

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday 6th July, 2000 at 10.00 a.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. Ll. Davies, M.A. German, F.D. Jones, G. Jones and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, 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) Local Health Alliance Seminar
- ii) Private Finance Initiative

2. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader reported that he had withdrawn item no. 32 - Objective One Staffing Matters.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 20th June 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.*

4. MANAGEMENT TEAM FEEDBACK

The Chief Executive submitted draft notes of a meeting of the Management Team held on 8th June, 2000 (previously circulated).

Matters arising:-

- (i) Item 2.2.4 (Restructuring)

The Leader referred to the road shows that the Chief Executive and himself had undertaken with staff during July to explain the new structure. The road shows were well attended and well received by staff.

- (ii) Item 4.4 (Subsistence Allowances)

Councillor G.M. Kensler felt that the Members' allowance for an evening meal should be decreased to that currently paid to the officers and not vice versa. The Chief Executive suggested that the proposed increase to £7.30 was not unreasonable and the officers' level had been set two and a half years ago and was now out of alignment with that paid to Members. Councillor E.W. Williams proposed, seconded by Councillor G.M. Kensler, that the Members' allowance for an evening meal be decreased to that currently paid to officers. Councillor W.R. Webb proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes, that the officers' allowance be increased to the same level as that of the Members' allowance.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried and it was:-

RESOLVED that:-

The officers' allowance for an evening meal be increased to the same level as that of the Members' allowance.

(iii) Item 6(i) (Flood Plans)

Councillor G. M. Kensler enquired whether Members would have a report on the floods which occurred on Monday, 3rd July. The Chief Executive reported that those were localised floods and would come under the remit of the Emergency Planning Section. A working group would be looking at how officers should deal with localised floods as part of the overall strategic view of investment needs to reduce flooding potential and Members would receive reports in due course.

RESOLVED that the notes of the Management Team meeting held on 8th June, 2000 be noted.

5. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader submitted the following nominations/conferences/seminars for Members' consideration.

(i) W.L.G.A. - Representative on the Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (F.E.R.A.C.)

RESOLVED that no representative be nominated.

(ii) Third UK Transport Conference, Manchester Town Hall - 14th - 15th September 2000

RESOLVED that Councillor D.M. Morris or his substitute and an officer be nominated to attend the meeting and attendance be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

(iii) Joint Council for Wales

RESOLVED that Councillor A.E. Roberts and Councillor G. Williams be nominated as this Authority's representatives on the Joint Council for Wales AGM on 14th July and attendance be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

(iv) Regional Advisory Committee appointed under the Forestry Act 1967

RESOLVED that Councillor D.M. Morris and an officer be nominated as this Authority's representatives on the Regional Advisory Committee and attendance be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

(iv) Local Health Alliances Seminar - 19th July, 2000, Llandrindod Wells

(This item was considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Chairman).

RESOLVED that Councillors A.E. Roberts and J. Butterfield (Scrutiny Chair) be nominated to attend this seminar and attendance be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) bringing Members' attention to the position regarding the appointment of a representative to serve on behalf of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham on the Regional Flood Defence Committee. This Authority had submitted the name of Councillor A.E.W. Jones as a nomination but Flintshire and Wrexham had supported the nomination of Councillor Matthews, the existing Member on the Flood Defence Committee.

RESOLVED that this Authority supports the nomination of Councillor Matthews as the representative to serve on behalf of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham on the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

7. DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the Denbighshire County Council Draft Recovery Plan as the basis for submission to the District Auditor. In taking Members through the report, Councillor Owens referred to the background to the cumulative overspend; the need to have a coherent strategy to tackle the overspend and to develop further commitment systems to enable a tighter control over expenditure. Councillor Owens felt that all the measures contained within the Draft Recovery Plan should introduce improved financial management arrangements and superior financial discipline.

In response to a question from Councillor E.W. Williams on how the projected savings of £1.2 million would be achieved in the Education budget, Councillor K.E. Wells reported that an action plan would be presented to Cabinet in due course. Councillor W.R. Webb suggested that all capital receipts should be directed to a central fund and redistributed by Cabinet. Councillor Owens welcomed that suggestion and indicated that fee charges should also be looked at from a central viewpoint.

Councillor E.W. Williams requested that a paper be presented to Cabinet on the capitalisation of redundancies and referred to the influx of families into the County with statemented children. Councillor K.E. Wells indicated that a review of statemented/SEN was currently being undertaken and felt the influx of families was to the private sector over which the County Council nor the Housing Associations had any control.

Councillor R.W. Hughes thanked Councillor Owens and the Head of Accountancy for such a comprehensive report and presentation and emphasised the need for Cabinet and officers to work together to implement the Recovery Plan.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the report be approved as the basis for a response to the District Auditor;*
- (b) *the Action Plan be submitted to Cabinet on 18th July;*
- (c) *all capital receipts be directed to a central fund for redistribution by the Cabinet, and*
- (ch) *the Head of Accountancy be requested to submit a report on the Capitalisation of Redundancies to a future meeting of the Cabinet.*

8. VARIOUS PROJECTS - THE NEED FOR STRATEGIC REVIEW

The Leader presented a report (previously circulated) seeking a steer from Members on the projects identified within the report in order to determine a strategic approach by the Council.

Progress reports on the Lon Clwyd Cycleway, Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens, Prestatyn Indoor Tennis Centre, and Prestatyn All Weather Pitch were appended to the report.

- (i) Lon Clwyd Cycleway

Councillor D.M. Morris submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members of the outcome of the Lon Clwyd Public Exhibition and Consultation Exercise.

The Head of Highways and Transportation indicated that the findings within the feasibility report showed that there was a good general support within the County for the provision of an integrated cycle network. However, it was also clear that the provision of cycling facilities in the northern half of the County fitted more easily into that concept at the present time. The County Council had also been successful in acquiring a Transport Grant for the development of a cycling infrastructure for the coastal area linking through to Conwy. The views of the local community were however split with regards to the construction of an off-road cycle/equestrian

route along the old railway line. The Head of Highways and Transportation circulated at the meeting, a map showing the route of the proposed cycleway north of St Asaph. Members felt that the Lon Clwyd route north of St Asaph should proceed and full consultation should take place with residents adjoining that route. They also felt that due to the adverse publicity the route should be re-named.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the provision of a Cycleway North of St. Asaph be progressed as part of the County's current development strategy and all affected residents be consulted upon the proposal;*
- (b) *the proposed Lon Clwyd route South of St. Asaph be abandoned, and*
- (c) *an appropriate network for cyclists and equestrians be developed utilising existing footpaths and highway verges wherever possible in all villages/communities within the South of the County and external funding be sought therefor.*

(ii) Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens, Prestatyn

Councillor R.W. Hughes submitted a report outlining the present position regarding the development of the site. Despite national and regional marketing of the site by the Council's retained agents, only one of the units continued to be let and the development remained empty. Councillor Hughes sought information on the letting agents and their costs and achievements. The Chief Executive indicated that the Lead Member on Property should look at that matter. In response to a question from Councillor I.M. German, the Chief Executive indicated that a further expression of interest had been received regarding the site and it was hoped to report on that in the very near future.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the officers be authorised to continue discussions with interested parties to try and secure letting of the site.

(iii) Prestatyn Indoor Tennis Centre

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted advising Members of the submission made to the North Wales Lawn Tennis Association for the development of an indoor tennis centre at the Ffrith Beach, Prestatyn. Attached to the report were the site plans of the proposed centre and the estimated capital and revenue costs. The North Wales Coast region of the L.T.A. had agreed to the Denbighshire submission which would now be taken further by the L.T.A.

The Chief Executive reported that the decision taken by the North Wales Lawn Tennis Association to support the Denbighshire submission had been called in by the All Wales L.T.A. because of the number of Denbighshire members on the N.W.L.T.A. He stressed the need to achieve the backing of the L.T.A. if the scheme was to progress. The Head of Economic Development indicated that if the grants were not forthcoming, the project would not proceed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the report be received and noted;*
- (b) *a sub-group of 3 members be established to steer the development comprising of 1 Independent, 1 Labour and 1 Democratic Alliance of Wales Member, and*
- (c) *officers be authorised to continue their negotiations and discussions with the L.T.A.*

(iv) Prestatyn All Weather Pitch

Councillor D. Morris submitted a report (previously circulated) setting out the background to the development of an all weather pitch at Prestatyn High School. The F.S.A. grant held over by

the Council had now expired and the project could not be funded under the New Deal scheme and therefore the Council was unable to establish its funding element of the matched funding to apply for a Sportlot grant. However, if planning permission was given, the Council would then be able to proceed confidently with funding bodies, specifically Sportlot, in securing finance for the Scheme.

Councillor Morris expressed his concerns for the scheme and felt that the development should be abandoned pending the development of the Council's sporting strategy. Councillor R.W. Hughes acknowledged that the scheme had been difficult and reported that the leisure strategy was in the process of now being drawn up. She felt that the scheme should be tested through the formal planning process.

RESOLVED that the officers be authorised to continue with the planning application for an all weather pitch at Prestatyn High School.

9. COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIPS

The Leader of the Council submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Cabinet to approve Council involvement in the Community Legal Partnerships Scheme which was being developed by the Legal Services Commission and requesting Cabinet to encourage attendance by Members generally at the seminar arranged for 18th July in Denbigh.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Members approve co-operation with the Legal Services Commission in the setting of the Community Legal Services Partnership, and
- (b) Members note the meeting to be held on 18th July in Denbigh and attendance by Members be encouraged.

10. RESOURCES FOR THE CABINET

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting the Cabinet to approve additional resources for the Chief Executive's Department to assist with the extended functions supporting the work of the Cabinet as well as other new functions such as area partnerships.

RESOLVED that the increase in the staffing complement of the Chief Executive's Department as outlined in the report be approved.

11. STRENGTHENING OF ACCOUNTANCY FUNCTION

Councillor E.A. Owens submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Members to agree the principle of strengthening of the accountancy function which had a crucial bearing on the achievement of the planned strategy contained within the County Council's recovery plan. Councillor E.W. Williams had concerns about the Best Value plans for this Authority. He felt that there were insufficient staff within the Best Value Unit to achieve the objective and requested that a paper be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet outlining the Best Value needs for the Authority.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Resources Scrutiny Committee be asked to review the accountancy function with a view to commenting on:
 - the need to strengthen the staffing levels and the best structure for delivering the service in future;
 - the type and number of any additional staff needed;
 - to report back with recommendations as a matter of urgency, and

- (b) *the Head of Exchequer Services be nominated to act as deputy to the Section 151 officer until such time as the new Director of Resources was in post.*

At this juncture (11.30) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to partake in refreshments.

12. PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Cabinet Members to agree to attend the Performance Review scheduled with the Chief Executive and Directorates in July.

RESOLVED *that the appropriate Lead Cabinet Members be authorised to attend the Performance Reviews scheduled with the Chief Executive and Directorates as outlined in the report.*

13. BOTANICAL GARDENS: PROPOSED FENCE

The Acting Head of Countryside and Leisure Services' report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking authority to submit a planning application for a proposed fence along the Grange Road frontage to the Botanical Gardens, Rhyl. Advice from the Police and the Council's Community Safety Officer suggested that priority should be given to securing the Grange Road frontage when the site was closed to the public, particularly during the hours of darkness.

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

14. FORMER BAKERY, BEDFORD STREET, RHYL

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted requesting Members to consider the establishment of new management arrangements for the above-mentioned property. The former Bakery included a large community facility and the building was owned by the County Council. The management of the facility might be more appropriately carried out by a partnership involving the County Council and the local community.

RESOLVED *that the establishment of a panel to manage the property be approved and the County Council's membership be comprised of 2 Rhyl Members.*

15. FORMER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking approval for the future arrangements relating to the former Strategic Development Scheme.

RESOLVED *that provided the source of the funding was still available to the Council in 2001/2002:-*

- (a) *bids be invited at the appropriate time for the revenue projects to be supported from the former S.D.S. programme in 2001/20002;*
- (b) *£20,000 be set aside from the programme to create a post to develop the potential of the proposed new tennis centre in Prestatyn;*
- (c) *a similar amount of capital funding from the Council's basic credit approval as had been provided through the Strategic Development Scheme previously be continued, and*
- (ch) *current beneficiaries be informed that the Council had reviewed the S.D.S scheme and would introduce new arrangements for 2001/2002 and that they should not assume that grants would be forthcoming to them automatically in the future.*

16. A VISIT TO COUNTY CLARE

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted requesting Cabinet to agree nominations for the proposed visit to County Clare by representatives of the Council and to note the costs involved.

***RESOLVED** that the delegation for the proposed visit to County Clare be comprised of the 4 Members of the Objective One Executive Group and the Chief Executive and the Head of Economic Development.*

17. OBJECTIVE ONE LEAD BODY

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted advising Members of the request from the Objective One Partnership that the County Council act as the Partnership's lead body. The decision by the Partnership had been unanimous and reflected the confidence in which the Council had managed the development of the partnership and its draft action plan.

***RESOLVED** that the County Council agrees to undertake the role of lead body in relation to the local Objective One programme.*

18. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Head of Economic Development's report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking the Cabinet's approval to a Scheme of Delegation for Denbighshire Enterprise, Denbighshire Marketing and Computers for Farmers grants respectively.

***RESOLVED** that:-*

- (a) *in respect of Denbighshire Enterprise, Marketing, Job Subsidy and Computers for Farmers grants respectively, the Scheme of Delegation as outlined in the report be approved and the officers be authorised to review the approval process in respect of Business Development Grants and report to a future Cabinet Meeting.*

19. THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY AND CASUALTY REDUCTION TARGETS

The Head of Highways and Transportation's report (previously circulated) was submitted informing Members of the Government's new road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets, and the implications for this Authority. The new targets replaced 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. The Council would be required to carry out child road safety audits, creating more 20mph zones, extending cycle training to 7 - 9 year old children and meeting casualty reduction targets.

***RESOLVED** that:-*

- (a) *the report be received and noted, and*
- (b) *the casualty reduction targets as outlined in the report be adopted.*

20. COED BELL CEMETERY - WOODLAND BURIAL, PRESTATYN

The Head of Property and Community Services' report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking Members' views, in principle, on the concept of creating an area of wooden burial on Council owned land between the existing cemetery and adjacent woodland at Coed Bell, Prestatyn. The County Council already had a wooden burial area at the lower end of St Asaph cemetery at which 29 burials had taken place to date.

***RESOLVED** that the creation of a woodland burial area at Coed Bell, Prestatyn be agreed, in principle, and a further report be presented following detailed investigation.*

21. ACTION PLAN FOR PRODUCTION OF STRATEGY DOCUMENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUILDING PORTFOLIO

The Head of Design and Construction Services' report (previously circulated) was submitted advising Cabinet of the actions to be taken and the likely programme. The report outlined the progress to date and the actions agreed between the Cabinet Member for Property and the Head of Design and Construction Services.

Councillor E.W. Williams felt that with regard to future building portfolios, officers should look at the empty desks not being used by officers which was a waste of office space. The Chief Executive indicated that he had recently commissioned such an exercise on the principle of working from home but emphasised that the support network must be in place before a "hot desk" approach could be adopted. Following the completion of the P.F.I. project there would need to be an overall review of the remaining office accommodation, some of which were in a less than satisfactory condition. The Director of Planning and Economic Development reported that work was continuing with the production of a Leisure Strategy document which would address the issue of funding opportunities for the Council's leisure centres.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the action taken to date be approved.

22. RECRUITMENT - LEGAL SECTION

The Head of Legal and Administration submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking authority to advertise externally for 2 trainee solicitors. A review of the departmental needs had been undertaken and there had been identified pressure for additional lower level support for senior level staff. By redistributing work within the department a better balance could be achieved to get work done at the right level of seniority by recruiting 2 trainees. The funding for the trainee posts would be from within the existing budgets and the situation would be reviewed at the end of the 2 year contracts.

RESOLVED that authority be granted to recruit 2 trainee Solicitors within the Head of Legal and Administration's department.

23. WHEELED BINS AT TREFNANT AND CEFN MEIRIADOG

The Head of Legal and Administration submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Cabinet to note further developments on the matter and to accept his consequential advice to delay implementation of the decision taken by Council on 27th June, 2000 to terminate the wheeled bin service at Trefnant and Cefn Meiriadog. The service had been withdrawn due to the need to reduce expenditure and no monies were forthcoming from the 2 Community Councils. Since that decision had been taken, it had subsequently transpired that there was another avenue available to the Community Councils whereby they could borrow and thereby make a contribution as requested by the Council.

Councillor E.A. Owens raised some concern over the matter and proposed, seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes, that the Community Councils be given a period of grace until 1st September, 2000 and should the monies be not forthcoming, the Council decision should be implemented forthwith. Upon being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

24. RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION - APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE

The Head of Personnel's report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking approval from Cabinet for a change to the recruitment and selection appointments procedure to meet the requirements of the Modernising Agenda. The County Council had previously approved a procedure for making the Directors and Heads of Service appointments and an interim policy had been adopted for posts at levels PO5/PO6 which would have been appointed by a panel of 4 Members from a group of Members who had been nominated to sit on Appeals. National advice had indicated that Members should only be involved with appointments to Deputy Chief Officer level with all other appointments being delegated to officers.

RESOLVED that the change to the recruitment and selection appointments procedure to meet the requirements of the Modernising agenda be approved and the arrangements for posts below Deputy Chief Officer (Head of Service) level be delegated to officers.

25. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BODYNYS, RHEWL, RUTHIN

The Head of Property and Community Services' report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking Members' approval to dispose of land at Bodynys, Rhewl, Ruthin. The item had been referred to Cabinet by County Council on 27th June, 2000. The request had been received from the owners of Porfatir, Rhewl, Ruthin to purchase approximately 2 acres or thereabouts of land at Bodynys, Rhewl. Councillor E.W. Williams felt that Members needed information on the value of the land before making a decision as to its disposal.

RESOLVED that the matter be deferred pending the receipt of a report on the valuation of the land at Bodynys, Rhewl, Ruthin.

26. CABINET ACTION PLAN

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

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking confirmation of the Cabinet Action Plan which had been presented to Council on 27th June, 2000 and to agree how to progress the plan. There was a need to prioritise the plan and to assign officer responsibilities and to co-ordinate the plan and arrangements for co-ordination by Members of the Cabinet. The Chief Executive indicated that the Management Team meeting would be held that afternoon and he would inform officers of the current position regarding the action plan.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Action Plan presented to Council be confirmed, and
- (b) the action to be taken by the Chief Executive be noted.

27. WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME

The Director of Planning and Economic Development submitted a verbal report requesting authority for the Acting Head of Countryside and Leisure Services to be the nominated signatory for authorising agreements in conjunction with the Forestry Commission with regard to the Woodland Grant Scheme.

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

At this juncture, Councillor G.M. Kensler referred to the impending retirement of the Director of Planning and Economic Development and paid tribute to his service with the Council and wished him a long and happy retirement. The Leader of the Council echoed those sentiments.

28. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

29. RATING APPEALS

(Councillor G.M. Kensler declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon).

The Head of Property and Community Services' confidential report (previously circulated) was submitted seeking approval to extend the Valuer's (Rating) fixed term contract for a further 3 years to 31st March, 2004. In 1998 the Council decided that the rating matters of the Council would be dealt with in-house with the previous temporary Rating Valuer being re-appointed on a 3 year fixed term contract which expired on 31st May, 2001. The post was self financing and the Valuer's salary had been deducted from successful appeals.

RESOLVED that the services of the Rating Valuer be retained until 31st May, 2004 on a self financing basis and the method of charging be agreed by the Corporate Management Team.

30. C.C.T.V. STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

The Head of Property and Community Services' confidential report (previously circulated) was submitted providing additional information to Members, as requested by the County Council, to enable further consideration to be given to the request that 2 temporary C.C.T.V. Wardens posts be confirmed as permanent. The additional information had been considered at a meeting of the Technical Services and Housing Scrutiny Panel on 20th April, 2000 and it had been agreed that the Panel recommended to the Council that the 2 temporary posts be made permanent.

RESOLVED that the 2 temporary posts at the C.C.T.V. Operation be confirmed as permanent posts each on a 30 hours/week basis, to ensure that the Control Room was adequately manned to provide a comprehensive service to the Authority.

31. TERM CONTRACTS - PUBLIC BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE

The Head of Design and Construction Services' confidential report (previously circulated) was submitted advising Members of the report made to the Technical Services and Housing Scrutiny Panels and seeking approval to appoint Term Maintenance Contractors

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Denbighshire North contract, Denbighshire Mid contract and the Denbighshire South contract be awarded to Dunelm Contractors (Building Maintenance) Ltd. of Stoke on Trent, and
- (b) the Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance contract be awarded to Denbighshire County Council Contract Services.

32. PRESSURES AND BURDENS - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Head of Design and Construction Services' confidential report (previously circulated) was submitted highlighting the present position on the pressures and burdens of property maintenance. The report identified a Schedule of Works to be undertaken and the costings thereof. With regard to the Safety Glazing Audit, Councillor G.M. Kensler requested information on the cost implications before the work was undertaken. The Head of Design and Construction Services agreed to provide that information at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

33. APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ADVISORS FOR THE U.D.P. INQUIRY

A joint confidential report by the Head of Planning Services and the Head of Legal and Administration (previously circulated) was submitted seeking authority for the appointment of Legal Advisors for the U.D.P. Inquiry. Aaron & Partners had been appointed on a daily rate but approval of Cabinet was required to incur expenditure in excess of £25,000.

RESOLVED that Aaron & Partners be appointed as Legal Advisors for the U.D.P. Inquiry and that they be appointed on the fixed actual rate provided that that was the most economical rate, or to otherwise incur expenditure in excess of £25,000.

34. OBJECTIVE ONE STAFFING MATTERS

The Leader indicated that he had withdrawn the Head of Economic Development's confidential report. He did however indicate that he agreed that the temporary staffing arrangements would continue and for the appointment of a graduate trainee.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

35. P.F.I. - NON COUNCIL ORGANISATIONS

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

The Head of Legal and Administration submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval to a recommendation of the P.F.I. Board in relation to Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council. As part of the overall P.F.I. Scheme it was necessary to relocate a number of bodies, one of which was Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council. There would be a surrender of the occupation of the existing premises by the D.V.S.C. and the grant of a new lease in respect of the Naylor Leyland Institute building at Well Street, Ruthin.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the D.V.S.C. be awarded a 75% discount in rent for 5 years in respect of the Naylor Leyland Institute, Well Street, Ruthin but that no provision be contained within the lease for further discounts at rent review stages, and*
- (b) *the request to waver rent on the Naylor Leyland building during the fitting out period be approved.*

36. INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND REGULATORY SERVICES

The Chief Executive sought Members' views on a suitable date for interviewing candidates for the post of Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services.

RESOLVED that interviews be held on 1st August, 2000 commencing at 2.00 p.m.

37. RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Leader referred to the impending retirement of the Director of Planning and Economic Development and paid tribute to his excellent service with this Authority and the former Glyndwr District Council.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

Notes of Management Team 6th July 2000.

Present: Huw V Thomas, Meirion Hughes, Edgar Lewis, Phil Durrell, Phil Brelsford, Gareth Evans, Ian Hearle, Ken Stephens, Roger Parry and Steve Hatton.

1. Apologies

1.1 Nigel Thomas.

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 These were accepted as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Social Inclusion update The first meeting of the Social Inclusion Task Group had taken place. The Group was looking for guidance in evolving the strategy from external experts. A Member representative was still required.

2.2.2 Restructuring update. Civics would transfer on 17th July to Admin., Licensing 1st September, MH preparing a report on property and community services, Housing will transfer year end. Other issues on target.

2.2.3 Capital. Need to address which redundancies funded through capital.

- EL ask MT. to note that there was between ½ £m and ¾ £m for capital required for replacement of Plas Bondyffryn (Plas Bondyffryn becoming a regional centre)

3. Finance

3.1 Revenue

Issue	Update on projected overspend. RP indicated that there was no change on the projected overspend at this stage. All things being equal (no bad winter etc.) the overspend this year should be £2m as per the report to Council.
Decision	Agreed need to get capital receipts in as an urgent issue (see point made in the recovery plan) to take pressure of revenue and to find funds for urgent requirements e.g. Rhyl Pavilion. Agreed also the need to pursue with Cabinet the issue of unidentified reductions.
Action	Property and Planning to liaise over issue of capital receipts

3.2 Guidelines for Budget Preparation

Issue	The need to adhere to our timetable as agreed with the District Auditor to have a draft budget by October.
Decision	Agreed guidelines paper would be needed by 1st August Cabinet. MT. noted the issue of policy agreements which would form a dimension which would have to be addressed where budget implications were required. MT. noted a general reservation on the proposal for policy agreements with the National Assembly for Wales
Action	RP/SH liaising with Cllr Ann Owen

3.3 Capital

Issue	RP reported that Capital for next year very tight. DCC will have paid off the Rhuddlan Debt and therefore have its own capital programme at last, but the capital available is at a far lower level, than when Denbighshire began
Decision	Agreed the priorities for Capital will need to be included in the guidelines paper
Action	RP/SH liaising with Cllr Ann Owen

4. Personnel

4.1 Meeting with Unions

Issue	KS reported that meetings with unions have taken place on restructuring, but a further open meeting planned to discuss concerns of staff.
Decision	Item for noting
Action	KS

4.2 Modern Apprentices' Pay

Issue	Need to comply with legislation on the minimum wage
Decision	Agreed to recommend that policy should be amended in line with legislation. Issue to be taken up with the relevant Cabinet Members and then to cabinet.
Action	KS to Liaise with relevant Cabinet Members

4.3 Disability Training

Issue	Need for all Depts at a senior level to participate in training on the Act
Decision	Agreed that those depts which missed out on the first set of training courses identify appropriate high-ranking officers to attend a second course, Agreed that nominations be forwarded to Mike Denman on behalf of the Equal Opps Group who raised the issue.
Action	Relevant Directors

4.4 Princes Trust

Issue	Funding of involvement with Young Volunteer Scheme
Decision	Following previous MT. decision to support scheme. It was agreed budget to be top sliced on a pro rata basis
Action	RPr

5. Best Value/modernising

Issue	Proposal for Directorate senior reps to be appointed to co-ordinate best Value in each directorate
Decision	Agreed the proposal needed further consideration as new structure changes the picture of the role of the Directorates. Proposal would probably need adopting at Service Level. Further discussion required. <u>Update on Performance Plan</u> . SH reported that the plan had been published on schedule. He raised the issue of the weakness of the plan with regard to required information, which Depts had failed to produce due to the absence of systems for producing the information. He indicated that development of these systems would need to be a priority with work starting now to ensure compliance with the requirements of the plan next year.
Action	Directorates

5.2 Modernising

Issue	Planned meeting of the Modernising Panel for the 1st August would now have to be rescheduled in the light of the decision to hold the Public Protection interviews following cabinet on 1st August.
Decision	Item for noting
Action	

5.3 Cabinet Action Plan

Issue	Assignment of officer responsibilities and prioritisation and co-ordination of the plan following Cabinet meetings
Decision	MT. produced a suggested prioritisation of the plan based on the level of urgency for the development of each item. Officer responsibilities were likewise assigned. Cabinet decision would be sought. Agreed SH look at the existing policy working groups operating to determine which were available to assist the operations of cabinet.
Action	SH

Agenda Item No. 8

Report to : **Cabinet**
Date of Meeting : **18 July, 2000**
Report of : **Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Training & Development**
Title : **Member Development**

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1. To assign responsibility for acting as Client Officer for Member development.
- 1.2. To approve proposals for moving Member development forward over the short/medium and longer term.

2. Reason Decision Sought

- 2.1. To date there has been a lack of clarity and focus about who is responsible for representing and supporting Member development. The modernising agenda and all that this entails, has highlighted the need for this to be clarified and resolved.
- 2.2. Member support services generally forms part of the County Clerk's departmental responsibilities. It follows, therefore, as part of that support, that Member development needs should be represented and supported by the County Clerk's department. In essence, the County Clerk will act as the Client Officer for Member development.
- 2.3. The County Clerk will be supported by Central Personnel, who will assist in helping to identify and meet the training needs. Immediate, medium and long term development needs are being identified with a view to developing Personal Development Plans (PDP's) for each Member.

3. Relationship to Policy Areas

- 3.1. Development needs of Members form part of the County Council's training and development strategy. It would also be allied to the same approach to that used for staff development, by adopting the Investors In People criteria and standard.

4. Cost

- 4.1. There will need to be an estimate made of the funding necessary to undertake Member development. This will become clearer when the PDP's have been produced. Funding for this will need to be considered in next year's budget round, either as a restructuring of budgets, or a bid for additional monies.
- 4.2. Some initial training will be recommended which can be undertaken internally at minimal cost. This is to be determined, but could be found from the existing Conferences and Seminars budget.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. That Cabinet approves the approach set out in this report.

Member Development

Briefing Paper

1. Purpose of Paper

1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise and seek approval for supporting and developing Member Development.

2. Member Development

2.1. In the context of the Modernising Agenda, it has become widely acknowledged that Member Development needs to adopt a much higher profile and focus. The Cabinet has recognised this by assigning responsibility for this area to a Cabinet Member. Hopefully this prominence and the links and relationships with the National Assembly for Wales, SYNIAD and other national bodies involved in development matters, will provide the catalyst for driving the agenda forward.

2.2. To date, responsibility for Member development has been unclear and unfocussed. This is not meant to apportion blame but to point out that there is a need to allocate this responsibility to someone in the authority who will be the client department/officer charged with representing Member needs.

2.3. Following initial work carried out by the officer group looking at issues associated with the modernising agenda, a group of officers with interests/responsibilities for Members support, training and development and communication/public relations, met to determine the protocols and processes for ensuring Members are supported in their development needs. Set out below are suggestions and recommendations for Cabinet to consider which, it is believed, will meet this aim.

3. Responsibility for Member Development

3.1. Clearly we all have a responsibility for our own development. The County Council also has a responsibility for the development of Members in providing them with the knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfil their respective roles. There is, however, a need for this to co-ordinate and for Members to be assisted and supported.

3.2. The Officer Group believe that the County Secretary who has responsibility for Member Services, is the appropriate officer to be the Member Client Officer for assisting in the identification of Member development needs, ensuring that those needs are met and evaluating the effectiveness of the development provided.

3.3. It is not suggested that the County Clerk is left to co-ordinate and manage this process single handedly, but the major role will be to represent what development needs need to be addressed and met. This could be requisitioned internally, through resources at Central Personnel or externally by any other means and provision, or a mixture of both.

3.4. It has been suggested previously that Member development should follow the principles contained with the Investors In People Standard. Those being primarily that development should be relevant, be consistent with individual and business needs. To this extent, the preparation of Personal Development Plans (PDP's) for each Member is seen as the best way of dealing with this.

4. Immediate/Short and Long Term Plans

4.1. Some immediate development needs have been identified already and these have been identified in my supplementary report.

4.2. The Officer Group has also identified some immediate/short term development needs in terms of:-

- ✓ understanding roles and responsibilities of Cabinet
- ✓ understanding roles and responsibilities of the Scrutiny role
- ✓ media training for Members

4.3. Work is in hand to look at how best these needs can be met effectively and economically.

4.4. Longer term, the development of PDP's will identify a programme of development for each Member and work will commence on putting together PDP's in conjunction with the County Clerk and Members. Initially the PDP's can identify short/medium needs which can be built on by having a review of progress, say twice a year. From this process we will then be able to determine the budget necessary to meet the needs and make provision in the forthcoming budgets.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Cabinet is asked to support and endorse the suggestions and recommendations in my report.

Denbighshire County Council

Cabinet 18th July 2000

**Report by: D Morris - Environment
(Highways & Transportation)**

Subject: Local Transport Plan

1.0 Decision Sought

1.1 To seek Members approval for adoption of the Council's first Local Transport Plan.

2.0 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 At the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 6 January 2000 Members were informed of arrangements for consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP). Copies of the full Plan document were circulated to all Members, Town and Community Councils, A.M's M.P's, the area's MEP and 350 organisations and businesses representing various interest in the County. A small exhibition was displayed in all of the County's libraries. 7,000 leaflets were circulated to accompany the exhibition and were also made available through One-Stop Shops, Public Counters at Council Offices, Leisure Centres, Railway Stations and Supermarkets throughout the County.

2.2 In the light of the results of the consultation exercise a number of changes have been made to the Plan. Some additional areas to be covered by the Plan have been identified, these include motorcycling and horse riding. Policies for these additional topics will be developed over the next few months.

2.3 The draft LTP has been expanded to include targets and means of monitoring progress to attaining them, the County's Road Traffic Reduction Act Report, appraisal of the Plan as required by the National Assembly and an implementation programme for the next five years. Forecasting levels of expenditure for the five year Plan period is difficult in view of the uncertain, lack of details of Objective One funding at this stage and the National Assembly's unwillingness to guarantee funding for Package Bids for more than three years at a time.

2.4 A copy of the revised full LTP will be circulated to Cabinet Members. This is a proof only version. The final printed copy will be bilingual with figures and Maps in colour. Copies of the final document will have to be deposited with the National Assembly by the end of August 2000.

3.0 Cost Implications

3.1 Scheme costs are outlined in Section 9 of the Plan.

4.0 **Consultation Carried Out**

4.1 A summary of the consultation carried out is outlined in Section 2 of the Plan.

5.0 **Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

5.1 The LTP sets out the transport context for other policy areas.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 That Members approve adoption of the Denbighshire Local Transport Plan for submission to the National Assembly for Wales subject to approval by the Technical Services and Housing Scrutiny Panel.

Denbighshire County Council

Cabinet - 18th July 2000

**Report by: D Morris - Environment
(Highways & Transportation)**

Subject: Extension to Prestatyn CCTV for use on the Prestatyn Cycle Network

1.0 Decision Sought

To seek approval to let the CCTV contract for the Prestatyn Dyserth Way to ADT.

2.0 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 In accordance with County and Government policies, a cycle network is being developed for Prestatyn and the coastal package area using funding from the Welsh Assembly via a Transportation Grant.

2.2 Part of the Prestatyn cycle network is the upgrading of the Prestatyn Dyserth Way and Morfa Du to provide facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. The project is now ready to proceed with last stage of the works, the installation of three CCTV cameras near; Gas Works Lane, South Avenue, and The Dell. Residents in the area are at present experiencing antisocial behaviour from local youths and so it is preferable to install these cameras as soon as practicable.

2.3 The new cameras have to be compatible with the existing CCTV system in Prestatyn, which is presently under a 12 month maintenance agreement, which is invalid if any other company's equipment is connected into it. The new camera system also needs to allow for a future link into the CCTV system for Prestatyn High School. Therefore it is proposed under section 9(b) of The Councils Contract and Standing Orders, that these works are added to the existing CCTV contract for Prestatyn.

3.0 Cost Implications

The cost of providing the cameras is £65 - £75,000. This will be funded via a grant allocation.

4.0 Consultation Carried Out

As a result of antisocial behaviour representations have been made by the local community and discussions with County and Town Councillors have led to this proposal.

5.0 Implications on Other Policy Areas including Corporate

Extending the CCTV coverage and developing the County's Crime and Disorder Strategy.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the CCTV works as described in 2.2 above are carried out as an extension to the existing contract with ADT in accordance with Section 9(b) of the County's Contract and Financial Standing Orders.

Denbighshire County Council

Cabinet 18th July 2000

**Report by: David Morris - Environment
(Highways & Transportation)**

Subject: Transport Grant Bids 2001 - 02

1.0 Decision Sought

1.1 To seek Members approval for Transport Grant bids for 2000 - 01.

2.0 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 The National Assembly has invited bids for package and Safe Routes to schools submissions. Applications for which have to be received by the Assembly by the end of August.

2.2 Package Bid

2.3 It is proposed to continue seeking funding for the River Clywd Coastal Area Package jointly with Conwy County Borough Council. This will be the third submission for the Package area.

2.4 The assembly in the two past settlements has indicated that priority should be given to cycling and quality bus partnerships. It is proposed to include in the August bid the following schemes:-

- the second phase of the Rhyl Cycle Network
- a route connecting the Prestatyn - Dyserth cycle route with Prestatyn railway station and the National Cycle Network
- cycle / pedestrian facilities at Tynewydd Road bridge, Rhyl, assuming this project is not started in the current financial year
- a cycle route connecting Rhuddlan, Glan Clwyd Hospital and Bodelwyddan
- cycle parking provision in Dyserth, Rhuddlan, Bodelwyddan and St Asaph
- traffic management works at Rhuddlan Golf Club roundabout
- infrastructure and publicity in support of a quality bus partnership with Arriva Cymru for services 50/51/52 between Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan and St Asaph
- the second phase of the Rhuddlan High Street traffic management scheme

2.5 Proposals for implementing the Lon Clwyd cycle route north of St Asaph will be included subject to the Cabinet's consideration of a report on the consultation exercise on July 6.

2.6 The Rhyl Movement Study recommendations will be incorporated in future Package Bids. The Study report is being finalised. Members' support for the study recommendations will be sought before seeking funding for their implementation.

2.7 **Safe Routes for Schools**

2.8 A bid will be made for the next phase of the Rhyl Safer Routes to Schools initiative. This will be for measures identified to improve pedestrian routes to and from Ysgol Bryn Hedydd. These will be in addition to the Tynewydd Road bridge proposals in the Package Bid.

2.9 The bid for Safer Routes to schools funding for Ruthin will be resubmitted. A bid was made last year for replacing the Anchor Corner zebra crossing with a signed controlled junction and traffic calming Erw Goch. However, the National Assembly did not make funds available for the scheme for the current financial year.

2.10 In response to concerns about pedestrian safety for pupils attending Dinas Bran School in Llangollen it is proposed to make a further bid for the construction of a footway along Dinbren Road, and footpath improvements including lighting between the school and the Pavilion car park, from the school buses drop off and pick up point. To provide traffic signals with pedestrian phases at the Mill Street / Castle Street junction. Problems are also being experienced at Ysgol Bryn Collen, Llangollen and it is therefore also proposed to submit an appropriate Safe Routes to School Scheme at this location.

2.11 **A525 Route Improvement Scheme**

2.12 It has been intended to resubmit the bid for improvements to the A525. This was submitted to the National Assembly last year but was not accepted for funding. The Assembly's guidance, which was published in June, indicates that they will not consider new bids for roads. It is not proposed, therefore, to continue with the submission.

3.0 **Cost Implications**

3.1 It is intended that the works bid for will be funded entirely by the National Assembly.

4.0 **Consultation Carried Out**

4.1 Proposed bids have been the subject of separate consultation exercises over the past two years.

5.0 **Implications on Other Policy Areas including Corporate**

5.1 There are no significant implications for other policy areas.

6.0 **Recommendation**

6.1 That Members approve 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.