

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).

1. 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.

2. 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.

2 (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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. **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.

8. 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.*

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. **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.

12. **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.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 1st August

Preparation of the 2001/2002 Budget.

A Report of the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To agree principles for the preparation of the 2001/2002 budget.

- That the budget process should involve a rigorous procedure allowing service proposals budgets to be tested for their robustness. This will involve all draft proposals to be submitted to the Cabinet Leader for Finance who will in dialogue with the relevant Cabinet lead examine the budget proposals prior to submission to Cabinet. Scrutiny Committee for Resources involvement will also be sought.

That in considering each budget proposal the Cabinet should treat the SSA proposed revisions as a framework with which to assess service expenditure both for the 2001/2002 budget and for future years.

- For Heads of Service excluding schools services to prepare draft budgets based on two reduction targets:
 - A. 4.5% }
 - pro rata reductions
 - B. 3% }
- For there to be no validation of budgets this year. Budget holders are expected to live within the cash limited budget and any overspends will be the first charge on next year's budget.
- For Heads of Service to identify budget pressures as per the tables on the attached appendix. Heads of Service will need to understand that there will be no guarantee of additional funding by inclusion in tables 1 and,2 . The information provided will be looked at collectively.
- Initial prioritisation of budget pressures and growth proposals to be completed on a Directorate basis.
- For draft budget proposals to be presented to the 28th September Cabinet.

2. Reason Decision Sought

2.1 Council in line with the DA recommendations has agreed the need for agreement on a draft budget as the earliest possible moment i.e. October 2000.

2.2 To reach that target preparations for the draft budget need to start now.

2.3 In terms of the overall guidelines the Council's Corporate Business Plan suggests budgets should be planned on an overall reduction of 4.6%.

Despite the optimism generated by the recent announcements from the Chancellor, in the current year a 'good settlement' of 5.8 % for local authorities produced passported funds of 4% going to specific services and only 1.8% for core funding. After allowing for validation and pressures this low level of funding produced a requirement for 5% budget reductions. A task which has proved impossible to deliver fully thus far. Until a clearer picture emerges of the Assembly's funding that is

available to support local authorities, it is prudent to twin track preparing for a higher and a lower target reduction figure. It is proposed that **4.5%** be adopted for the higher figure and **3%** for the lower figure.

2.4 There may be room for some manoeuvre between these two figures depending on:

- the likely level of the final revenue settlement reflecting for example passported moneys,
- the level of contribution to balances necessary
- and the agreed differential level provision for inflation.

However proposals need to be prepared now allowing room for adaptation in the light of more refined knowledge of the overall financial position.

2.5 Heads of Service therefore will need to prepare draft budgets now having regard to:

- The target reduction figures of **4.5% and 3%**
- The Statement of Priorities agreed by the Council in March
- New Legislative requirements or other pressures.
- The views of partners
- Outcome of Best Value reviews.
- The proposals for SSA revision.

NB With regard to SSA proposals service heads should respond to the consultation and these views will be taken into account when examining budget proposals..

2.6 Directors will need to review the various budget statements of the services under their purview and agree the budget proposals to be submitted to Cabinet for approval. The prioritisation of the various pressures and new growth should be done on a **directorate basis**.

2.7 Draft budget proposals along with the statement of pressures and growth, the target reductions will be submitted to the 28th September Cabinet meeting following an initial review of the proposals by the lead Cabinet Member for Finance and the relevant Cabinet Member for the services involved. The assistance of the Scrutiny Committee for Resources will be sought to provide further analysis and scrutiny of the budget proposals. The Scrutiny Committee for Resources may require Cabinet Members to attend to explain the budget proposals and their implications.

2.8 Final budget proposals will be presented in December following the scrutiny review and any consultations.

3. Cost implications

3.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultations on the overall guidance will be submitted to interested groups for comment to feed into the budget process. Scrutiny Committees will also be asked for their comments.

5. Implications for policy areas.

5.1 The budget of the Authority of necessity impacts on all policy areas of the Council

6. Recommendation.

6.1 Cabinet agree the guidance in this paper for the preparation of the 2001/2002 budget.

Appendix

These tables should be completed on a service basis. The prioritisation should be done on a directorate basis. The future years information is to flag up to Members the pressures which will need to be addressed in the longer term.

Table 1 Current Pressures and new Burdens (New burdens includes new legislation).

Item	Priority (1,2,3. Etc. 1 being high)	2001/2002 £.000's	2002/2003 £.000's	2003/2004 £.000's	Reason why a funding priority
Total £.000's					

Table 2 New Growth (This table should relate to the Statement of Priorities as agreed in March)

Item	Priority (1,2,3. Etc. 1 being high)	2001/2002 £.000's	2002/2003 £.000's	2003/2004 £.000's	Reason Why a funding priority

Table 3 Target reduction figures to reach the 3% and 4.5% target.

Savings requirement to bring the budget on target for 2000/2001 £000's _____
 Target reduction figure s for 2001.2002 £'000s 3% _____
 4.5% _____

This table should include savings measures identified

	Measures to bring the bring the budget on target for 2000/2001 £'000s*	Measure to deliver the 3% target reductions for 2001/2002	Measures to deliver the 4.5% target reductions for 2001/2002
Total £000's			

***NB Where savings identified this year exceed the cash limited budget requirement the excess should be shown as a contribution towards meeting the reductions for 2001/2002.**

Directorates should refer to the corporate business plan and the recovery plan when identifying measures to deliver the target reductions. Please note that the sum total of the reductions proposed should enable the budget to meet the cash limited budget within the financial year. If the full benefit of the reduction measure proposed cannot be delivered for a full year, then further measures need to be identified to bring the budget on target.

Denbighshire County Council
Cabinet - 1st August, 2000

Report by: **Leader**

Subject: **Llandrillo College Further Education Corporation**
 - Local Authority Nominee

1.0 Decision Sought

To seek the nomination of up to three names to fill one of two designated Local Authority vacancies on the Corporation Board of Llandrillo College.

2.0 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 Recent legislation has made provision for the inclusion of local authority representation on the governing bodies of further education colleges. The Corporation Board of Llandrillo College has determined that it wishes to offer two places on the Board to the local authority sector. In order to properly reflect the College's catchment, it has been decided to offer one place each to Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council.

2.2 The Search and Governance Committee of Llandrillo College has been charged by the Board with seeking nominations to fill the two designated local authority vacancies on the full Board as from October 2000 for an initial term of four years. The County Council have, therefore, been invited to submit up to three names for consideration by the Search Committee. Given the strategic nature of the role, the College does not wish to be prescriptive and would be happy to see the inclusion of a senior officer alongside elected members if the Council so wishes. On receipt of nominations, the Search Committee would invite its preferred nominee for an informal discussion. Any recommendation from the Search Committee is subject to formal approval by the full Board. Nominations need to be submitted to the Chair of the College by not later than 30th August.

2.3 For your information and assistance a summary of the responsibilities of Corporate Members together with a note regarding persons who are ineligible to be members are attached - Appendices A and B.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Members consider the submission of up to three names for consideration by Llandrillo College's Search and Governance Committee to fill one of the two designated local authority vacancies on the full Corporation Board.

Denbighshire County Council
Cabinet - 1st August, 2000

Report by: Leader

Subject: Membership of the LGA Rural Commission 2000/2001

1.0 **Decision Sought**

Members' consideration is sought to the nomination of two representatives to serve on the Local Government Rural Commission for 2000/2001.

2.0 **Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 The Local Government Association has invited authorities to notify them of their representation for 2000/2001. Authorities are entitled to nominate two representatives - either two Members or one Member and one Officer. Only Elected Members may vote, however, and there is only one vote per authority.

2.2 For your information, the Authority's representatives on the Rural Commission for 1999/2000 were Councillors E.C. Edwards and E.W. Williams. Councillor E.C. Edwards held the Authority's vote on the Commission.

3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 That Members nominate two representatives to serve on the LGA Rural Commission for 2000/2001.

Denbighshire County Council
Cabinet - 1st August, 2000

Report by: Leader

Subject: Membership of the LGA Urban Commission 2000/2001

1.0 **Decision Sought**

Members' consideration is sought to the nomination of two representatives to serve on the Local Government Urban Commission for 2000/2001.

2.0 **Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 The Local Government Association has invited authorities to notify them of their representation for 2000/2001. Authorities are entitled to nominate two representatives - either two Members or one Member and one Officer. Only Elected Members may vote, however, and the Authority is currently entitled to two votes.

2.2 For your information, the Authority's representatives on the Urban Commission for 1999/2000 were Councillors D.W. Davies and K.N. Hawkins with Labour being identified as the political affiliation for the purpose of calculating the proportionality for the Urban Commission Steering Committee.

3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 That Members nominate two representatives to serve on the LGA Urban Commission for 2000/2001 and as the Authority has no overall control, identify a single political affiliation.



WELSH
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

CYMDEITHAS
LLYWODRAETH
LEOL
CYMRU

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:
Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Date/Dyddiad:
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:
Email/Ebost:

DH/DH/
21 July 2000
Daniel Hurford
(029) 2046 8615
daniel.hurford@wliga.org

Leaders and Chief Executives
Welsh Local Authorities

Dear councillor/chief executive,

WLGA Annual Conference: 7-8 September 2000

North Wales Theatre and Conference Centre, Llandudno

The theme of the Association's Annual Conference this year is 'Regenerating Wales – Working together for a Vibrant Wales'.

A finalised programme is presently being printed, however, for information, I enclose a copy of a draft programme. The final programme will have broader information and will be distributed with booking forms for the conference and accommodation within the next week.

The conference fee for individual delegates is £140 plus VAT (includes morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch), local authorities are invited to participate in the conference at the special rate of £600 plus VAT for five delegates - a saving of £100. The Conference Dinner will take place on the evening of Thursday 7 September at the St. George's Hotel. The Conference Dinner Fee is £37.50 plus VAT.

I should be grateful if you would consider who from your authority may wish to attend and advise them of the dates. Please do not make any bookings until the programme and booking forms are sent during the next week.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Hurford
Public Relations and Corporate Policy Officer

Enc.

Colin L Jones
Secretary
Ysgrifennydd

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Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4LN
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

10/11 Rhodfa Raleigh
Glanfa'r Iwerydd
CAERDYDD
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Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

The WLGA welcomes
correspondence in
Welsh or English

Mae CLILC yn croesawu
gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg
neu Saesneg



WLGA Annual Conference 2000

7/8 September, North Wales Theatre and
Conference Centre, Llandudno

“Regenerating Wales - Working Together for a Vibrant Wales”

Thursday 7th September 2000

a.m. Arrival, Registration, Coffee

**11.00 Plenary 1:
Regenerating Democracy**

- Cllr Sir Harry Jones, Leader WLGA
- Peter Law AM, Local Government and Housing Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
- Paul Murphy MP, Secretary of State for Wales*
- Cllr Cherry Short, Cardiff CC/Commission for Racial Equality*
- Professor John Stewart, INLOGOV
- Bethan Evans, Syniad

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Workshops

- Regenerating Democracy – *Local Government, the Assembly and Westminster – Confusion or Cohesion?*
- Community Leadership, Local Partnerships, Local Compacts & Communities First
- Accessibility and Regeneration
- Regenerating the Welsh Language
- Housing Investment for Regeneration

15.30 Coffee

**16.00 Plenary 2:
Regenerating Communities**

Edwina Hart AM*
Cllr Meryl Gravell, Carmarthenshire County Council
Graham Benfield, WCVA
Dave Adamson, University of Glamorgan/NAfW (Communities First)*

17.30 Close

19.00 Reception

**Dinner After Dinner speaker to be confirmed
St. Georges Hotel, Llandudno**

*to be confirmed
Paul Murphy MP confirmed in principle*



WLGA Annual Conference 2000

7/8 September, Llandudno

Friday 8th September 2000

9.00	Plenary 3: Education and Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Martin, CETW*• Cynog Dafis AM• Cllr Jeff Jones, Bridgend County Borough Council
10.00	Workshops - Coffee in workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regenerating Democracy and Guaranteeing Citizen's Rights – The Local Government Role• Early Years• Rural Regeneration• New and Flexible Regeneration for Health
11.30	Plenary 4: Regenerating the Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viv Sugar, Swansea County Council• Willie Carroll, Kildare County Council• Prof Brian Morgan, Cardiff Business School• Ron Davies AM/MP*
13.00	Closing Remarks
13.30	Lunch & Close

* to be confirmed

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CABINET MEETING

FROM:- Councillors David Morris and Rhys Webb

SUBJECT:- **The Audit Commission's, "Hot Property" Report**

DATE:- 1 August 2000

1.0 **Decision Sought**

1.1 Cabinet approval to the formation of a property review group in line with the Audit Commission's Report, "Hot Property".

2.0 **Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 In the preface to the report the Audit Commission states "The way in which local authorities use and manage property assets is central to their ability to support best value service delivery".

2.2 In its conclusion.

"Property is not a "quick hit" in resource term, but this should earn it more or less high level scrutiny. Modernising authorities are showing what can be achieved through active asset management - better quality, more user-friendly services - but others lag behind as a result of managerial and/or political inertia. Governments tend to reward councils that pursue their own policy objectives: making assets work harder and innovation in service delivery are two current credos. There is also the possibility of greater financial freedom in the future, with the potential relaxation of the capital control system. Authorities that cling to outdated or unsuitable assets in the belief that this fulfils a responsibility to local taxpayers are unlikely to benefit in this climate. Without sacrificing long-term financial prudence, Councils must find ways of using current and future property assets in a way that maximises the quality and impact of the services that they provide."

2.3 Enclosed are a summary of the recommendations.

Recommendation one, two, three and four I believe this authority has implemented.

2.4 We need now to consider the establishment of a property review group. This group needs to identify the property it owns, the usage, the floor space, costings, comparisons, value for money assessments. Cabinet needs to be aware of this information and it should be reported to cabinet on a regular basis.

This will bring in home working, shared properties with other authorities, rental charges.

I would suggest that this group is a mixture of Cabinet Members and Officers.

- 2.5 The remit of the group should be to produce a preliminary database of information on properties to cabinet by September. It should include a value for money assessment and identify initiatives eventually. This will be essential information for the production of the Asset Management Plans.
- 2.6 The properties should be split into categories.
- Office Buildings
 - Housing
 - Social Services buildings
 - Schools
 - Leisure Centres
 - "Leisure" buildings
- 3.0 **Cost Implications**
- 3.1 None
- 4.0 **Consultations Carried Out**
- 4.1 Internal initially.
- 5.0 **Implications on other policy areas including Corporate**
- 5.1 Essential work to ensure completion of Asset Management Plans.
- 6.0 **Recommendation**
- 6.1 That this property review group is established.

APPENDICES NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CABINET MEETING

FROM:- Councillor David Morris

SUBJECT:- **Business Plan 2001 - 2004 Design Services / Performance Review on Business Plan 1996 - 2001**

DATE:- 1 August 2000

1.0 **Decision Sought**

1.1 Approval to Business Plan (2001 - 2004) Design and Construction Services and acceptance of findings of Performance Review on previous business plan relating to Design Services (Consultancy) only.

2.0 **Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 The new business plan (attached) is an essential document required alongside the Best Value Performance Plan. It contains:

- Strategy
- Primary Objectives
- Mission Statement
- Outputs
- Future Staff Structure with Planned Reductions

In summary, to pursue private sector partnership, rationalise and streamline management further and pursue profitable accounts.

2.2 The findings of the overall performance review of the previous business plan (attached) is essential documentation required to demonstrate justification for the continued existing delivery or not.

In summary, strategy pursued and implemented, objectives in the main met.

3.0 **Cost Implications**

3.1 None

4.0 **Corporate Implications**

4.1 Best Value

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That Cabinet approve the Business Plan for Design and Constructions Services 2001 - 2004 and the findings of the Performance Review of the previous Business Plan 1996 - 2001 for Design Services.

APPENDICES NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CABINET MEETING

FROM:- Councillor David Morris

SUBJECT:- Design Services Building Contract Review

DATE:- 1 August 2000

1.0 Decision Sought

1.1 Endorsement of the review of building contracts completed by Design Services since Local Government Reorganisation and approval to the submission of an annual Contract Review and a half yearly draft Contract Review.

2.0 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 The monitoring of Denbighshire's capital and other contracts, in conjunction with normal Audit procedures.

- This refers to building projects only. Highway schemes are reported separately.
- Some contracts will have overspent as a result of client requests for additional work, unforeseen circumstances or through the poor performance of a contractor. Where these are of a significant nature a more detailed account will be attached. (This report contains notes only because of the significant number of contracts included - See Appendix One. Details may be made available by request.)
- Only contracts where final accounts have been completed will be included and emphasis will be on financial matters.
- Only schemes where Design Services were lead consultants will be reported.

3.0 Cost implications

3.1 26% of contracts overspent in the period 96 - 01; 26% of contracts underspent.

3.2 Most of the funding has been from outside funding sources and therefore impact on the Council's capital programme and revenue budgets has been limited. Details of these will be shown in the Contract Review.

3.3 2% of all contracts were outside the 7.5% threshold.

4.0 Consultation carried out

4.1 Central finance.

5.0 Implications on other policy areas

5.1 Internal Management / Corporate Image.

7.0 **Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the Cabinet receives the initial report and agrees a regular timetable for further reports, at say six monthly intervals. These subsequent reports to highlight any divergence from standing orders / financial thresholds. Any matters requiring urgent attention may be dealt with as special interim reports.
- 7.2 That the Cabinet approves the production of an annual report which will also include a performance review and a six monthly draft report.

Summary of Contract Final Account Categories and Overspend (also ref: Appendix One)

CONTRACT SUMS	FINAL ACCOUNT CATEGORY						TOTAL
	0-50K	50-100K	100-250K	250-500K	500-1M	1M +	
UNDERSPENT	7	7	10	2	0	0	26
ON COST	21	1	1	2	0	0	25
0-2.5% OVERSPENT	3	2	2	1	0	0	8
2.5-5% OVERSPENT	3	5	1	0	0	0	9
5-7.5% OVERSPENT	2	1	2	2	0	0	7
OVER 7.5% AUTHORISED	7	5	7	1	0	3	23
OVER 7.5% UNAUTHORISED	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	43	22	23	8	1	3	100

DESIGN SERVICES BUILDING CONTRACT DETAILS 1996-2000 - Appendix One

PROJECT	FINAL ACC. CATEGORIES	CONTRACT SUM SUM	FINAL ACCOUNT SUM	UNDER / OVERSPEND	NOTE
CONTRACTS UNDERSPENT					
Denbigh Ysgol Frongoch Extension to Main Hall and Store	0-50K	£37,638	£36,437	-£1,201	Minus value
Meliden Ysgol Melyd CP School Fire Damage	0-50K	£15,000	£14,583	-£417	Minus value
Prestatyn Cornerways Upper Bryn Tiron Drive	0-50K	£14,351	£13,468	-£883	Minus value
Prestatyn 8 West Close	0-50K	£3,938	£3,790	-£148	Minus value
Bodelwyddan 4 Bryn Dedwydd	0-50K	£11,083	£4,063	-£7,020	Minus value
Gwyddelwern 1 Deunant	0-50K	£31,442	£27,827	-£3,615	Minus value
Waen Parish Hall	0-50K	£22,500	£21,292	-£1,208	Minus value
Carrog CP School	50K-100K	£95,089	£92,113	-£2,976	Minus value
Denbigh High School Special Needs Classroom Extension	50K-100K	£66,792	£52,471	-£14,321	Minus value
Corwen Maes Afallen Phase 1	50K-100K	£104,600	£91,599	-£13,001	Minus value
Corwen Maes Afallen Phase 2 and Graianrhyd Maes Gwyn	50K-100K	£100,785	£94,595	-£6,190	Minus value
Rhyl Bedford Street Enveloping Scheme	50K-100K	£100,614	£95,745	-£4,869	Minus value
Cefn Meiriadog Maes Robert and Cae Onnen	50K-100K	£82,961	£79,182	-£3,779	Minus value
Corwen Uwch y Dre (Sundries)	50K-100K	£90,069	£90,000	-£69	Minus value
Denbigh High School Sports Hall Roof	100K-250K	£266,000	£247,402	-£18,598	Minus value
Denbigh Henllan Street / Clwyd Avenue	100K-250K	£223,636	£218,115	-£5,521	Minus value
Llangollen Maes Pengwern Phase 1	100K-250K	£136,092	£122,988	-£13,104	Minus value
Corwen One Stop Shop and IT	100K-250K	£198,661	£192,243	-£6,418	Minus value
Denbigh Bryn Stanley Phase 2	100K-250K	£118,794	£117,587	-£1,207	Minus value
Llangollen Maes Pengwern Phase 2	100K-250K	£221,731	£206,112	-£15,619	Minus value
Trefnant Maes Teg & Maes Gruffydd	100K-250K	£118,437	£113,965	-£4,472	Minus value
Rhyl Cefndy Road Business Park Infrastructure Phase 2	100K-250K	£208,021	£188,654	-£19,367	Minus value
Rhyl Cefndy Road Business Units Phase 3 Works	100K-250K	£178,396	£163,500	-£14,896	Minus value
Denbigh Bryn Stanley Phase 1	100K-250K	£118,414	£116,975	-£1,439	Minus value
Denbigh Colomendy Industrial Estate	250K-500K	£417,899	£417,076	-£823	Minus value
Rhyl Cefndy Road Business Units Phase 2	250K-500K	£320,859	£299,845	-£21,014	Minus value
		£3,303,802	£3,121,627	-£182,175	

CONTRACTS ON COST

Llandyrnog CP School Learning Resources	0-50K	£1,500	£1,500	£0	On cost
Llangollen Ysgol Dinas Bran Proposed New Sign	0-50K	£100	£100	£0	On cost
Denbigh Offices Demolition of Existing Building	0-50K	£10,000	£10,000	£0	On cost
Bodelwyddan Depot Workshop Conversion	0-50K	£10,000	£10,000	£0	On cost
Llangollen Pavilion Storage and Office	0-50K	£9,000	£9,000	£0	On cost
Rhyl Rhydwen Close Changing Rooms	0-50K	£38,534	£38,534	£0	On cost
Corwen Railway Terminus Environmental Improvements	0-50K	£39,000	£39,000	£0	On cost
Prestatyn 5 Victoria Park Avenue	0-50K	£12,122	£12,122	£0	On cost
Rhyl 1 Vale Park	0-50K	£11,883	£11,883	£0	On cost
Rhyl Llys Aled Thomas Avenue	0-50K	£9,301	£9,301	£0	On cost
Rhyl Penrhyn Lodge 20 Queens Walk	0-50K	£9,084	£9,084	£0	On cost
Glyndyfrdwy 1 Maes Owain	0-50K	£3,113	£3,113	£0	On cost
Trefnant 45 Maes Gruffydd	0-50K	£1,740	£1,740	£0	On cost
Bodelwyddan Morfa View Environmental Improvement	0-50K	£10,000	£10,000	£0	On cost
Rhyl Llys Glan Aber Environmental Improvements	0-50K	£5,000	£5,000	£0	On cost
Rhuddlan Town Council Playground Refurbishment	0-50K	£31,000	£31,000	£0	On cost
Rhyl High School Repairs to Fire Damage in Library	0-50K	£11,972	£11,972	£0	On cost
Rhyl Christchurch CP School Kitchen Refurbishment	0-50K	£25,000	£25,000	£0	On cost
Llanferres 4 Tyn Llan	0-50K	£3,858	£3,858	£0	On cost
Ruthin Ysgol Brynhyfryd Extensions to Car Park	0-50K	£32,500	£32,500	£0	On cost
Gellifor Maes Hafal	0-50K	£34,908	£34,908	£0	On cost
Waen Parish Hall	50K-100K	£9,950	£9,950	£0	On cost
Prestatyn Caradoc Road	100K-250K	£243,405	£243,405	£0	On cost
Denbigh All Weather Pitch	250K-500K	£292,392	£292,392	£0	On cost
Rhyl Marine Lake Environmental Improvements	250K-500K	£300,000	£300,000	£0	On cost
		£1,155,362	£1,155,362	£0	

CONTRACTS 0-2.5% OVERSPENT

Prestatyn 61 Victoria Road	0-50K	£10,530	£10,642	£112	
Melin y Wig / Betws GG Amenity Area Improvements	0-50K	£18,970	£19,323	£353	
Prestatyn Ysgol y Llys Classroom	0-50K	£21,828	£22,178	£350	
Cynwyd Environmental Improvements Village Centre	50K-100K	£75,886	£76,028	£142	
Dyserth 5 and 6 Maes y Llys	50K-100K	£49,632	£50,763	£1,131	
Denbigh Maes Hyfryd, Smithfield Rd, Lon Llewelyn etc.	100K-250K	£162,584	£162,600	£16	
Rhyl 18 Arfon Grove	100K-250K	£27,022	£27,612	£590	
Llangollen Sports Hall - Scheme 2	500K-1M	£794,032	£803,465	£9,433	
		£1,160,484	£1,172,611	£12,127	

CONTRACTS 2.5-5% OVERSPENT

Gellifor CP School Extension to Existing Dining Hall	0-50K	£51,131	£52,430	£1,299
Corwen Maes Afallen Amenity Area Improvements	0-50K	£7,647	£8,023	£376
Llanbedr DC Controlled School Staff Car Park	0-50K	£23,340	£24,225	£885
Trefnant 3 Maes Gruffydd	0-50K	£23,220	£24,321	£1,101
Ruthin Peers Memorial	0-50K	£8,937	£9,237	£300
Corwen Synthetic Sports Pitch	50K-100K	£94,071	£96,931	£2,860
Denbigh Ysgol Y Parc Ext & Alterations	50K-100K	£58,166	£60,782	£2,616
Rhyl Bruton Park Phase 1	50K-100K	£56,555	£58,280	£1,725
Denbigh Middleton Ave, Llanrhaeadr Maes y Felin etc.	100K-250K	£162,584	£167,500	£4,916
Rhyl Arfon Grove & Rhydwen Drive	250K-500K	£448,676	£460,000	£11,324
		£934,327	£961,729	£27,402

CONTRACTS 5-7.5% OVERSPENT

Ruthin County Offices Block 6	0-50K	£21,293	£22,693	£1,400
Rhyl Marine Lake Boathouse	50K-100K	£80,227	£85,000	£4,773
Denbigh Gwaenyng School	0-50K	£34,115	£36,500	£2,385
Rhyl Rhydwen Drive Environmental Improvements Phase 1	100K-250K	£129,725	£138,533	£8,808
Llangollen Ysgol Bryn Collen Alterations	100K-250K	£117,390	£126,000	£8,610
Ruthin 46 Clwyd Street Remodelling	250K-500K	£318,445	£338,531	£20,086
		£701,195	£747,257	£46,062

CONTRACTS OVER 7.5% AUTHORISED OVERSPENT

Rhyl 73 Handsworth Crescent	0-50K	£10,960	£12,497	£1,537	Necessaryadditional works due to building failures
Corwen Clawdd Poncen	0-50K	£13,155	£14,305	£1,150	Necessaryadditional works due to building failures
Ruthin Canol y Dre Environmental Improvements Phase 1	0-50K	£20,093	£25,752	£5,659	Additional works authorised - client budget £25,000
Ruthin Canol y Dre Environmental Improvements Phase 2	0-50K	£19,400	£21,722	£2,322	Additional works authorised - client budget £25,000
Rhyl 5, Mona Terrace	0-50K	£20,856	£22,475	£1,619	Additional works authorised - still under client budget
Rhyl Russell House Reception	0-50K	£10,522	£13,300	£2,778	Additional works authorised - still under client budget
Llanbedr DC School Extension	0-50K	£17,147	£22,750	£5,603	Additional works authorised - still under client budget
Gellifor CP School Alterations	50K-100K	£46,811	£52,047	£5,236	Inherited from Clwyd County Council
Denbigh Maes y Goron Environmental Improvements Phase 1	50K-100K	£46,934	£56,000	£9,066	Additional works authorised
Corwen Leisure Centre Extension to Fitness Suite	50K-100K	£68,178	£81,000	£12,822	Additional works authorised and problems in ground
Denbigh Magistrates Court Alterations	50K-100K	£63,656	£99,210	£35,554	Client requested additional works - funded
Rhyl Ysgol Llewelyn - Kitchen Refurbishment	50K-100K	£64,339	£85,131	£20,792	Specification changes
Denbigh Capel Seion Community Facilities	100K-250K	£113,997	£153,390	£39,393	Additional works authorised - still under client budget
Rhyl Rhydwen Drive Environmental Improvements Phase 2	100K-250K	£189,952	£207,011	£17,059	Client requested additional works
Ruthin Porth y Dre & Rhewl, Gwerfnor, Penforddwr	100K-250K	£144,919	£164,750	£19,831	Extra houses added with funding
Rhyl Rhydwen Drive Environmental Improvements Phase 3	100K-250K	£134,976	£146,970	£11,994	Additional works authorised - still under client budget
Rhyl Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Refurbishment	100K-250K	£78,664	£141,774	£63,110	Necessaryadditional works due to building failures
Dee Valley 1	100K-250K	£158,362	£188,000	£29,638	Extra houses added with funding
Dee Valley 2	100K-250K	£167,185	£188,250	£21,065	Extra houses added with funding
Rhyl Morfa Clwyd Enterprise Centre Starter Workshops	250K-500K	£438,705	£481,400	£42,695	Difficulty in obtaining materials resulting in re-design
Denbigh Denbighshire County Council Offices	1M PLUS	£2,517,857	£2,878,683	£360,826	Contract over run - claim
Prestatyn Denbighshire County Council Offices	1M PLUS	£1,154,967	£1,345,684	£190,717	Contract over run - claim
Rhyl Aldi Site Business Units Works	1M PLUS	£688,147	£840,457	£152,310	Poor ground conditions - unforeseen
		£6,189,782	£7,242,558	£1,052,776	

CONTRACTS OVER 7.5% UNAUTHORISED OVERSPENT

Prestatyn Bodnant Infants CP School	50K-100K	£39,949	£55,250	£15,301	M and E overspend / additional work required
Rhyl Housing Improvement Marsh Road	500K-1M	£503,592	£606,000	£102,408	Additional external works to match grant aided works
		£543,541	£661,250	£117,709	

TOTALS		£13,988,493	£15,062,394	£2,329,977	
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NB The above does not include

Prestatyn HS Extensions and Alterations PSI
Clawddnewydd Canolfan Cae Cymro Community Hall
where Design Services were not the lead consultants

A REPORT BY A LEAD MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**BUILDING CONTROL PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS**

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to adopt the national standards.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 In July 1999 Building Control Performance Standards was published. The document was prepared by Construction Industry Council, Local Government Association, Association of Corporate Approved Inspectors, National Assembly for Wales and DETR.

2.2 The document sets out eleven standards which local authority building control and approved inspectors are expected to follow.

2.3 A person intending to carry out building work subject to Building Regulations can engage either a local authority building control service or an approved inspector. At present there are 12 companies authorised to operate as approved inspectors and about 35 individuals.

2.4 Building Regulations exist to secure the health and safety of building uses, promote energy efficiency and make access easier for disabled people.

2.5 The aim of the new document is to seek consistent application of the regulations by all building control bodies - public or private, and to raise standards. It also provides a valuable function in establishing best practice - a level playing field for the public and private sector.

2.6 All building control bodies are encouraged to adopt and apply the standards.

3. THE STANDARDS

3.1 A copy of the Standards for Building Control is appended in Appendix A.

3.2 A full copy is deposited in Group rooms.

3.3 The document also contains guidance to meet the standards.

4. ASSESSMENT

4.1 We currently comply with the standards.

4.2 The document also contains guidance about some of the ways of meeting the requirements set out in the Standards.

4.3 We will seek to use the guidance where appropriate.

5. COST IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no cost implications involved in adopting these standards.

6. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

6.1 Report considered and approved by the Scrutiny Panel

7. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

7.1 There are no implications for other policy areas

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 **That the Council adopts the Standards for Building Control**

Standards for Building Control

1. Policy

Every BCB shall adopt and publish, or make available on request, a formal policy for the provision of its building control service in a manner that meets its legal duties and is effective in helping to achieve the compliance of building work with the Building Regulations.

2. Resources

The BCB shall deploy sufficient experienced and qualified staff, appropriate to the type of building control work undertaken.

In the light of current and forecast workloads, sufficient resources must be allocated by the BCB to enable it to discharge its duties with reasonable skill and care and to comply with these Standards. A formal review of resources and staffing shall be regularly undertaken, to address fluctuations in workload.

Project acceptance: formal procedures shall be in place to review the capability and/or capacity of the BCB to accept projects either individually or collectively. In the case of local authorities, which cannot refuse to undertake building control on a project if requested, these procedures must extend to consideration of the possible need to engage additional support, either generally or in relation to individual projects.

Resources for existing projects: a process of continuous review shall be undertaken to ensure existing projects are adequately resourced.

3. Consultation

The BCB shall undertake all statutory consultations in a timely manner. It shall consider the possible desirability of undertaking additional consultations. It shall where appropriate co-operate as far as possible in a 'one stop shop' approach to development consents.

4. Assessment of Plans

Where assessment of plans is undertaken, clear information shall be communicated to the client regarding:

- non-compliance with the Building Regulations
- views of statutory consultees
- conditions pertaining to the approval or passing of plans
- remedies available in the event of a dispute over compliance.

Records of the plans assessment process: records shall be kept of the design assessment philosophy, and any statutory and/or discretionary consultations, for future reference and continuity of control.

5. **Site Inspection**

Site inspection regime: the BCB shall adopt an appropriate site inspection regime which takes full account of relevant factors such as:

- the degree of detail in the design assessment process
- the nature of the work
- experience of the builder
- complexity and rate of build
- unusual or high risk features
- notification arrangements
- key construction stages.

Relevant factors must be assessed at the outset and regularly reviewed so that effective control is maintained for the duration of each project, with adequate recording, sufficient to demonstrate the application of reasonable skill and care.

Site inspection records: records of each inspection shall be maintained, which identify the work inspected and any non-compliance. Where plans are not available for the work, these records will necessarily be more detailed.

Contraventions: non-compliant work (contraventions) must be communicated promptly and clearly to the responsible person, identifying the contravention(s) and indicating any measure(s) believed to be necessary to remedy the situation. Any mechanisms for appealing against or disputing a decision of the BCB shall be clearly made known to the responsible person.

Notification of consultees: During the inspection phase, the BCB shall ensure that all statutory consultees are notified of any significant departures from plans.

6. **Certificates at Completion**

Upon satisfactory completion of the relevant work the BCB shall give an appropriate certificate to the direct client and any other appropriate person(s).

7. **Archiving of Records**

All records relating to the building control service provided to individual projects shall be retained by the BCB for an appropriate period. Arrangements shall be made for their transfer into safe keeping in the event of a BCB ceasing trading.

8. Continuing Professional Development

The BCB shall put in place suitable arrangements for Continuing Professional Development and in-service training.

9. Review of Performance

A BCB shall have methods of collecting and monitoring evidence of its performance, in terms of service delivery and compliance or non-compliance of building work with the Building Regulations. It shall have procedures in place to learn from its findings as a part of a process of continuous improvement. It shall also facilitate the sharing of any information which would be of benefit to BCBs in recognising general areas of difficulty (or failure) in achieving compliance.

10. Quality Management

Every BCB shall incorporate quality management principles into its service, which can demonstrate that the above Standards are being addressed.

11. Business Ethics

Every BCB shall observe the normal professional standards and business ethics expected of service providers. A BCB shall not attempt to supplant a competitor, or win work, on the basis of interpretation of the regulations. The principle of the building control function being independent shall not be compromised.

Agenda Item No. 11

Report to : **Cabinet**
Date of Meeting : **1 August, 2000**
Report of : **Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Human Resources**
Title : **Modern apprentices' Pay**

Decision Sought

An amendment to the corporate Government Training Schemes Policy to take account of the law with regard to the National Minimum Wage as it applies to Modern Apprentices and an annual increase in salaries to keep in line with the National Insurance Threshold.

Reason Decision Sought

It is already policy that modern apprentices should be paid according to the same rates across the authority. Two factors have arisen which now invite a further review. Legislation has been enacted which states that the National Minimum Wage must be applied to modern apprentices after their first year or at age 19, whichever comes last. In addition, the NI threshold has, from 01.04.2000 been raised to £75.99. To comply with the recent legislation, it is proposed that the policy should now be further refined to include the following:-

- that, in line with legislation, the National Minimum Wage should be paid one year after modern apprenticeship start or at aged nineteen, whichever comes last
- that the top rate, i.e. for those aged 18 should be adjusted on 1st April each year to match the maximum earnings allowable before incurring NI
- that the rates for those aged 16 and 17 should be adjusted accordingly to retain the current differential, i.e. £5.00 per week for each year.

Cost Implications:

- on National Minimum Wage - £2880.80 per person per annum - there are 3 currently
- at age 18 - £ 675.48 per person per annum - there are 4 currently
- at age 17 - £780.00 per person per annum
- at age 16 - £780.00 per person per annum

Consultation carried out:

Not applicable

Implications for other policy areas including corporate:

None

Recommendation:

That the amendment be accepted with immediate effect and retrospective payments to meet the National Minimum Wage where applicable.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 1st August 2000

Peer Review

A Report by Don Holder - Lead Member for Training

1. Decision Sought.

1.1 To seek agreement that Denbighshire puts its name forward as an Authority to participate in the peer review system as previously reported on to Members.

2. Reason Decision Sought.

2.1 The Improvement Programme is an important scheme run by IDEA which will help with the Authority's organisational development. The programme is a means by which authorities are reviewed by their peers in other authorities. The review provides for a diagnostic of local authority management to help local authorities take appropriate action to bring the management of their authorities in line with best practice.

2.2 The basic purpose of the scheme is to share experience and perspectives between authorities to improve local authority management, covering both service management and political management arrangements. The scheme would give the Authority access to constructive criticism from practitioners who are thoroughly familiar with local authority issues and working.

2.3. The review covers all services and takes one week. Authorities are bench marked against a model and an analysis of the gap between the benchmark and the assessment is undertaken. A Report is issued following the review with recommendation for improvement.

2.4 Review teams comprise volunteers (members and officers) previously identified and carefully selected by IDEA.

2.5 There would be clear workload implications for the Authority both during the review week and in providing the review team with all the preparatory information.

2.6 If agreed the Peer Review would start in 3 - 6 months time.

3. Cost.

3.1 The standard charge for Welsh Authorities is £20k. However since in England there is a population weighting for charging, we will endeavour to negotiate the rate to that for a comparable English Authority which is £15k. Funding for this will need to come from top slicing of budgets.

4. Impacts on other Policy areas.

4.1 There are no policy impacts arising from this recommendation. The Peer Review process complements Best Value as well as business management initiatives.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation is not an issue for this item.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That Members agree to participate in the Peer Review