

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>REPORT NO:</b>	LR/06/14
<b>DATE:</b>	10 June 2014
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Hugh Jones (Communities, Partnerships and Collaboration)
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Lee Robinson (Tel: 292400)
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Together in Wrexham
<b>WARD:</b>	N/A

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To consider a proposal about a new initiative called 'Together in Wrexham'.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Together in Wrexham is a proposed initiative which is intended to be the overarching theme for reframing the Council's relationship with the public. Together in Wrexham will act as a catalyst to bring together, refocus and prioritise work currently being conducted in a number of departments of the Council, as well as introducing some new elements. The core purpose of Together in Wrexham is to empower communities in Wrexham to take more responsibility and more control for improving services, relationships and the quality of life in the places where they live, thereby making communities more sustainable in the future.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members approve the development and implementation of the 'Together in Wrexham' framework.

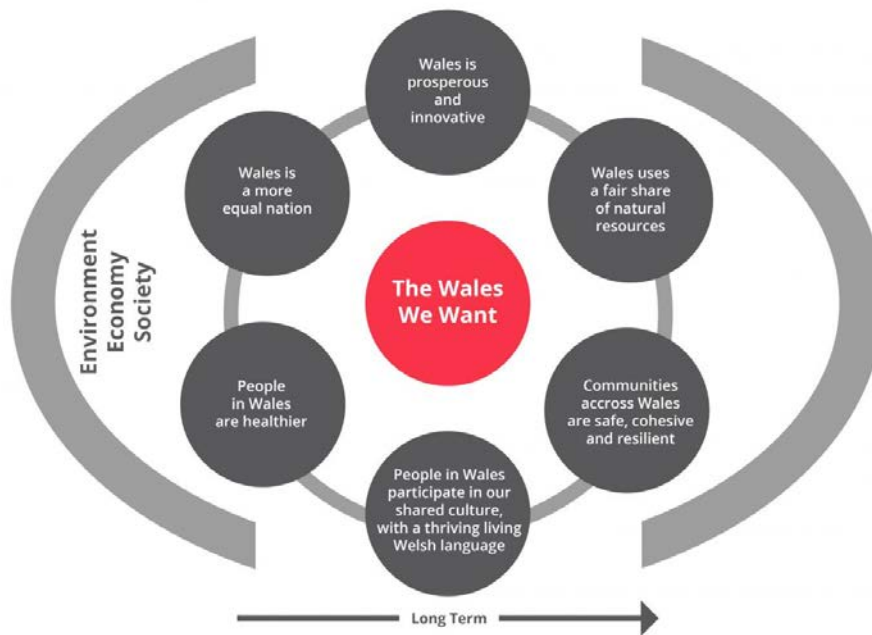
## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- I. To provide a methodology by which local communities in partnership with the Council can sustain services.
- II. To enable appropriate co-ordinated support to be delivered to community organisations to enable them to lead successfully community schemes and services
- III. To promote community led schemes in order to reduce communities' reliance on Council run services to ensure local people are supported to maintain a good quality of life in Wrexham's communities

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The vision for Wrexham is "the Council as a strong community leader". In line with this ambition the Council wants to support communities to come together to:
  - take more responsibility for themselves
  - actively participate in delivering services
  - actively participate in re-designing those services which are important to them
  - take a joint responsibility for improving the quality of life in the places where they live.
- 4.2 In many places this is already happening and the Council wants to build on this by promoting and supporting a 'Together in Wrexham' framework and approach.
- 4.3 There is a strong link between Together in Wrexham and the Welsh Government agenda on Future Generations. The proposed Future Generations Bill is intended to help tackle the inter-generational challenges Wales faces in a more joined up and integrated way - ensuring Welsh public services look to the long term. The proposed Bill is being introduced by Welsh Government in Summer 2014 to reinforce the fundamental role that public services in Wales play in helping to deliver long term goals for the future well-being of Wales.
- 4.4 The Bill will do this by putting the needs of communities, now and in the future, at the heart of the decisions that Welsh public services make.
- 4.5 Welsh Government is currently engaging with the people of Wales through the "National Conversation" to get a better understanding of the challenges that people face in their everyday lives as well as those of their families and communities. The Conversation should build up public awareness about the Bill, and will lead to an interim report in June 2014 by the Commissioner for Sustainable Futures.
- 4.6 A report on behalf of future generations will then be published in March 2015 which will reflect the goals for "The Wales We Want".

The concept of “The Wales We Want” is shown diagrammatically below:



4.7 Together in Wrexham links in with a number of the strands in the diagram, especially:

- Communities across Wales are safe, cohesive and resilient
- People in Wales are healthier
- Wales is prosperous and innovative
- People in Wales participate in our shared culture, with a thriving, living Welsh language

4.8 The Together in Wrexham framework identifies four key areas which are crucial to delivering this in our Borough:

1. Community Leadership (Role of Lead Member and Local Members)

The framework will help Councillors to understand their role as the gateway to their local communities. This will help to shape future service delivery in partnership with local people.

2. Council Offer to the Community

The framework will enable the development of new and innovative ways of delivering services through local approaches. This will include the increased use of volunteers supported by a new timebanking scheme and sign posting Councillors and communities to opportunities both in Wrexham and across the rest of the UK., such as:

- Community led libraries and community centres.
- Schemes to promote older people's independence and support to stay in their own homes.

- Schemes to promote increased employability and citizen engagement.
- Expansion of initiatives promoting clean, safe and inclusive community environments where vulnerable residents feel supported during times of need (e.g. adverse weather).

### 3. Community Opportunities

The ‘Together in Wrexham’ framework will seek to establish policies that give communities agreed opportunities. For example, the opportunity to deliver services, (a good example of this is Gresford Library), the opportunity to bid for and own community assets and the opportunity to neighbourhood plan. In England, some of these opportunities are enshrined as “rights” in the Localism Act. Through ‘Together in Wrexham’ we want to establish opportunities that while not enshrined in law are adopted as clear policies by the Council.

### 4. Communication – Working with Partners, Engagement and Feedback

‘Together in Wrexham’ will deliver a framework that ensures effective communication and joint work between partners and all stakeholders so that community engagement at all levels is carried out regularly and that feedback informs the forward planning.

### **Timebanking in Wrexham** (see appendix 1)

- 4.9 As one element of the ‘Together in Wrexham’ initiative, it is proposed to introduce a pilot time bank in Wrexham, initially covering the areas of Cefn Mawr, Caia Park and Hightown. After year one, the plan is to expand the time bank to other parts of Wrexham.

#### **The Wrexham Timebank**

- 4.10 It is proposed that the Wrexham Timebank will be set up initially by involving already established volunteering schemes in the areas of Cefn Mawr, Caia Park and Hightown. It is hoped that these will involve residents of all ages with a range of different interests and needs. Good practice from other areas of Wales and England suggests that a dedicated co-ordinator for the timebank will be needed to ensure a successful set up and long term sustainability. Costs have been based on a three year set up period, with a dedicated co-ordinator, a part time administrative assistant and other support from ‘Go Wales’ graduates.

- 4.11 Estimated funding needed for the Timebank (see appendix 2)

Year 1	£81,500	(staffing, training, set up costs, spend opportunities, initial evaluation)
	£4,000	(events and spend opportunities)
Ongoing Annual Costs	£55,700	(staffing, on-going running costs)
	£4,000	(events and spend opportunities)

## **Indicators of success**

- 4.12 There will be a number of indicators of the success of the implementation of the timebank itself, such as
- The number of local schemes operating the timebank (opportunities for earning time credits)
  - The number of business schemes providing opportunities for spend
  - The number of time banking hours banked
  - The breakdown in ages and area of participants
- 4.13 Under these, there will be indicators of the successes within the local member schemes, involving
- Increased participation in schemes
  - Benefits to the participants
  - Benefits to the organisation
- 4.14 Also there will be indicators of success among the business schemes maybe involving
- Increased footfall
  - Increased business
  - Business development and expansion
  - Improving the public image of the business

## **Progress to Date**

- 4.15 A scoping group has met to discuss the potential for the timebank, the involvement of local organisations in Wrexham. The group has drawn up some draft plans and has sought to establish what funding is available to pool to contribute to the timebank costs. The group has also contacted and received quotes from potential training and support organisations. Consultation is ongoing in the relevant communities to establish local appetite for a time bank.
- 4.16 Organisations involved in the scoping group:  
Prevention and Social Care  
Assets and Economic Development  
Communities First  
Severn Wye  
Supporting People  
Wales & West Housing Association  
Caia Park Partnership  
Adult Social Services  
Flying Start  
North Wales Police
- 4.17 In summary, the 'Together in Wrexham' framework is not just a single project or thing. It is a concept and way of working that seeks to bring together a number of community related ideas and activities from our Council Plan under one umbrella and give them a shape and purpose around sustaining communities and being a strong community leader.
- 4.18 As budgets continue to reduce, the 'Together in Wrexham' framework provides a methodology by which local communities in partnership with the Council can

sustain services both across the County Borough area and within individual communities, rather than just cutting or removing services completely. However, it is important to say that this is not about just shedding costs, even though this criticism will be levelled at Together in Wrexham. It is about seeking to address elements of the dependency culture that we know exists and, more fundamentally about focussing assets and services in our communities on need.

4.19 Welsh Government has identified that our communities form the heart of our nation and culture. Wrexham County Borough is the same on a micro-scale. The purpose of Together in Wrexham is to make a start in future-proofing our communities, ensuring they and the people who live in them are protected from pressures that threaten their viability and survival. This means that in meeting pressing short-term needs such as mitigating the impact of economic and fiscal pressures and creating jobs and growth, that Wrexham will seek to make every effort to safeguard the long term interests of the people of Wrexham under the overarching principle of Together in Wrexham.

4.20 It is proposed that this approach continues to be supported, through the following:

**Proposed next steps:**

- Develop a fully risk assessed strategic framework for Together in Wrexham and establish a Project Team.
- Develop elected Councillors to understand and develop their role as Community Leaders as part of Together in Wrexham.
- Develop a dedicated Together in Wrexham web presence – with toolkits available and signposting to relevant organisations and best practice case studies.
- Member and Officer workshop to be held to shape how a Together in Wrexham approach can be developed and delivered exploring how Together in Wrexham as a tool in supporting aspects of delivery associated with other programmes, in particular community led services and preventative programmes.
- Introduction of the Wrexham Timebank to promote increased engagement with the wider community and promote understanding of the value of contributing to society; working from the concept that people are assets and all acts of giving should be rewarded in a two way process.
- Volunteering – using the ‘Together in Wrexham’ Project Team to connect the emerging individual needs of services requiring greater input and support of volunteers. (Appendix 3 shows individuals and organisations that are keen to be involved).

4.21 Potential principle partners for ‘Together in Wrexham’ include :

- Elected members and Community Councils
- Several Departments of the Council
- Other statutory service providers
- Local community groups
- Third sector organisations and AVOW

- Business Wales, the Wales Co-operative Centre, Social Firms Wales, Development Trusts Association, Social Enterprise Wales
- Coleg Cambria and Glyndwr University
- Faith organisations

#### 4.22 Potential resources for 'Together in Wrexham' include:

- 'Fit for purpose' toolkit and Social Enterprise Support Service
- Social enterprise toolkit
- Community development framework
- Timebanking:

##### Possible sources of funding (all unconfirmed)

- Big Lottery bid, third sector lead – £25k per annum for yrs 2 and 3 - will submit bid for People and Places
- Communities First slippage (14/15) - max £20k for 14/15 (unconfirmed by WG)
- Communities First Community Involvement funding – max. £10k per annum (unconfirmed by WG and CF Boards)
- Small contribution from Street Ambassadors bid – WCVA and WCBC – amount unconfirmed
- North Wales Police Charity - £4k per annum approx for events

##### Maximum possible:

Yr 1	£34,000 + small contribution
Yr 2	£39,000 + small contribution

##### Other offered sources of support

- Free accommodation in Cefn Mawr
- p/t Officer support from AED
- p/t Officer support from Communities First
- Set up guidance and support from David Gittins (Severn Wye)

## Policy Framework –

### 4.22 Budget

The time banking pilot has the resource implications identified in the report.

### 4.23 Legal

Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the Council to do anything considered likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic and/or social and/or environmental well-being of the area. In determining whether or how to exercise this power the Council must have regard to its Community Strategy and also the Welsh Government statutory guidance on the exercise of well-being powers.

### 4.24 Staffing

The time banking pilot has the resource implications identified in the report.

### 4.25 Equality/Human Rights

None

#### 4.26 Risks

This is a pilot to identify opportunities and lessons learned, which will enable WCBC to identify and manage future risks.

### 5. CONSULTATION


5.1 Consultation will take place with all stakeholders

### 6. EVALUATION OF OPTIONS

6.1 N/A

### 7. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

7.1 This report has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Act Local report to Worcestershire Council		<a href="https://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/Documents/Appendix/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Performance%20Board/Agendas%20and%20Reports%202013/Thursday%2C%2024%20October%202013/Act%20Local%20in%20Worcestershire.pdf">https://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/Documents/Appendix/Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Performance%20Board/Agendas%20and%20Reports%202013/Thursday%2C%2024%20October%202013/Act%20Local%20in%20Worcestershire.pdf</a>
Act Local Framework		<a href="https://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/layouts/OSSSearchResults.aspx?k=Act%20Local%20in%20Worcestershire&amp;cs=This%20List&amp;u=http%3A%2F%2Fpublic.worcestershire.gov.uk%2Fweb%2Fhome%2FDS%2FDocuments">https://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/layouts/OSSSearchResults.aspx?k=Act%20Local%20in%20Worcestershire&amp;cs=This%20List&amp;u=http%3A%2F%2Fpublic.worcestershire.gov.uk%2Fweb%2Fhome%2FDS%2FDocuments</a>
Timebanking Wrexham – a paper by Dave Gittins		 wbcmad.wrexham.g
Volunteering in Wales Website		<a href="http://www.volunteering-wales.net/">http://www.volunteering-wales.net/</a>
Timebanking Wales		<a href="http://www.timebankingwales.org/">http://www.timebankingwales.org/</a>



### Background

Time banking uses spare capacity within the community that allows people to give time to projects and in return they are rewarded using spare capacity from a local authority, business or local service providers. Time banking operates using time credits – when a member of the community gives an hour of their time to a project they are rewarded with a time credit. This can then be redeemed at a participating organisation (examples could be leisure centres or cinema). If someone wanted to watch a two hour film they would need two time credits to watch the film.

Timebanks can promote increased engagement within communities and a better understanding of the value of contributing to the community in which we live. Working from the concept that people are assets and all acts of giving should be rewarded in a two way process, time banking looks at what people can give to the time bank / community as well as well as considering their needs and helps people move beyond the culture of dependency towards more community-led services.

Timebanks can strengthen and sustain current community projects and can empower communities to develop new projects that are community led in their area, rather than being passive recipients of support that professional experts think they need. Increased community confidence and ownership can emerge as a positive result from this process.

Timebanks can help **residents** because they have the potential to:

- Improve levels of employability and increase community learning.
- Improve social inclusion and community engagement and increase opportunities for people to contribute to their community, particularly for groups who have hitherto been less involved.
- Increased opportunities for intergenerational interaction.
- Decrease social isolation and offers people opportunity for social interaction within their own community.
- Improve financial inclusion.
- Improve health and mental health.
- Increase the rate at which more vulnerable people remain supported within their own communities (rather than moving into supported accommodation / homes).
- Reduce antisocial behaviour, offending and vandalism.

Timebanks can help **communities** because they have the potential to:

- Increase young people's engagement in education, training and employment.
- Improve visual aspect of an area and help promote an improved sense of place and community pride.
- Improve community cohesion, a feeling of safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Timebanks can help **projects** and other **initiatives** because they have the potential, for example to:

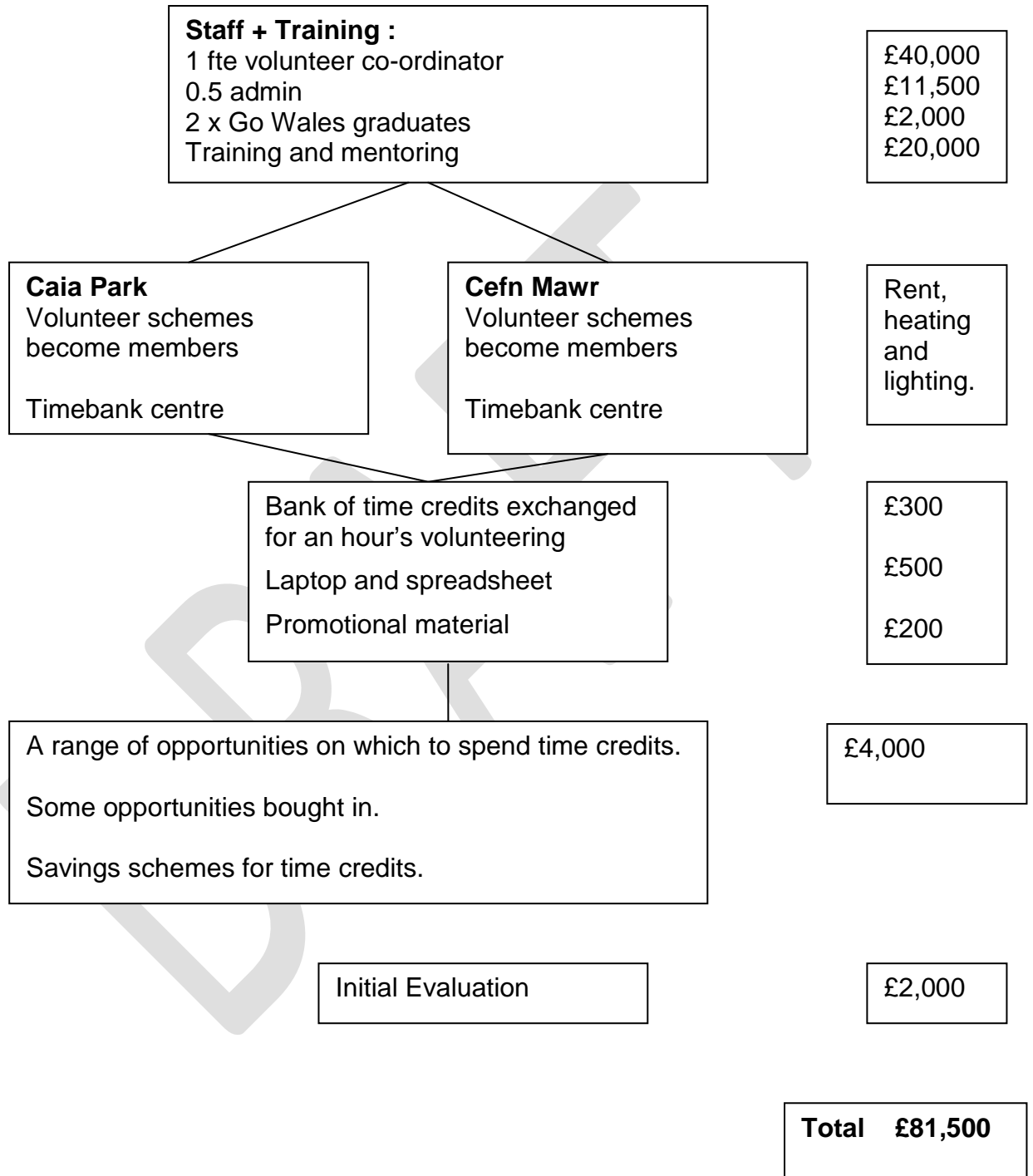
- Involve residents more fully in the delivery of community projects and programmes, including the Communities First programme.
- Improve the success rate and sustainability of community asset transfers.
- Add value to housing support services.
- Increase and expand residents' involvement in participative democracy at all levels.



## Phase One

What would a new Timebank in Wrexham look like in the first year?

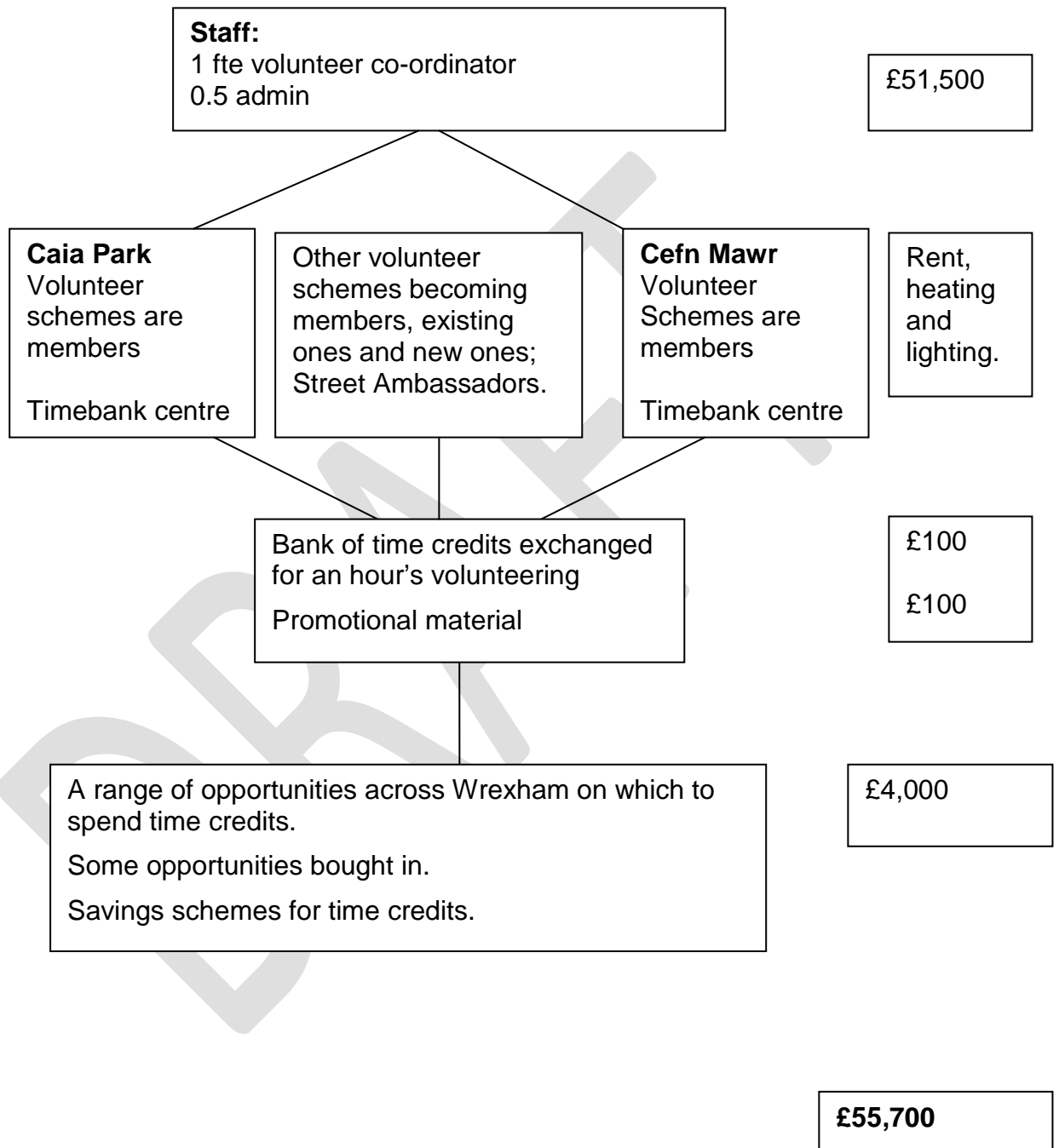
### Approx. Costs



## Phase Two

What would a new Timebank in Wrexham look like in the second + third year?

**Approx. Costs pa**



### Progress Report for Timebanking Delivery Group in Wrexham – May 2014

Two meetings held. All members below are interested in linking their service users and staff with the timebank once it is up and running.

<b>Members of Delivery Group</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status</b>
Tricia Jones		PSC, WCBC, chairing, provided a report for members, in touch with Spice, Creation Development Trust, Timebanking Wales
Dave Gittins	Severn Wye	Supporting set up only, in touch with lots of interested parties, linking with CF engagement officers to determine local appetite
Vy Cochran	Wales and West	No funding, will help write a bid
Amanda Evans	AED, WCBC	Now leading for AED, interested in the employability angle
Jon Sankey, Andrew Harradine	Communities First WCBC	Engagement officers assessing local appetite for timebank, interested in schemes involving CF areas, timebanking is a target for CF
Jo Ward	ASC, WCBC	No funding at present, may be in year 2, interested in engaging older people and intergenerational schemes
Alison Hill	Caia Park Partnership	Unable currently to provide a financial contribution, run volunteer schemes.
<b>Interested but no longer attending delivery group</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status</b>
Vicky Bishop, Shirley Jones	Supporting People, WCBC	No funding, provider organisations will be interested in involving tenants
Dave Evans	North Wales Police	Will provide funding for events, especially interested in Street Ambassadors re. reducing crime and ASB
Tom Taylor	AED, WCBC	Submitted bid for slippage and for using engagement funds to set up the timebank
Fran Dale	Flying Start, WCBC	Interested potentially for breastfeeding mentors
Jillian McBreaty-Gilliam	PSC, WCBC	Possible slippage funding in the future re. schemes for young people / parents
Paul Tincello	AED, WCBC	Contact for Street Ambassadors Bid which could be linked
Hayley Morgan	Communities First WCBC	Will be involved in implementation

## **Pooled set up funding needed**

Possible sources of funding (all unconfirmed)

- Corporate WCBC
- Big Lottery bid, third sector lead – £25k per annum for yrs 2 and 3 - will submit bid for People and Places
- Communities First slippage (14/15) - max £20k for 14/15 (unconfirmed by WG)
- Communities First Community Involvement funding – max. £10k per annum (unconfirmed by WG and CF Boards)
- Small contribution from Street Ambassadors bid – WCVA and WCBC – amount unconfirmed
- North Wales Police Charity - £4k per annum approx for events  
Maximum possible:  
Yr 1                    £34,000 + small contribution  
Yr 2                    £39,000 + small contribution

Other possible sources of support

- Free accommodation in Cefn Mawr
- p/t Officer support from AED
- p/t Officer support from Communities First
- Some set up guidance and support from David Gittins (Severn Wye)
- Some guidance and possibly evaluation from Timebanking Wales
- Intergenerational Skill Swap scheme – scheme could run parallel and support the timebank
- Current volunteer schemes