

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber. Russell House, Churton Road, Rhyl on Tuesday 20th June, 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor E.C. Edwards (Leader) D.W. Davies, I.M. German, D.M. Holder, R.W. Hughes, G.M. Kensler, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts, W.R. Webb, K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers - Councillors M. Ll. Davies, M.A. German, R.J.R. Jones, A.J. Tobin and R. Ll. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Head of Policy, Head of Legal and Administration, Head of Accountancy and Administration Services Manager.

1. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following items which, in his opinion, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972:-

- (i) North East Wales Registration and Inspection Unit - Management Board
- (ii) Best Value Advisory Group
- (iii) W.G.L.A. - Review of S.S.A.
- (iv) Delegation to County Clare
- (v) Meeting between W.G.L.A. spokesperson on Social Affairs and Chairs and Directors of Social Services in Wales

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER

The Leader of the Cabinet selected Councillor W.R. Webb as Deputy Leader of the Council and also indicated that Councillors W.R. Webb and D.W. Davies would continue to act as the Council's representatives on the Welsh Local Government Association.

The Leader gave a short presentation to Cabinet reminding Members of the duties and responsibilities of the Cabinet and highlighted the need for the Cabinet to work collectively to achieve their aims and objectives. Cabinet Members would need to work closely with the new Corporate Directors and Heads of Service in order to bring service provision in line with cash limited budgets. In summing up, the Leader indicated that he would be requesting the Chief Executive to draw up a list of current projects to be considered by Cabinet on 6th July 2000.

3. W.L.G.A./NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES SEMINAR - POLITICAL STRUCTURES

The Chief Executive referred to the above Seminar held on 9th June which aimed to share and benefit from local authorities' experiences in implementing the modernisation and scrutiny arrangements. Arising from the Seminar, the Chief Executive suggested that there was a clear need for a seminar to be arranged for Members and Officers on scrutiny arrangements which could involve the officers from Syniad/IDEA who had given reviews of the early modernising process to the Seminar on 9th June.

The Chief Executive felt that the Cabinet arrangements for Denbighshire seemed to be acceptable but the scrutiny arrangements needed further consideration. Some Councils had an overarching Scrutiny Committee which allocated subjects for examination by Scrutiny Panels thus avoiding scrutiny

committees from becoming Subject Committees. The Chief Executive emphasised the need to have protocols in place for Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees and to have a degree of delegation to individual Members of the Cabinet.

Following a brief discussion on the funding arrangements for Seminars it was:-

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for a seminar to be held for Members and Officers on scrutiny arrangements.

4. **DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS**

The Head of Policy circulated at the meeting a Cabinet Action Plan which outlined the general tasks to be undertaken by the Cabinet. The Plan would ensure that the Cabinet implemented the Council's agreed policy portfolio and the translation of the Authority's Mission Statement and Statement of Priorities into actions. With the aid of slides the Head of Policy explained the main objectives and key tasks within the Action Plan.

The Leader thanked the Head of Policy for the presentation and then announced the names of the Cabinet Members who would have lead responsibility to implement the main objectives within the Plan as follows:-

Main Objective	CABINET LEAD
A. Financial	
1. To achieve financial solvency.	Councillor E.A. Owens
2. To create a coherent service and financial planning system.	Councillor E.A. Owens
3. Capital Strategy.	Cabinet
4. Objective One Corporate Strategy.	Councillor D.W. Davies
5. To review Property Portfolio.	Councillor W.R. Webb
B. Other	
6. To implement new constitution.	Council and Modernising Panel
7. To improve service performance and service standards.	Councillor E.W. Williams
8. To review the full range of corporate agendas.	Cabinet
9. Preparation for Eisteddfod.	Councillor G.M. Kensler
10. Human Resource Strategy, including organisational development.	Councillors I.M. German and D. Holder
11. ICT and Information Strategy.	Councillor K.E. Wells
12. Develop effective partnerships.	Councillor E.C. Edwards
13. Ensuring Council has a post 16, early years, SEN and school buildings strategy.	Councillor K. E. Wells
14. Devise Tourism Strategy for the Council.	Councillor R.W. Hughes
15. Devise Leisure Strategy.	Councillor R.W. Hughes
16. Determine a strategy regarding the role of in house provision for Social Services. Determine a strategy for developing the corporate parenting role.	Councillor A.E. Roberts

In addition the Leader announced that Councillor W.R. Webb would Chair the Modernising Panel and Councillor D.M. Morris would take responsibility for the Environment Portfolio.

The Leader indicated that he did not wish the Cabinet to discuss the nominations but would be happy to meet individual Cabinet Members on their assigned responsibilities.

5. CABINET TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The Head of Policy submitted a report (previously circulated) setting out a timetable of meetings for the Cabinet to the end of the current year. The timetable involved Cabinet meeting on a fortnightly basis which would cater for the volume of work; provide for written feedback both from and to the monthly Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees and ensure that Cabinet would be able to provide effective leadership.

RESOLVED that the following dates for Cabinet Meetings, as amended, be approved:-

*Thursday, 6th July
Tuesday, 18th July
Tuesday, 1st August
Thursday, 31st August
Tuesday, 12th September
Thursday, 28th September
Monday, 9th October
Monday, 23rd October
Tuesday, 7th November
Thursday, 23rd November
Tuesday, 5th December
Thursday, 21st December*

6. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

The Head of Policy submitted the following Conferences/Seminars for Members' consideration:-

- (i) Local Business Partnerships

RESOLVED that the W.G.L.A. be informed that this Authority supports the setting up of local business partnerships in Wales

- (ii) Meeting with Lead Members of Education with Rosemary Butler on 14th July at Rhyader

RESOLVED that Councillor K.E. Wells be nominated to attend the meeting and attendance be approved for the payment of attendance allowance

- (iii) meeting with Local Authority Planning Representatives 29th June, 2000 - Cardiff

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Councillor D.M. Morris and a Planning Officer be nominated to attend the meeting, and

(b) attendance be approved for the payment of attendance allowance

- (v) W.L.G.A. meeting - review of S.S.A. - 3rd July 2000 - Powys

(this item was considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Leader)

RESOLVED that Councillor E.A. Owens be nominated to attend the meeting and attendance be approved for the payment of attendance allowance.

- (vi) meeting between W.G.L.A. spokesperson on Social Affairs and Chairs and Directors of Social Services in Wales - 30th June, 2000.

(this item was considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Leader)

RESOLVED that Councillor A.E. Roberts be nominated to attend the meeting and attendance be approved for the payment of attendance allowance.

7. BEST VALUE ADVISORY GROUP

(this item was referred to Cabinet by the Emergency Powers and Appointments Committee on 23rd May and considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Leader)

The Head of Policy sought the nomination of a substitute representative to attend meetings of the Best Value Advisory Group.

Cabinet Members felt that the lead Member on Best Value should be the appointed representative to sit on the Group and it was:-

RESOLVED that Councillor E.W. Williams be nominated as this Authority's representative to attend meetings of the Best Value Advisory Group.

8. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION UNIT

(this item was referred to Cabinet by the Emergency Powers and Appointments Committee on 23rd May and considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Leader)

The Head of Policy sought the nomination of a representative to sit on the Management Board of the North East Wales Registration and Inspection Unit

RESOLVED that Councillor A.E. Roberts be nominated as the representative to sit on the Management Board and attendance be approved for the payment of attendance allowance.

At this juncture (11.10 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to partake in refreshments.

9. DISTRICT AUDITORS' REPORT - FINANCIAL STANDING

Ms. Delyth Morris of the District Audit Office gave a presentation to the Cabinet on the financial standing of the Council arising from the recommendations contained within the 1998/99 Management Letter.

In taking members through the report Ms Morris, with the aid of slides, indicated that the Authority still needed to identify and approve £0.81 m of reductions; to complete an action plan and submit a recovery plan (plan to be discussed by Cabinet on 6th July, 2000).

During the presentation Ms Morris referred to the 12 recommendations within the Action Plan all of which were listed as high priority. The Auditors' overall conclusion was that the Council had to start its budget setting process much earlier so that at the beginning of a new financial year a fully agreed and supported budget was in place. Members would also have to commit themselves to supporting and implementing a robust recovery plan to address the Authority's financial problems.

Following the presentation Members took the opportunity to ask the District Auditor and his staff various questions concerning the financial standing of the Authority.

The Chief Executive summarised the current position and acknowledged the problem of closing the annual accounts and getting information on outturns. He hoped that the budget cycle would commence in September with indicative budgets being set by October. The Council and Cabinet would then need

to make decisions on service delivery within cash limited budgets and those budgets would need to be monitored more effectively.

Councillor E.A. Owens thanked Mr. Ceri Stradling and Ms. Delyth Morris for their presentation.

10. DELEGATION TO COUNTY CLARE

(this item was referred to the Cabinet by the Emergency Powers and Appointments Committee on 23rd May, 2000 and considered as an urgent matter, notice having been given by the Leader)

The Head of Policy referred to the decision taken by the Emergency Powers and Appointments Committee on 23rd May, 2000 to develop further links with Objective 1 areas in Southwest Ireland and sought Cabinet's views on the size and composition of a delegation of Members/Officers to visit County Clare.

Councillor E.A. Owens queried which budget would be funding such a trip. The Chief Executive felt that the Economic Development Unit should be requested to identify how this and other visits to Objective 1 Regions would be funded as part of the overall European Strategy. Councillor D.W. Davies proposed seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet pending the receipt of the financial information referred to by the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

11. TEMPORARY VENUE FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING P.F.I. CONSTRUCTION

The Chief Executive referred to the P.F.I. project and to the loss of the Ruthin Council Chamber for up to a period of 6 months. The other Council Chambers within the County could not accommodate all 47 Members and possible options were put forward for consideration.

Members agreed that the Council should not meet out of County and it was

RESOLVED that the officers be requested to make suitable arrangements for the Council to meet at the Pavilion, Llangollen (Monsanto Room), Denbigh Town Hall and Rhyl Town Hall on a rotational basis.

The Meeting concluded at 12.15 p.m.

**REPORT BY THE ACTING HEAD OF COUNTRYSIDE
AND LEISURE SERVICES**

BOTANICAL GARDENS : PROPOSED FENCE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council authority to submit a planning application for a proposed fence along the Grange Road frontage to Botanical Gardens.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As a result of a number of incidents of vandalism and other anti-social behaviour at Botanical Gardens, some involving threats to resident staff, a review of security has been undertaken at the site. Advice from the Police and the Council's Community Safety Officer suggests that priority should be given to securing the Grange Road frontage when the site is closed to the public, particularly during the hours of darkness.
- 2.2 A new fence is therefore proposed along this frontage, which would be fixed on top of the existing wall. This will be supplemented by a new CCTV camera which is to be installed nearby. The new fence will require planning permission, and the separate consent of the Council is required to approve the submission of such an application.
- 2.3 The estimated cost of the fence is between £5 - 6,000, and some funding has already been allocated by the Council from capital receipts (see Council decision taken on 29 February 2000, min 900). Work is in hand to identify further sources of funding to implement the project, assuming planning permission is granted.
- 2.4 The Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel have given their support to this project.

3. CORPORATE POLICY IMPACTS

- 3.1 The principal impacts relate to Community Safety.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 **That officers be authorised to submit a planning application for the proposed fence along the Grange Road frontage to Botanical Gardens, Rhyl.**

**A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FORMER BAKERY, BEDFORD STREET, RHYL**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To establish new management arrangements for the property .

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 During the last two years the former bakery at Bedford Street has been purchased by the County Council and refurbished using resources from the Strategic Development Scheme, Welsh Development Agency and European Union. The refurbishment is nearing completion and will have cost £219,000.
- 2.2 The former bakery includes a large community facility and several rooms provided as offices. Some of the rooms have been pre-let as part of the Grant application to the Benefit Advice Shop and the Samaritans. There will be an ongoing management need for part of the property in terms of letting arrangements.
- 2.3 The building is owned by the County Council but the management of the facility might be more appropriately done by a partnership involving the County Council and the Local Community.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members consider the establishment of a Panel, including Members of the County Council to manage the property.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

**A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FORMER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for the future arrangements in relation to the former Strategic Development Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 With effect from the financial year 1999/00, the Welsh Office included the funding previously provided for the Strategic Development Scheme (SDS) within local authorities' basic capital and revenue settlements. Although the sums involved were not separately identified in the settlements, the Secretary of State imposed an obligation on Authorities to continue to set aside a sum equivalent to 20% of the previous year's programme for voluntary sector projects.

2.2 I have previously submitted proposals for capital projects to be undertaken during the financial year 2000/01 to this Panel. The revenue expenditure to be incurred during 2000/01 on projects previously supported with SDS funding are set out in the Annex to this report.

2.3 Some of these projects have been in receipt of this funding for some considerable time and in two cases this support pre-dates the establishment of the County Council. Whilst these projects have made a valuable contribution to the social and economic development of the County, using these funds to provide long term support to a small groups of established projects in this way has prevented their use to bring forward new projects as was originally intended by the Welsh Office.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Provided that these sources of funds are still available to the Council in 2001/2

- (a) to invite bids at the appropriate time for the revenue projects to be supported from the former SDS programme in 2001/2
- (b) to set aside £20,000 from the programme to create a post to develop the potential of the proposed new tennis centre in Prestatyn.
- (c) to continue to provide a similar amount of capital funding from the Council's basic credit approval as had been provided through the Strategic Development Scheme previously.
- (d) to inform current beneficiaries that the Council has reviewed the SDS Scheme and will be introducing new arrangements for 2001/2002 and that they should not assume that grants will be forthcoming to them automatically in future.

FORMER SDS REVENUE PROJECTS 2000/01

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount in £</u>
Women's Aid	32,000
Rhyl Exclusion Order	3,500
Denbigh Youth Project	40,450
Coastal Enterprise Business Information	10,000
Clwydfro Business Information	10,000
West Rhyl Community Strategy	40,000
Rhyl Telebureau	45,337
Rhyl Benefits Advice Shop	3,550
Rhyl Townscape Heritage Initiative	** 10,000
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	194,577

** New for 2000/01 - virement approved previously by the County Council

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VISIT TO COUNTY CLARE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To cost a proposed visit to County Clare by representatives of the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 I attach the report approved by Council in which the Council agreed to send a delegation to visit County Clare.

2.2 The Council has agreed to form links with County Clare in order to pursue a range of issues ranging across the corporate strategies of both organisations. County Clare has been an Objective One area for two successive European Programmes and still benefits from tapering Objective One Programme.

2.3 The size of the delegation is a matter for the Cabinet, but County Clare chose to send six elected representative of which four were able to come. I estimate the cost of sending six Members of the Council to County Clare as between £900 and £1,200 depending on the availability of flights. The visit would be for one night. The costs are between £150 and £200 per member and would be a charge on my budget.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Cabinet consider the costs and agree the nominations.

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE ONE - LEAD BODY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report a request from the Objective One Partnership that the County Council acts as the Partnership's Lead Body.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Assembly and the Monitoring Committee for the Objective One Programme have indicated that all Partnerships must have clearly identified Lead Bodies if the Partnerships are to take forward their action plans. These Lead Bodies need to be in place so that the Wales European Funding Organisation, who will manage for the moment European Funds on behalf of the National Assembly can negotiate directly with Local Partnerships.
- 2.2 I attach an Appendix which shows the range of functions which these bodies will be expected to undertake. Effectively they have the management of the Local Programme and they will act as the interface between project sponsors within a Partnership and the Wales European Funding Organisation.
- 2.3 Resources from the European Programme will be made available to Lead Bodies and I anticipate making an application during the first proper round of the Objective One Programme for resources. At the moment I would not envisage the County Council making any additional contributions towards the Objective One administration over and above what it has already agreed in its budget.
- 2.4 The decision by the Partnership was unanimous and can be taken to reflect the confidence of a wide partnership in the way in which the Council has managed the development of the Partnership and its draft action plan.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **That the County Council agrees to undertake the role of Lead Body in relation to the Local Objective One Programme.**

A REPORT BY THE HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval to a scheme of delegation for Denbighshire Enterprise, Denbighshire Marketing and Computer for Farmers Grants respectively.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

2.1 Members of the Cabinet will be aware that through its generic Business Development Grant budget, the County Council, through its Economic Development Unit has offered a package of financial support to both Denbighshire based businesses and those wishing to invest in the County.

2.2 The County Council currently offers the following grants :-

Business Development Grant

A grant of up to 25% of capital expenditure to encourage business development and expansion projects which lead to the creation of new employment opportunities. The grant is based on a value of £4,000 per new job created.

Denbighshire Enterprise Grant

A grant of £750 paid as a contribution to working capital to encourage the formation of new businesses.

The grant criteria are currently under review.

Denbighshire Marketing Grant

A grant of 50% to a maximum £1,000 available to businesses employing less than 25 employees to encourage new marketing activity.

Computers for Farmers

A grant of up to £250 to encourage farms to purchase appropriate computer hardware and software to place farm accounting on a more business like basis.

Denbighshire Job Subsidy Scheme

A grant of £1,040 to encourage businesses to employ Denbighshire residents who have previously been unemployed for 6 months or more.

- 2.3 With the exception of the Denbighshire Job Subsidy Scheme, all applications for assistance are subject to approval by an appropriate County Council Committee.

3. PROPOSED SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- 3.1 The committee based approval process has worked well, but within the modernising agenda it seem appropriate to suggest means by which the approval process can be delegated.
- 3.2 Of the five grants, Enterprise, Marketing and Computers for Farmers are straightforward with a maximum grant of £1,000. A scheme of delegation previously existed for Job Subsidy applications under which individual applications were approved following consultation between the Chair and Vice-Chair of Emergency Powers and Appointments Committee and the Head of Economic Development.
- 3.3 It is suggested that the existing Scheme of Delegation be extended to cover all applications received for Denbighshire Enterprise, Marketing, Computers for Farmers and Job Subsidy Grants respectively and be amended to reflect the new Council Structure. That is, all applications are subject to approval by the Head of Economic Development, following consultation with Cabinet members with responsibilities for Economic Development
- 3.4 The situation with Business Development Grant is more complex. Members will be aware that there is no upper limit to the level of grant. It is suggested, therefore, that at this time all Business Development Grant applications are subject to Cabinet approval, pending a review by officers and subsequent report to a future Cabinet meeting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that :-

- 4.1 In respect of Denbighshire Enterprise, Marketing, Job Subsidy and Computers for Farmers Grants respectively, the Scheme of Delegation outlined in 3.3 above be approved.
- 4.2 Officers review the approval process in respect of Business Development Grant and report to a future Cabinet meeting.

REPORT TO: CABINET
DATE: 6 July 2000
REPORT BY: Head of Highways and Transportation
SUBJECT: **The Government's New Road Safety Strategy and Casualty Reduction Targets**

1.0 **PURPOSE**

1.1 To inform Members of the Government's new road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets, and the implications for the Authority.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales has published "Tomorrow's Roads - Safer for Everyone" which outlines the government's new road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets for 2010. The new targets replace the previous ones which aimed to reduce the number of casualties by one-third by the year 2000. These were adopted by the Council in its Road Safety Plan.

3.0 **THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY**

3.1 The new national road safety aims to improve safety on the country's roads and in particular aims to address the high risk of exposure to accidents of children in Britain compared with the rest of Europe. The strategy has ten main themes, some of which have significant implications for the Council. The themes are outlined in full in the Appendix with the implications for the Authority indicated in the following paragraphs.

- (i) In improving safety for children on Britain's roads the Government is expecting local Authorities to play a major role. It has indicated that Local Authorities should now be carrying out child road safety audits, creating more 20 mph zones around schools and in residential areas, and be providing safe crossing facilities on busy through roads where traffic calming is not appropriate.

The Government has not indicated what is proposed to be included in a child road safety audit. The carrying out of audits will present difficulties for the Council in terms of providing the necessary staff resources, especially as cuts in staffing levels have reduced in size in the Traffic Safety Team which normally undertakes other types of safety audits.

The introduction of 20 mph zones can only be considered where physical traffic calming measures are introduced to ensure that the speed limit is self-enforcing. The costs involved are generally in excess of the Council's Traffic Management Revenue budget. It should be noted as well that in accepting a bid for Safer Routes to schools in Rhyl the National Assembly refused to fund the traffic calming element of the bid.

In the next 2 -3 years the Government is expecting Local Authorities to promote pedestrian skills training in deprived neighbourhoods and to teach 7-9 year old children the basic skills required to handle a bicycle safely off-road. The Council currently offers all schools pedestrian skills training, however, take-up is dependant

on the willingness of the schools involved and the ability to recruit sufficient parent volunteers to undertake the training. On the issue of cycle training the Council currently provides on-road cycle training for 9-10 year olds. Again, take-up is dependent on the willingness of schools to allow the training to be offered. In terms of extending the training to younger age groups, this will not be possible within the current budgetary provision for road safety training.

- (ii) With regard to "Safer Drivers - Training and Testing" the Government intends to establish an inter-agency task group to set minimum standards for employers in managing work activities on the highway and proposes mechanisms to dovetail road traffic law with health and safety at work law. This will have implications in the future for the Council as employer of refuse collectors, school crossing patrols and highway maintenance workers.
- (iii) Safer Drivers - drink, drugs and drowsiness. The Government intends to continue high profile drink-drive publicity campaigns for which the Council's Road Safety Team provides support at the local level. It is intended also to consult on the possible repeal of UK drivers hours regulations in favour of the less lenient EU rules. This could have implications for local bus operators and may result in higher local bus service tender prices in the future if implemented.
- (iii) In support of its safer infrastructure initiative the Government is requiring local authorities to include a 5 year local casualty reduction target and a local road safety strategy to achieve it. This has implications for funding. Continuing budgetary cuts and low staffing levels will make any other than the easiest targets difficult to achieve.
- (v) The Government is proposing to develop a new hierarchy of roads defined by their function and quality with the aim of achieving safer speeds on the nation's highways. Among the features would be a normal speed limit of 30 mph in villages and lower speed limits on country lanes. Local Authorities will be expected to consider the application of the new road hierarchy as part of future LTP's. The Government accepts that this proposal has both resource and procedural implications.

4.0 **NEW CASUALTY REDUCTION TARGETS**

4.1 The Government has outlined new casualty reduction targets over the next ten years, these are:-

- ❖ a 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents
- ❖ a 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured
- ❖ a 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate expressed as the number of people slightly injured per 100 million vehicle kilometres

All targets are set for the year 2010 and are to be compared with the average for 1994 - 98.

4.2 As noted above Local Authorities are expected to set local targets for the period 2000-05. It is proposed to use the national targets and set a half-way target for the year 2005 for Denbighshire. The local target suggested for Denbighshire for the year 2005 are

- ✦ a 20% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents

- ✦ a 25% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured
- ✦ a 5% reduction in the slight casualty rate

5.0 **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Government has outlined a new road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets. Attendant with the new strategy are a number and extended responsibilities and duties for the County Council. In most areas additional resources, both staffing and financial, will be required. These include, in particular, carrying out child road safety audits, creating more 20 mph zones, extending cycle training to 7-9 year old children and meeting casualty reduction targets.
- 5.2 It is proposed to adopt new casualty reduction targets, to be incorporated in the Draft LTP. These are to be based on the Government's new targets. It has to be accepted that the target will be difficult to achieve. The number of slight casualties on the County's roads, for example increased by 33% between 1987 and 1999. Reversing this to achieve a 5% or 10% reduction within the next 5-10 years will necessitate a significant increase in resources allocated to accident reduction in the County.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That Members note the contents of the Report.
- 6.2 That the Council adopt the casualty reduction targets, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

APPENDIX

The Government's new road safety strategy - main themes

1. ***Safer for Children***

- ◆ a target for reducing deaths and serious injuries to children of 50% by 2010
- ◆ children will benefit from the broad range of proposed road safety policies and in particular from traffic calming
- four key stages in road safety education
 - babies and very young children - advising parents and first teachers on protection in cars and teaching safe behaviour on the road
 - primary age children - child pedestrian training schemes, cycle training and alerting parents to the risks of cycling in particular traffic conditions
 - older children - providing road safety education as they change schools
 - older teenagers - providing advice as they contemplate more independent mobility

2. ***Safer drivers - training and testing***

- instil in young people the right attitudes to road safety and safe driving
- guide learner drivers to take a more structural approach to learning
- raise the standard of tuition offered by driving instructors
- improve the driving test in the light of better understanding about what needs to be examined and effective ways to do it
- focus on the immediate post-test period for novice drivers
- enhance the status of advanced motoring qualifications
- address the needs of professional drivers
- bring safety benefits for all categories of motor vehicles

3. ***Safer drivers - drink, drugs and drowsiness***

- ◆ introduce new measures to reduce drink-driving further
- ◆ develop more effective ways to tackle drug-driving
- ◆ carry out records to improve understanding of drug-driving
- ◆ strengthen and enforce laws on driving time for lorry, bus and coach drivers

- ◆ make people aware how much tiredness contributes to road accidents and advise drivers and employees how to out the risks

4. **Safer infrastructure**

- ensure safety is a main objective in designing, building, operating and maintaining trunk and local roads
- ensure safety continues to be part of the planning framework for main and local routes
- publish guidance about engineering for safer roads
- use LTPs to promote safer neighbourhoods
- monitor progress on local efforts to reduce casualties

5. **Safer speeds**

- publicise widely the risks of speed and the reason for limits
- develop a national framework for determining appropriate include speeds on all roads and ensure that measures are available to achieve them
- records a number of speed management problems to gain the necessary information to develop and test new policies
- take into account environmental, economic and social effects of policies when assessing their ability to reduce casualties

6. **Safer vehicles**

- ✦ encourage improvements which
 - ◆ prevent accidents happening
 - ◆ protect car occupants in the event of an accident
 - ◆ protect other road users
- ✦ better information for consumers, helping them to choose safer vehicles
- ✦ better standards of vehicle maintenance
- ✦ renewed emphasis on new vehicle safety inspections by manufacturers and dealers

7. ***Safer motorcycling***

- improve training and testing for all learner riders
- publish advice for people returning to motorcycling after a break, and people riding as part of their work
- ensure quality of instruction
- through training and testing, to help drivers become more aware of how vulnerable motorcyclists are
- promote improvements in engineering and technical standards which could protect motorcyclists better
- work with • representatives of interested organisations, in an advisory group, to examine issues of concern

8. ***Safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders***

- ◆ local authorities must set out in LTPs how in their traffic layouts and urban design they are to encourage more people to walk and cycle instead of drive and what safety measures they prepare in support
- ◆ all proposed road safety policies should improve the safety of vulnerable road users
- ◆ work with voluntary bodies to improve training for cyclists and horse riders, promote the use of protective clothing and helmets and help drivers become aware of how vulnerable these groups are.

9. ***Better enforcement***

- ✦ maximise the contribution that road traffic law can make to reducing road casualties through
 - more effective enforcement
 - better public understanding of and respect for traffic law
 - penalties more appropriate and proportionate to the seriousness of offences
 - more emphasis on education and retraining
 - maximum use of new technology

10. ***Promoting safer road use***

- hold regular campaign co-ordination meetings with representatives of the key organisations
- produce a campaign planning guide to help activists at local level to stimulate maximum news cover and business support
- support the advertising regulations in cracking down on irresponsible speed-related advertising of cars and motorcycles

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: 6th JULY 2000

REPORT BY: HEAD OF PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**SUBJECT: COED BELL CEMETERY - WOODLAND BURIAL,
PRESTATYN.**

PURPOSE: To seek Members' views in principle on the concept of creating an area for Woodland Burial on Council owned land between the existing Cemetery and adjacent woodlands at Coed Bell.

1.0 BACKGROUND.

- 1.1 The County Council has a Woodland Burial area at the lower end of St.Asaph Cemetery, at which 29 burials have taken place to date. There remains space available for a substantial number of further burials.
- 1.2 The opportunity exists for the creation of another area on Council land, currently let for grazing between the existing Cemetery boundary and Coed Bell woods, Prestatyn. This land is too steep for the excavation of 2/3 coffin graves but would be suitable for single Woodland Burials.
- 1.3 The use of the land for Woodland Burial would extend the existing woodland.
- 1.4 The charge for a Woodland Burial is £420 for Denbighshire residents but doubled for non-residents. The location of the land is likely to make it attractive to non-residents and generate income.
- 1.5 Members are asked only to consider the concept at this stage, no research, no enquiries regarding planning issues and no ground investigation has been undertaken. Because of the level of staff resources, it would be inappropriate to undertake any detailed research until it is known whether Members are supportive in principle.

2.0 RECOMMENDED.

- 2.1 That Members agree in principle to the creation of a Woodland Burial area at Coed Bell and a further report be presented following detailed investigation.

Head of Property and Community Services.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CABINET MEETING

DATE:- 6th JULY 2000

REPORT BY: Head of Design and Construction Services

SUBJECT: **ACTION PLAN FOR PRODUCTION OF STRATEGY DOCUMENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUILDING PORTFOLIO**

PURPOSE: To advise Cabinet of the actions to be taken and the likely programme.

1.0 Background

1.1 Members will be aware of the condition of the Council's property. This paper is intended to inform Members of progress to date and the actions agreed between the Cabinet Member for Property and the Head of Design and Construction Services.

1.2 The Head of Design and Construction Services and Councillor Rhys Webb met on Monday, 26th June 2000 to discuss the property issue and agreed to forward these discussions to the Chief Executive. These papers were:-

- ❖ Asset Management Plan for Education Buildings. **Action** - Pursue additional software module to complete database information and purchase through budget allocation or future capital programme.
- ❖ Complete AMP this financial year. **Action** - All AMP's should be completed within this financial year. For this to happen a Sports Strategy document needs to be completed to ensure funding opportunities are realised for our Leisure Centres. All existing initiatives will be brought within the 'umbrella' of these plans to ensure a robust approach.
- ❖ Corporate Database for development opportunities and capital projects. **Action** - Implement recommendation.
- ❖ Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. **Action** - Pursue initiative.

2.0 Cost Implications

2.1 None

3.0 Consultations

3.1 Scrutiny Panel. Other Directorates.

4.0 Implications on other policy areas, including corporate

4.1 Supports policy.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Confirm Cabinet approval to action taken.

CABINET - 6 JULY 2000

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

RECRUITMENT - LEGAL SECTION

1. DECISION SOUGHT

Authority to advertise externally for two trainee Solicitors.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Two members of staff have recently moved to other Authorities (Marilyn McCarron PO5 and Michael Cordiner PO2). Attempts to recruit a replacement for Michael Cordiner at the lower level of SO1 have not been successful and a further review of our needs has been carried out. There remains a need for a Solicitor at PO3 level. However there is pressure for additional lower level support for senior level staff. This has been experienced both as regards Social Services work where there has been a dramatic increase in hearing times requiring officer attendance at Court and also as regards the new initiatives such as PFI, Leisure and Tourism externalisation and possible Housing Stock Transfer.

By redistributing work within the Department a better balance can be achieved to get work done at the right level of seniority by recruiting two trainees

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Available budget from the two vacant posts amounts to just over £55,000. Members have already approved recruitment of a Solicitor at the lower level of PO3. Law Society recommended minimum salary for a trainee is £12,000 per annum which equates to our Scale Point 14-17 (£12,192 - £13,044). This gives a year one total of just under £50,000 giving some leeway for buying in service at peak times.

Trainees would have completed their Legal Practice Course but as part of their two year Training Contract would be obliged to attend a Professional Skills Course. Entering into a Training Contract does not guarantee a job at termination of the two years. The situation would be reviewed in the light of the circumstances then prevailing

4 & 5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT/IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

Representations from Members particularly as regards officer support at Social Services meetings and the increase in Court attendances has shown a need for additional support.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That authority be granted to recruit two trainee Solicitors.

IKH/S.9
28 June 2000

Agenda Item no. 22

Report to : **Cabinet**
Date of Meeting : **6 July, 2000**
Report of : **Head of Personnel**
Title : **Recruitment & Selection - Appointments Procedure**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval from Cabinet for a change to the Recruitment and Selection Appointments Procedure to meet the requirements of the Modernising Agenda.

2. Recruitment and Selection - Appointments Procedure

- 2.1. The County Council, on the 6 June, 2000, has already approved arrangements and a procedure for making Directors and Heads of Service appointments. These are:-

Chief Executive/Directors	-	by Full County Council
Heads of Service	-	by Cabinet

The detailed arrangements such as assessment centres and method of selection/interview will be decided in line with the nature of each post.

- 2.2. During the period the County Council has been determining arrangements for the modernising agenda, an interim policy was adopted by the County Council on 2 November, 1999. This effectively made arrangements for posts at the PO5/PO6 level to be appointed by a panel of four Members from the group of Members who had been nominated to sit on appeals.
- 2.3. Arrangements and procedures for the future are being guided by advice nationally that Members should only be involved with appointments to Deputy Chief Officer level. In Denbighshire County Council's terms, this relates to the Head of Service level and above. All other appointments being delegated to officers.
- 2.4. The County Council has a recruitment and selection procedure which will be reviewed and revised as part of the rolling programme of reviews. Members will clearly be consulted on the revision to this policy, not least to ensure consistency of approach and to determine if such matters as assessment centres should form part of our normal recruitment procedures (to an appropriate level).

3. Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to confirm the arrangements for posts at below Deputy Chief Officer level to be delegated to Officers in line with proposals in the modernising agenda.

Corporate Policy Implications

The recruitment and selection process needs to be fair, equitable and consistent, in line with the County Council's policy on Equal Opportunities.

REPORT TO: CABINET

DATE: 6th JULY 2000

REPORT BY: HEAD OF PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BODYNYS, RHEWL, RUTHIN.

PURPOSE: To seek Members;' approval to dispose of land at Rhewl.

1.0 **BACKGROUND.**

1.1 A request has been received from the owners of Porfatir, Rhewl, Ruthin, to purchase approximately 2 acres, or thereabouts, shown hatched on the attached plan 1275/000.

2.0 **'TERRIER' INFORMATION.**

2.1 The land is part of the Authority's agricultural estate and forms part of the farm known as Bodynys.

3.0 **CONSULTATION.**

3.1 *Local Member.*

The Local Member has been consulted and has not raised objections.

3.2 *Joint Agricultural Board of Denbighshire and Flintshire.*

The Head of Property and Community Services presented a report to the Joint Agricultural Board at its meeting on the 3rd April 2000. The Board resolved to declare the land surplus, with a report to be submitted to Denbighshire Full Council recommending disposal to the owner of Porfatir on terms to be agreed by the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Administration.

3.3 The tenant of Bodynys has been consulted and is in agreement to surrender the land from his tenancy, as he has an urgent requirement for a new stock shed and feeding area.

4.0 **OFFICERS' ADVICE.**

4.1 *Valuation*

The Land Agent recommends that Best Value should be obtained, selling the subject land to the named party, as the Capital Receipt generated will be well in excess of agricultural value.

4.2 *Legal.*

The Head of Legal and Administration will advise on appropriate terms.

Continued

4.3 *Planning.*

The Head of Planning confirms that the land is included in the Draft Unitary Development Plan.

4.4 *Finance.*

It is accepted policy that in order to fund capital investment on the Agricultural Estate, it must be generated from Capital Receipts arising from the disposal of the Agricultural Estate property.

5.0 **CORPORATE POLICY IMPACT**

5.1 Potential capital receipt

6.0 **CONCLUSIONS OR CONSIDERATIONS.**

6.1 The land is outside the settlement boundary. However, should the land be sold to the named party, it is recommended that it be subject to a restrictive covenant limiting its use to agricultural/amenity/garden/equestrian use.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION.**

7.1 That Members authorise Officers to dispose of the land shown hatched on the attached plan 1275/000, extending to 2 acres or thereabouts, to the owner of Porfatir on terms to be agreed by the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Administration.

7.2 Subject to the recommendation in 7.1 being approved by Members, that an element of the net proceeds of sale be reinvested in the Bodynys holding.

Head of Property and Community Services.