

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 18th July, 2000 at 10.00a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader), 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.L.I. Davies, R.J.R. Jones and W.G. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Assistant Director-Financial Controller and Administration Officer (W.J. Harness).

259. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following item 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.

Llangollen Boundary.

260. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 6th July 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

Item No. 11 - Strengthening of Accountancy Function - Councillor E.A. Owens reported that as Scrutiny Panels would not now be meeting until September, she, personally, would review the accountancy function and would submit recommendations to Cabinet in September.

Item No. 13 - Botanical Gardens: Proposed Fence - Councillor G.M. Kensler raised under this item the need to establish a system to prioritise schemes required to be undertaken by the County Council.

Amendment:-

Item No. 16 - A Visit to County Clare - The County Clerk reported that the resolution to this item required amendment and that the words 'of the Objective One Executive Group' should be deleted.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the minutes of the Cabinet held on 6th July 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

261. (A) LLANGOLLEN BOUNDARY

The Chief Executive referred to the announcement made by the Assembly Secretary for Local Government that following the latest consultation period, (which had been extended on two occasions, one of which had been to allow for a referendum to take place in Llangollen), it was the Welsh Assembly's intention to instruct the Local Government Boundary Commission to undertake a review of the Llangollen boundary between Denbighshire and Wrexham - notwithstanding the fact that the result of the referendum had been in favour of Llangollen remaining in Denbighshire.

The Chief Executive subsequently referred to the need to ascertain the reason why such an announcement had been made particularly in view of the decision made previously by the then Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, that a review of the Llangollen Boundary would not be undertaken.

The Chief Executive also raised the impact on staff morale of such a review together with the effect on the Authority as a whole in terms of recruitment and retention of staff.

Whilst referring to the comment by the Assembly's First Secretary that he would not allow the County of Denbighshire to be divided up, the Chief Executive indicated that the Authority needed to take very seriously the imposition of a boundary review.

During the ensuing discussion Cabinet Members generally expressed considerable concern at the possibility of a review of the Llangollen boundary indicating that it was imperative to ascertain how such a decision was arrived at. A suggestion by Councillor W.R. Webb to seek the assistance of the WLGA in this matter was supported by Councillors R.W. Hughes and D.M. Morris.

Discussion concerning legal advice in respect of the action proposed by the Authority took place in Part II.

262. MANAGEMENT TEAM FEEDBACK

The Chief Executive submitted draft notes of a meeting of the Management Team held on 6th July, 2000 (previously circulated).

Matters arising:-

(i) Item 2.2.2 (Restructuring update)

Councillor E.A. Owens indicated that she would be highlighting some of the changes and improvements that needed to be made to the system for collecting budget data adding that the sooner a new structure were in place, or a system established that could be assimilated into a new structure, the better.

The Chief Executive added that a report on property and community services would be submitted to the next meeting of Council on 25th July, 2000; and

(ii) Item 3.1 (Revenue)

Councillor W.R. Webb expressed disappointment at the progress being made with capital receipts.

The Chief Executive informed Members that whilst many of the items previously considered by Management Team were now being submitted to Cabinet, he still considered it appropriate that the minutes of Management Team should be circulated for information to Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Management Team meeting held on 6th July, 2000 be noted.

263. RECOVERY PLAN - ACTION PLAN

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought Members' approval to a proposed Action Plan to implement the Authority's Recovery Plan. Councillor Owens subsequently highlighted the recommendations contained in the action plan.

RESOLVED that the Action Plan, as submitted by the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, be approved.

264. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval for the filling of the vacant posts by external advertisement:-

- (i) Rugby Youth Development Officer - Scale 6 - Planning and Economic Development Directorate (Community Leisure), and
- (ii) Countryside Officer - Planning and Economic Development Directorate (Countryside Services)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the external advertisement of the post of Rugby Youth Development Officer be approved, and
- (b) the filling of the vacant post of Countryside Officer be deferred pending further investigation.

265. CABINET ACTION PLAN - CO-ORDINATION

On behalf of the Leader, the Assistant Chief Executive - Strategy submitted a Cabinet Action Plan (tabled on the day) the general tasks of which were to implement the Council's agreed policy portfolio and to ensure the translation of the Authority's Mission Statement and Statement of Priorities into actions.

The Leader subsequently sought the agreement of Lead Cabinet Members to their individual responsibilities as detailed in the Cabinet Action Plan.

Having regard to main objective 15, Councillor R.W. Hughes indicated the need to include the Assistant Director - Culture and Leisure.

Whilst not included within the table in the report which had identified the Cabinet lead and officer responsibilities, Members did note Councillor D.M. Morris's responsibility for environmental issues.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Action Plan be approved.

266. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Cabinet Member for Training and Development submitted a report (previously circulated) which (i) sought to assign responsibility for acting as Client Officer for Member development to the County Clerk, and (ii) sought approval to proposals for moving Member development forward over the short/medium and longer term.

During the ensuing discussion, the Chief Executive responded to Councillor E.W. Williams' concern at the suggestion that the existing Conferences and Seminars budget be used to fund initial in house training.

Councillor A.E. Owens asked that a more accurate estimate of the cost of the proposed training be made available to her.

The County Clerk reported that wherever possible, in house training would be arranged adding that an updating Seminar on the roles of Cabinet and Scrutiny Panels had been arranged to take place following the County Council meeting on the 25th July.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

267. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment (Highways and Transport) submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought Members' approval for adoption of the Council's first Local Transport Plan.

During the ensuing discussion the following specific points were raised:-

- (i) the need to make amendments to take account of the decision taken in respect of Lon Clwyd and that the route between Prestatyn and Rhuddlan had been implemented, and
- (ii) air pollution - an indication of when the Authority would be producing a report on the air quality in the County was sought.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the report be accepted, and*
- (b) *the adoption of the Denbighshire Local Transport Plan be approved for submission to the National Assembly for Wales, subject to approval by the Technical Services and Housing Scrutiny Panel and the amendments mentioned in paragraph (i) above.*

268. EXTENSION TO PRESTATYN CCTV FOR USE ON THE PRESTATYN CYCLE NETWORK

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment (Highways and Transport) submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought approval to let the CCTV contract for the Prestatyn Dyserth Way to ADT.

During discussion Members expressed concern at the revenue implications of the extension of the use of CCTV on the Prestatyn cycle network. Linked with the prevention of crime, a Member also expressed the need for CCTV to be established in a number of more southerly towns in the County.

Councillor A.E. Owens sought assurance that inherent revenue costs of the extension of the Prestatyn CCTV for use on the Prestatyn cycle network would be built into the required budget.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

269. TRANSPORT GRANT BIDS 2001-02

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment (Highways and Transport) submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought approval for Transport Grant bids for 2001-02.

During consideration of the report, Councillor E.W. Williams indicated that provision should be made to enable the future implementation of cycle routes south of St. Asaph. Councillor R.W. Hughes, however, said that there was a need to decide on the level of priority of such schemes within the County's programme. Also mentioned was the need to be mindful of inherent revenue costs attached to any of the proposed schemes.

RESOLVED that the Transport Grant submissions outlined in the report for the River Clwyd Coastal Area Package and Safer Routes to Schools initiatives in Rhyl, Ruthin and Llangollen be approved.

At this juncture (11.20a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a ten minute comfort break.

270. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

271. LLANGOLLEN BOUNDARY

Discussion regarding the potential review of the Llangollen boundary was resumed in Part II in order for Cabinet Members to consider any legal action the Authority should take in response to the Assembly Secretary for Local Government's recent announcement.

During the discussion, the Local Member for Llangollen was given leave to address Cabinet Members on the matter.

Following a detailed discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED that the County Clerk be authorised to apply for leave for a judicial review.

The meeting concluded at 12.15p.m.
