paul Penlington	Mark Dixon	17 Dec 2013
Rhyl	Cllr Joan Butterfield	Mark Dixon	25 Mar 2013
Bodelwyddan	Cllr Alice Jones	Helen Telford	TBC

Given the size of the community, and the significant growth potential through the land allocation in the recently adopted Local Development Plan (LDP), Cabinet previously agreed (April 2013) to develop a separate Town Plan for Bodelwyddan. This work will start shortly and the timetable for this will be reported at the December Cabinet once discussions with Plan Champion have been held.

4.5 Current Financial Position with Town and Area Plans

Total Funding for Town & Area Plans (to 31st March 2016):

	Revenue	Capital	TOTAL
Capital		£680,000	£680,000
2011/12 underspends	£191,000	£0	£191,000
2012/13 Revenue Budget	£356,000		£356,000
2013/14 Revenue Budget	£356,000		£356,000
Sub-Total to 31 March 2014	£903,000	£680,000	£1,583,000
2014/15 Revenue Budget	£356,000		£356,000
2015/16 Revenue Budget	£356,000		£356,000
TOTAL	£1,615,000	£680,000	£2,295,000

Commitments of £600,600 against the 2012/13 and 2013/14 budget were made at the Cabinet of 15th January 2013 as shown in the table below:

Town:	2012/13 & 2013/14
Prestatyn	£145,000
St Asaph	£60,800
Rhuddlan	£47,000
Denbigh	£135,800
Ruthin	£55,000
Corwen	£77,000
Llangollen	£80,000
TOTAL	£600,600

At the Town Plans Champions Meeting of 30 Sep 2013 the following match funding elements were approved for the Cyfenter Scheme from the Town Plans allocation:

Area:	TOTAL
Cwrw Ial Brewery (Llanarmon)	£23,394
Llanarmon Community Shop	£18,026
Llangollen Railway Trust	£18,426
TOTAL	£59,846

So the position with regards to funding commitments is:

Town:	Approved Jan 13	Cyfenter Match Funding	Recommended for approval 26 Nov 13	TOTAL
Prestatyn	£145,000			£145,000
St Asaph	£60,800		£24,000	£84,800
Rhuddlan	£47,000			£47,000
Denbigh	£135,800			£135,800
Ruthin	£55,000	£41,420		£96,420
Corwen	£77,000	£18,426	£18,000	£113,426
Llangollen	£80,000		£18,500	£98,500
TOTAL	£600,600	£59,846	£60,500	£720,946

To summarise the position to 31 March 2014:

Total funding allocation for Town and Area Plans to 31 Mar 2014	£1,583,000
Commitments to date	£720,946
Unallocated balance to 31 Mar 2014	£862,054

The unallocated balance figures detailed in the table above presumes that all current commitments (£716,946) will be spent by 31 March 2014. Given the current rate of spend this seems unlikely, and the latest position on spend to date and forecast to the year end will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting. A fuller report on progress to date will be provided at the December Cabinet meeting.

Beyond March 2014 there is a further £356,000 annual allocation against Town and Area Plans on current budget profiles.

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

Priority – Developing the Local Economy - The Town and Area Plans will be an underpinning document in terms of how this priority is delivered at a locality level, and their associated Action Plans will detail the delivery mechanisms to boost private sector confidence and investment creating new job and business opportunities.

Priority – Improving our Roads - the Plans will help identify problem areas to ensure resources are directed to the right locations and road improvements are made in the right places.

Priority – Clean & Tidy Streets

The plans will help identify problem areas to ensure resources are directed to the right locations and public realm improvements are made in the right places.

Priority – Modernising the Council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers - the plans will create a key mechanism for aligning Council services resources to deliver priorities identified by local communities in an efficient and effective way.

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

See section 4.5 above for financial information.

The Town and Area Plans identify issues, actions and priorities developed through consultation with those communities, and should be a key document in influencing the activity and priorities of all Denbighshire Services.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Appendix 4 provides some overview of the extensive consultation that has been undertaken in producing the Area Plans, which are developed in partnership with the relevant Town or Community Council. Consultation has been undertaken with DCC Heads of Service, third sector organisations (through DVSC), residents and business community (through some face to face meetings and through web based surveys).

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The expenditure proposed is contained within existing funding allocations. No capital project should start without a proper appraisal and any revenue implications from projects should be contained within existing budgets.

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

There is a risk that the development of the plans will raise expectations and that failure to deliver could damage the Council's reputation with Town and Community Councils and other stakeholders. This will be managed by ongoing involvement and communication with relevant stakeholders about the development and delivery of the plans.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 / Section 111 Local Government Act 1972