Portfolio Planning and Environment

Summary of Portfolio Budgeted Efficiencies

Current value of service, financial year 2017/2018 budget £5.043m	Cost reduction over the last five years £2.147m
23.04311	Percentage of budget = 43%

Context – What have we achieved so far

Following the creation of the new portfolio in 2014, there has been a significant reductions in management costs with a reduction in Service Manager and Team Leader posts. This includes the loss of a Head of Service and Service manager within year 1 of the Business Planning process and overall a move from ten Strategic managers to six Service managers by 2016. A further Service Manager is to be released in 2017/18.

Income has been generated via the introduction of a pre-planning application charging service and the introduction of a three year programme to make the licencing and pest control functions self-financing.

Service review has ensured compliance with the Council's management spans of control.

Business process efficiencies have secured £40 000 over 15/16 and 16/17 with a further £20 000 identified for 17/18.

Costs of newspaper advertising reduced by £20 000 over 15/16 and 16/17.

Cessation of the out of hours Dog Service brought a saving of £12 000 in 15/16.

Closure of Greenfield Office yielded £12 000 saving in 2015/16

All vacant posts reviewed and only recruited to on an exceptional basis when fully supported by Business Case. This secured £175 000 saving in 15/16.

The Planning function is now scrutinised via the Annual Performance Reporting process introduced by Welsh Government in 2015. This allows the Council to compare itself against other local authorities in Wales based on a series of efficiency targets.

Service	Current Operating Model	Preferred Operating Model	Mandatory (M) or Discretionary (D)	Current VfM Assessment	2017/18 Resilience levels	2018/19 Resilience levels if Green and Amber options are taken OR/ No Change (N/C)	WORKING NOTES Resilience level statement a) Service scale and quality b) Capability c) Service sustainability
Development Management including Highways DC, land charges and Building Control	In house provision – delivered by frontline workforce	Council with some collaboration to initially support EAB Growth bid and then potential Phase 2 of NW DM project. Some collaboration with other North Wales authorities such as Wrexham or Denbighshire	Μ	A	A	A	Some areas of the DM service are poorly performing when nationally benchmarked, or have immediate local issues which need addressing. This is a high profile area – subject to WG Annual Performance Reporting system Further reductions in staffing levels will directly impact on service provision against national benchmarks and our ability to deliver Local Development Plan to the agreed timetable. Further efficiencies would result in potential failure to determine applications within specified timescales leading to the refund of planning fees Expected VFM to move to green after completion of restructure.

Planning Strategy and Built Environment	Council in house provision – delivered by frontline workforce. Some topic - based collaboration with neighbouring authorities.	Council with some collaborative potential. Potential to support possible Strategic Development Plan for EAB area, followed by a lighter touch LDP review	Μ	G	A	NC	High profile area – subject to WG Annual Performance Reporting system. Progress on the LDP must be maintained to allow the potential to address the position of being unable to demonstrate of five year supply of housing land. Further reductions in staffing levels will directly impact on our ability to deliver the Local Development Plan (a Council Plan priority) which has already slipped.
Flood Risk and Strategy	In house provision – delivered by frontline workforce	Full collaborative with commercial potential	M / D	A	A	A	 Further reductions in staffing levels will directly impact on our ability to deliver the Flood Risk Management Plans which we have a statutory duty to complete. This would lead to an increased inability to plan for future flooding events and mitigate against them. Flood prevention has been acknowledged as a priority of the Public Services Board. Expected VFM to move to green following completion of restructure.
Energy	In house provision – delivered by front line workforce	Council with some collaborative potential	D	G	A	A	Reductions in staffing levels would result in the Council being unable to procure the most energy efficient products and advise residents accordingly. Green Council ambitions now a Council Plan priority. Further reductions would lead to an Increased risk of the number of residents in fuel poverty increasing.

							The Council Plan seeks to reduce this.
Minerals and Waste	Collaborative. Provides a consultancy style service for minerals and waste planning to Councils across North Wales.	Collaborative	Μ	G	A	A	Further reductions in staffing levels will directly impact on ability to deliver standards expected by our funding partners and may result in the partnership's demise. FCC would no longer be able to justify employment of the full team leading to potential exit costs.
Access and Countryside including Countryside, Natural Environment, Rights of Way and Greenfield Valley	In house provision delivered by frontline workforce with an increasing use of volunteers	Council with some collaborative potential	M / D	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements in relation to the management of ecologically important sites and habitats. Environmental protection has been acknowledged as a priority of the Public Services Board and forms part of the Green Council priority.
Trading Standards and Animal Health	Council. In house provision – delivered by front line workforce with some regional collaboration.	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through work streams identified by the North Wales Heads of Public Protection	М	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements; an increased risk to consumers and an increased risk to animal welfare
Trading Standards Investigations and Community Safety	Council. In house provision – delivered by front line workforce with some regional collaboration	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through work streams	М	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements; an increased risk to consumers and reduction in community safety and cohesion. Safer Communities are

							acknowledged as a priority within the Council and the work of the Public Service Board.
Licensing and Pest Control	Council. In house provision – delivered by front line workforce	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through work streams where appropriate	M / D	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements, an increased risk to consumers, public health and service users.
Food Safety and Standards	Council. In house provision – delivered by front line workforce Some voluntary regional collaboration where appropriate	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through work streams identified by the North Wales Heads of Public Protection	M	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements, an increased risk to consumers, public health and service users and an increased risk to consumers
Public Health and Housing Enforcement	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through the work streams and projects identified by the North Wales Heads of Public Protection	Council Voluntary regional collaboration through work streams	Μ	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements, an increased risk to consumers, public health and service users and an increased risk to consumers.
Corporate Health and Safety	Council	Council	Μ	G	A	NC	Further reductions would lead to a failure to meet our statutory requirements and an increased, unacceptable risk to our staff and the public.