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# County Conversation, Summer 2016

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**What you told us...**

# County Conversation, so far...

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- Work focused on gathering detailed information from you
- We invited individuals from across our communities to contribute
- Ways we contacted communities:
  - Online survey
  - Paper copies in our libraries
  - Telephone
  - E-mail
  - School Councils

## Vision for the future:

- Active and Aspirational Citizens
  - Responsibility for self and own wellbeing
  - Participating in education, employment, community, culture...
- Communities with Capacity
  - Valued community assets
  - Access to local services
  - Strong sense of community identity and spirit
- Connected and Co-operating Organisations
  - Improved communication and engagement
  - Better partnership working
  - Health and Social Care integration

# County Conversation, so far...

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You expressed a broad range of views; consistent messages emerged from across all groups revealing key themes:

- Access to services
- Active lifestyles
- Education
- Employment and business opportunities
- Housing
- Entertainment Venues and Events
- Integrated Health and Social Care Services
- Natural Environment

## What do you want?

The delivery of services with no access problems, and which prevent social isolation. This is expected to include a mixture of local delivery, improved accessible and affordable transport and improved digital access.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Information that is easily accessed and communicated in a clear and consistent way, including better use of digital technology
- Access to amenities through improved transport, including bus services, that benefits from advances in technology
- Services delivered locally in your communities (i.e. not centralised)

## What do you want?

Leisure facilities, walking and cycle routes and encouragement to enable residents to participate in active lifestyles and reap the social, mental health and physical health benefits.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Well-connected footpaths and cycle routes
- Well-maintained leisure centres
- Sporting and activity groups that support active lifestyles and well-being across all age groups
- Actions to reduce loneliness and isolation and to encourage people to keep fit and mobile
- Healthy eating, ideally using local produce

## What do you want?

Education that delivers social and life skills (including mental health and well-being) and practical preparation for work, as well as academic achievement.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Greater focus on issues of health, community, civic duty and promotion of independence
- ‘Life Skills’ such as how to pay taxes or how mortgages work
- Having the right skills for work
- More opportunity for intergenerational working

## What do you want?

Employment and business opportunities capable of providing prosperity, providing access to goods and services locally, and retaining or attracting young people to live in the area.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Better quality and higher paid jobs
- Companies “giving back” to communities
- Equality in employment, especially pay
- Support for local businesses with reduced rates, rents and better lease terms



## What do you want?

Housing that is able to meet the needs of residents, including retaining or attracting young people to live in the area.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Good quality housing for all
- More affordable housing that is fit for purpose
- Empty buildings turned over for housing where possible
- More environmentally friendly and sustainable housing; making better use of renewable energy
- Improved links between the Council, private owners and housing associations

## What do you want?

Entertainment venues and events to support the Community spirit, culture, identity and the tourism economy.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Fun and inexpensive entertainment that fosters community spirit
- Venues being opened for alternative use; making the most of community assets
- More diverse activities and more events with better co-ordination between event organisers and local businesses
- Annual calendar of events

## What do you want?

Integrated health and social care services that include a focus on prevention and realising the potential for new technology; and where services are delivered within localities and independence is supported.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Improved partnership working between public bodies, third sector and the public; seamless services
- The delivery of community based health initiatives with community buy-in
- New technology and scientific advances providing improvements to health
- Emphasis on preventative support, creating an ability for individuals to sort out minor problems and self-diagnose

## What do you want?

A natural environment that is protected and provides tourism and leisure opportunities; renewable energy; and food for local consumption.

## Broadly, you would like to see:

- Increased accessibility to green spaces; important links to tourism
- Work to protect communities against climate change and flooding
- Expansion of the outdoor leisure offer that makes use of countryside assets
- A strong local food economy where agricultural land is used to its potential
- New technology and scientific solutions – recycling, reducing plastic packaging, renewable energy

## 1. Engagement

You told us you felt that ongoing and meaningful engagement was important and that Denbighshire County Council did not currently communicate well.

## 2. Outward migration of Young People

You told us you felt it was very important that young people stay in the area and affordable housing and employment opportunities were seen as key to achieving this.

## 3. Community Assets

You felt communities needed local physical assets to bring people together and foster community identity. These could be traditional public service buildings such as schools, libraries or community centres but could equally be local shops, café's or pubs. There is a willingness to explore alternative ownership / management arrangements.

## **4. The Natural Environment as an Asset**

You love the natural environment and see it as a key asset to be used to attract tourists, provide leisure opportunities, produce food and generate income. Ecological concerns such as biodiversity and carbon storage are seen as key to protecting this asset.

## **5. Health and Social Services – Access and Integration**

You had concerns about access to social care and health services and saw integration as key to resolving this.

## **6. A Broad Vision for Education**

You felt that education services should place more emphasis on life skills and skills for employment. There was a perception that young people were ill-equipped for the 'real world'.

# Our Aspirations for the future

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You told us about the strengths of your communities, your long-term ambitions and concerns, and what you think we should do in the future. We now want to ask you if we have the priorities for our communities right.

We would like you to complete our questionnaire asking you to tell us which of the priorities are most important to you. If there are other priorities you feel we have missed out, we would like you to give us an explanation as to why you think these are important and **what can be done to take it forward.**

Consider what aspirations you would like to see come true for you and your families and Denbighshire in the future. These are things that may go in the Corporate Plan for Denbighshire.

What might we need to change to help us deliver your ambitions?

The purpose of working with you is to provide a clearer understanding of how you see life in Denbighshire in the future.

When our consultation with you is complete, we should have:

1. Our aspirations for Denbighshire's future;
2. Know what is deliverable in the next 5 years; and
3. How the Council may need to change to deliver these aspirations.



Public engagement on the 'long list' of Aspirations: Dec - Jan 2017

Draft long list developed as 'Well-being objectives' – Feb 2017

Cabinet agrees draft Well-being Objectives (aspirations) – March 2017

Submission of Well-being Objectives to Welsh Government – April 2017

Senior Leadership Team / Council Workshop to confirm Well-being Objectives – July 2017

Public consultation on the draft plan: August – September 2017

Publish the new Corporate Plan – October 2017