

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 31st August, 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers - Councillors P. Douglas, M.M. Jones R.E. Jones, R.J.R. Jones, J.A. Smith, W.G. Thomas and C.H. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Legal Services Manager, Administration Services Manager and Head of Exchequer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM

Councillor G.M. Kensler.

386. 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) Boundary Review, Llangollen;
- (ii) Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee - Annual General Meeting and Conference, and
- (iii) Cabinet appointments to - Voluntary Sector Liaison Group; Health Alliance, and Community Legal Services Partnership.

387. SHORTLISTING - CORPORATE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

With reference to agenda item No. 29 the Chief Executive referred to the preliminary interviews that had already taken place with candidates for the Corporate Directors and Assistant Director posts. He indicated that a representative from Rileys, Consultants would be attending today's meeting of the Cabinet at 1.00 p.m. and Members would need to shortlist those candidates to attend for assessment on the 6th, 7th and 8th September. Although the Cabinet had not been formally convened for the afternoon session the Chief Executive sought Members' advice on whether the Cabinet would be in a position to undertake the shortlisting exercise that afternoon.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be reconvened at 1.00 p.m. to undertake the shortlisting exercise referred to above.

388. BOUNDARY REVIEW - LLANGOLLEN

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

The Chief Executive reported upon a letter received from the Boundary Commission for Wales requesting that a meeting be held with the Cabinet on 6th October, 2000 to discuss the Llangollen Boundary Review. In view of the decision to apply for leave to seek a judicial review on the matter Counsel had advised that the Cabinet should decline the invitation from the Boundary Commission.

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

389. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on the 1st August, 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters arising:-

(i) **Observers**

Councillors G. Jones and C.H. Williams to be included in the list of observers present at the meeting.

(ii) **Best Value Approach for Grounds Maintenance**

Councillor E.A. Owens indicated that discussions had been held with the relevant officers and there would be scope to bring individual services together. She indicated that a report on the matter would be submitted to Council in September. Councillor E.W. Williams raised concerns over the transfer of services within Directorates and sought an assurance that staff, unions, etc. had been consulted on those issues. He also felt that as he was Lead Cabinet Member on Best Value he needed to be advised on the contents of the proposed report in conjunction with the Council's Best Value Officer. Councillor E.A. Owens indicated that discussions with staff, unions, etc. was currently being undertaken and she would update Councillor Williams on the progress to date.

(iii) **Funding for the Redundancy Packages for the Retiring Officers**

In response to a question from Councillor E.W. Williams, Councillor E.A. Owens indicated that the information would be available shortly.

(iv) **Membership of Cabinet**

The Leader indicated that a letter had been despatched to Councillor G.M. Kensler on the current situation and he had also had discussions with the Member on that issue.

(v) **External Advertisement of two Welfare Rights Assistant Posts and a Social Worker Post**

Councillor E.A. Owens reported that following a meeting held on 7th August, 2000 authority had been given to advertise the three posts externally.

(vi) **The Audit Commission's "Hot Property" Report**

Councillor W.R. Webb reported that the inaugural meeting of the Property Review Group would be held on 13th September, 2000.

(vii) **Ruthin Gaol Master Plan**

Councillor R.W. Hughes referred to a meeting arranged to discuss the consultation process on the redevelopment plans and expressed her dismay that the contents of the confidential report had been leaked to the press. She felt that the leaking of such documents undermined the work of the Local Authority. The Leader echoed those comments.

(viii) **Property and Land Holding**

In response to a question from Councillor R.W. Hughes, Councillor W.R. Webb indicated that updating reports on the Council's property and land holdings would be submitted to each Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED that subject to the above the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 1st August, 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

390. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CABINET

The Minutes of the Special Cabinet held on the 1st August, 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Cabinet held on the 1st August, 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

391. BUDGET MONITORING

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Members to consider what action was necessary to keep the County Council's Recovery Plan on target. Councillor Owens referred to the appendix attached to the report which analysed the pressures for 2000/2001 and gave details of the unidentified cuts; the underachieved cuts; new pressures and any savings. Detailed discussions had been held with all Directorates during August to review their spending plans and Councillor Owens congratulated those Directorates which had achieved some measures of cuts but unfortunately other Directorates faced severe pressures to live within their cash limited budgets. Having analysed the budget pressures for 2000/2001 Councillor Owens indicated that the overspend would be in the region of £2.6 million which was in excess of the £2 million identified in the Council's Recovery Plan.

Councillor Owens invited relevant Lead Members to analyse their budget pressures and to identify the necessary budget reductions to bring those budgets in line with the Council's Recovery Plan. Following each individual presentation Members took the opportunity to question the Cabinet Member on various budget issues.

Following the presentations Councillor E.A. Owens thanked the Cabinet Members and staff within Directorates for the excellent work done in addressing the budget pressures.

With regard to the Corporate budget the Chief Executive indicated that the funding of the redundancies within the DSO would hopefully be capitalised depending on the sale of Council properties and the use of capital receipts therefrom.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the report be received and noted, and*
- (b) *the Lead Cabinet Members for Education, Leisure, Environment and Personal Services consider as a matter of urgency the identified and underachieved target budget reductions together with the new budget pressures, with the intention of identifying necessary budget reductions and report back to the Cabinet thereon.*

392. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS - NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

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

(i) **Securing the Future**

A conference organised by the National Assembly at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod, 12th October, 2000.

RESOLVED that the relevant Cabinet Member be nominated to attend the conference with payment being made out of the Groups' individual budgets. Attendance would be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

(ii) **Breaking Down Barriers**

A conference organised by the National Assembly to be held at the Cardiff Moathouse Hotel on 25th October, 2000.

RESOLVED that the relevant Cabinet Member be authorised to attend the conference, with payment being made out of the Groups' individual budgets. Attendance would be approved with the payment of an attendance allowance.

(iii) **Performance, Practice, Partnership - All Wales Social Services**

A conference organised by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru to be held at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on 8th December, 2000.

RESOLVED that the relevant Cabinet Member for Personal Services, the Chair of Personal Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Personal Services and a further named officer be nominated to attend the conference with payment being made out of the Groups' individual budgets. Attendance would be approved with the payment of attendance allowance.

(iv) **Nuclear-free Local Authorities Steering Committee - 2000 Annual General Meeting and Conference**

To be held at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 14th/15th September, 2000.

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

RESOLVED that no action be taken.

(v) **Appointment of Member, Executive Panel, North Wales Fire Authority 2000/2001**

RESOLVED that Councillor D.M. Morris be nominated to serve upon the Executive Panel of the North Wales Fire Authority for 2000/2001 and Councillor M.L.I. Davies be nominated as his substitute.

393. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval.

- (i) appointment of an additional Solicitor for Social Services/Education team in the County Clerk's Department;
- (ii) external advertisement for the vacant post of Countryside Officer (Visitor Services) in the Planning and Economic Development Directorate, and
- (iii) external advertisement for a Social Worker (Rhyl) in the Social Services Directorate.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) approval be given for the transfer of a Ms Siwan Edwards to a new Child Care Solicitor's post in the County Clerk's Department and authority be granted to recruit externally a Solicitor for Adult Services/Education within that Department;
- (b) the external advertisement of the post of Countryside Officer (Visitor Services) be approved, and
- (c) the external advertisement of the post of Social Worker (Rhyl) be approved.

394. LOCAL MEMBER NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought Members' consideration to nominations received for LEA governor vacancies from the local Member(s) for the area in which the schools were located. Whilst discussing the report Councillor E.W. Williams referred to the delay in appointing certain governors and felt that the system should be more streamlined so that vacancies were filled as quickly as possible. The Administration Services Manager agreed to attend to that matter.

RESOLVED that the following nominations be approved for the schools as indicated, the appointments being for a period of four years from the dates shown:-

Denbigh, St Brigid's

Councillor N.J. Hughes, 22 Mytton Park, Denbigh (31.8.2000) (1 further vacancy remaining).

Gwyddelwern C.P. School

Mrs. Anwen Lewis, Encil Y Coed, Gwyddelwern, Corwen (31.8.2000).

Llandyrnog C.P. (Ysgol Bryn Clwyd)

Miss. Hazel Wright, Lodge Farm, Llangynhafal, Denbigh (31.8.2000).

Llangollen, Bryn Collen C.P.

Mr. John Tate, Thornleigh, Abbey Road, Llangollen (31.8.2000), and

Mrs. Nesta Hughes, Pennant, Maesmawr Road, Llangollen (31.8.2000).

Prestatyn, Ysgol Y Lllys C.P.

Mr. Gareth Davies, 81 Victoria Road, Prestatyn (31.8.2000).

Trefnant C.P. School

Councillor M.LI. Davies, Gwelfryn, 1 Ffordd Glascoed, Cefn Meiriadog (31.8.2000).

Rhuddlan, Ysgol Tir Morfa

Councillor R.W. Hughes, 2 Bryn Lllys, Meliden (31.8.2000).

395. AMENDMENTS TO WLGA CONSTITUTION

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement on a response to the WLGA Consultation Paper for recommendation to Council. The WLGA had issued a draft constitution for consideration by Association Members. The amendments to the constitution were of a minor nature and represented an update due to the existence of the NAFW and the need for certain drafting revisions. (Draft constitution attached to the report).

Councillor E.W. Williams proposed, seconded by Councillor W.R. Webb that the membership of the Council should be amended so that a Local Authority in full membership should be entitled to appoint one member of the Council for each 50,000 population up to a maximum of 3.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the Cabinet recommends to the Council acceptance of the constitutional document forwarding at the same time the criticism as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, and*
- (b) *the WLGA be requested to amend the constitution so that a Local Authority in full membership shall be entitled to appoint one Member of the Council for each 50,000 up to a maximum of 3.*

396. DRAFT POLICY AGREEMENTS

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet's view on the proposed National Assembly initiative on policy agreements and to agree for preparation work to be undertaken to enter into a policy agreement with the National Assembly on specific targets as appropriate.

The National Assembly through the Partnership Council had been progressing with representatives of Local Government the idea of an agreement between the National Assembly and individual Local Authorities over the specific areas of the Assembly's policy agenda as identified in Better Wales. Policy agreements were entirely voluntary and there were no sanctions relating to the non- achievement of targets. (Policy Agreement consultation draft attached to the report). Agreement would be for a three year period commencing on 1st April 2001 with a year being added each year to maintain a rolling programme of agreements.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the report as the basis to make representations to the County Council in line with paragraph 3 of the report.

397. EXTERNAL WORKS AT TY NANT, REAR OF NANT HALL ROAD, PRESTATYN

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet support for capital funding relating to external works at Ty Nant, Prestatyn in compliance with the planning conditions imposed by the Planning Authority. Councillor E.A. Owens reminded Members that all capital bids would be considered in October and the bid now submitted to Cabinet would need to be included in the list for consideration at that time.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the report be received and noted, and
- (b) the officers be requested to submit an appropriate bid for consideration within the Council's draft capital programme for 2001/2002.

398. DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 48 IN THE COMMUNITY OF TREMEIRCHION

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Cabinet to authorise the County Clerk, prior to consultation, to proceed to make an Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 to divert Public Footpath No. 48 in the Community of Tremeirchion so as to facilitate development.

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

399. CORPORATE ADVERTISING

Councillor R.W. Hughes, the Lead Cabinet Member for Public Relations submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking authority to extend the current Corporate Advertising Agreement to 31st March 2001. The current Advertising Agreement with North Wales Independent Press ended on 30th September, 2000 and it was considered that it would be more efficient to time the advertising year to coincide with the financial year. The proposal would be to invite bids from suitably qualified companies for the Advertising Agreement 2001/2002 on the same basis as the current Agreement in March 2001 to be effective from 1st April, 2001.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the extension of the Corporate Advertising Agreement with North Wales Independent Press be extended to 31st March, 2001, and
- (b) suitably qualified companies be invited to bid for the 2001/2002 Agreement in March 2001.

400. LAND AT YSGOL HIRADDUG, DYSERTH

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval to dispose of land currently forming part of Ysgol Hiraddug, Dyserth. A formal request had been received by Dyserth Community Hall Management Committee (Community Council) to purchase an area of land currently forming part of Ysgol Hiraddug,

Dyserth, the land consisting of approximately 370 square metres (plan attached to the report). The Management Committee had received a substantial lottery grant to redevelop the former Urdd building Cwm Road, Dyserth and required the land for additional car parking. The disposal had been approved by the Local Education Authority and School Governors at the Monitoring Scrutiny Committee on 22nd May, 2000.

Councillor E.W. Williams indicated that the sale of land had been agreed by the Governors of the school on condition that the capital receipts would be returned to the school to refurbish the school hall. Councillor W.R. Webb indicated that such action would be contrary to the Council's policy on capital receipts and Members needed to consider that principle further.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *approval be given to the disposal of 370 square metres of land currently forming part of Ysgol Hiraddug, Dyserth to the Dyserth Community Hall Management Committee (Community Council) on terms to be agreed by the Acting Director of Technical Services, and*
- (b) *the officers consider further the use of the capital receipts from the sale of the land.*

401. SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES MEETING

Councillor R.W. Hughes, the Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Members to consider a request from the Sports Council for Wales to meet the Cabinet to discuss sport and leisure issues. The Chief Executive of the SCW, Mr Huw Jones, had written to the Council to suggest that he and his Chairman met with the Cabinet to provide an overview on national issues and how those fitted into the local scene, and to give Members an opportunity to raise questions and to discuss any sport and leisure topics of interest.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive/Chairman of the Sports Council for Wales be invited to a future meeting of the Cabinet to discuss sport and leisure issues.

402. LEISURE CENTRE USERS FORUMS

Councillor R.W. Hughes, the Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Members to consider responses received as a result of consultations on proposals to establish Users Forums at all Leisure Centres within the County and to agree the way forward. The County Council had agreed to establish a Users Forum at each Leisure Centre and to consult on draft proposals for the constitution and working arrangements for such forums (Minute No. 14 of 9th May, 2000 refers). Seventy-four organisations had been consulted on the draft constitution and working arrangements but only 12 had responded to the consultation exercise (comments received summarised in appendix 1 to the report).

The draft constitution and working arrangements document had been amended to take account of the issues raised arising from the consultation programme and would be incorporated into the emerging Transfer of Control Agreement being prepared for dual-use sites.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the establishment of Leisure Centre User Forums at each Leisure Centre under the revised constitution and working arrangements be approved, and*
- (b) *the establishment of Management Liaison Groups for dual-use sites involving representatives of the County Council and schools be approved.*

403. RUTHIN CRAFT CENTRE DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet support for the need to refurbish and redevelop Ruthin Craft Centre and to seek authority to commission a feasibility study to consider those needs in more detail.

Councillor Hughes indicated that the Ruthin Craft Centre was now over 18 years old and there was a need to enhance and refurbish the facility in order to improve the quality of experience of visitors, maintain its reputation as a major attraction and to support the Council's tenants. The estimated cost of the feasibility study would be £10,000 of which the Art Council for Wales would grant 85 per cent of the cost leaving a shortfall of £1,500.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the need for refurbishment and redevelopment of the Ruthin Craft Centre be supported in principle by the Cabinet, and*
- (b) *the officers be authorised to commission a feasibility study, subject to funding, and apply for Art Council for Wales grant for the study.*

404. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader reported that:-

- (i) the Denbighshire County Council trade stand had been judged the best trade stand at the recent Denbighshire and Flintshire Show and a cup would be presented to the officers at the Council meeting on 19th September. The Leader congratulated Sue Appleton and her team in gaining such a prestigious award, and
- (ii) Councillor E.A. Owens would be the Lead Cabinet Member for the Direct Service Organisation.

At this juncture the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to allow Members to partake in refreshments

405. DELEGATION TO COUNTY CLARE

The Head of Economic Development reported that he had now received the programme for the proposed visit to County Clare on 26th/27th September. Having informed Cabinet on the contents of the programme he sought confirmation of the names of Members/officers to visit County Clare.

RESOLVED that *Councillor E.C. Edwards (Leader), W.R. Webb, and K.E. Wells together with the Chief Executive and the Head of Economic Development be nominated as this Authority's delegation to visit County Clare on 26th/27th September, 2000. (Nominated Member Councillor R.W. Hughes indicated that she was unavailable to form part of the delegation).*

406. NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

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

The Leader submitted the following nominations for outside bodies:-

- (i) **Denbighshire Local Health Alliance**

RESOLVED that *Councillor I.M. German be nominated as this Authority's representative to serve on the Denbighshire Local Health Alliance.*

- (ii) **Voluntary Sector Liaison Group**

RESOLVED that *Councillors E.C. Edwards, D.M. Holder, G.M. Kensler, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens and E.W. Williams be nominated as this Authority's representatives to serve on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group.*

- (iii) **Community Legal Services Partnership**

RESOLVED that *Councillor E.C. Edwards (Leader) be nominated as this Authority's representative to serve on the Community Legal Services Partnership.*

407. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (1)

- (i) **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.

408. APPROVAL FOR EXCEPTION TO CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for ICT submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking retrospective approval to an exception to Contract Standing Orders due to a technical breach of Standing Orders. The technical breach had occurred in relation to the purchase of IBM equipment which should have been subject to formal tendering. Three formal quotes had been received for the purchase of equipment and the lowest quote had been accepted.

RESOLVED that retrospective approval be given to the purchase of the IBM equipment referred to in the report.

409. LEISURE SERVICES CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to reallocate capital receipts to invest in a range of leisure facilities. The County Council had previously agreed to invest a capital receipt of £35,000 in a range of leisure facilities following the sale of two leisure service properties in Rhyl. (Minute No. 900 of 29th February, 2000 refers). Councillor Hughes referred to the approved list detailed in appendix 1 to the report and to the revised list referred to in appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED that the proposals to reallocate leisure capital receipts as detailed in appendix 2 to the report be approved.

410. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME CARE

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval for a programme that would reduce expenditure on and refocus the current in-house provision running alongside further work on externalisation and to submit a further progress report in three months' time. The Leader indicated that the County Council would need to discuss this matter in detail before final approval could be given to the proposals.

The Head of Client Services presented the report to Cabinet and referred to the detailed work that had already been undertaken with regard to this matter over the past 18 months. He outlined the reasons for the proposals contained in the report and referred to the findings of the Best Value Service Review of the Home Care Service. Councillor E.A. Owens proposed that the Cabinet indicates its support for the measures to be taken with regard to the Local Authority Home Care Service and the County Council be advised thereon. Upon being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

411. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval for a programme works that would identify options for the future management of the four Local Authority residential homes. The Head of Strategic Planning and Support Services presented the report and referred to the Government's intention to introduce new arrangements from 2002 that would require Local Authority homes to be registered and to meet new registration standards. He felt that it was highly unlikely that the Authority's homes would meet those standards without significant capital investment. He therefore felt that there were compelling reasons for the Council to review the future management of its residential homes. The Head of Service referred to the significant cost difference between in-house residential care and that available from the independent sector and outlined the reasons therefor. Councillor E.A. Owens highlighted the budget pressures within

the Directorate and welcomed the proposal for an options appraisal to be undertaken to determine the future management of residential homes. Whilst discussing the report the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Personal Services suggested that a group of Cabinet Members be drawn together to scrutinise the options appraisal process and the Leader welcomed that initiative. With regard to consultations with staff the Chief Executive accepted the sensitivity of the matter and felt that the Best Value approach be adopted and consultations would have to be undertaken with users and staff at the appropriate time. He felt that the proposed consultation group involving Cabinet Members should also include appropriate senior managers.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *an options appraisal to determine future management of residential homes be approved and the County Council receive a further report in three months' time, and*
- (b) *the Leader and Cabinet Lead Members for Personal Services, Best Value and Finance be delegated to scrutinise the options appraisal process.*

412. 59 WEST PARADE AND KIOSK ADJOINING 58 WEST PARADE/JOHN STREET, RHYL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment and Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing submitted a joint confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval to acquire the above properties using compulsory purchase powers available to the Council. The proposal was a response to a request received from Clwyd Alyn Housing Association seeking assistance to acquire the derelict properties to enable a comprehensive redevelopment of the site to take place.

RESOLVED *that the officers be authorised to proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the properties referred to in the report and that a back-to-back transaction takes place to enable them to be immediately transferred to the ownership of Clwyd Alyn Housing Association at cost.*

413. LAND AT CAE GLAS, TREFNANT

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval to the part "removal" of a restrictive covenant on land sold by Clwyd County Council on 11th February 1992.

RESOLVED *that the part "removal "(maximum 3 metres) of the restrictive covenant on land sold by Clwyd County Council at Cae Glas, Trefnant be approved on terms to be agreed by the Acting Director of Technical Services.*

414. LAND AT RHEWL, RUTHIN

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval to dispose of land at Rhewl, Near Ruthin to a named party. The Cabinet had previously deferred consideration of the matter pending the receipt of a report on the valuation of the land at Bodynys, Rhewl, Ruthin. (Minute No. 238 of 6th July, 2000 refers).

The Joint Agricultural Board meeting on 10th April had resolved to declare the land surplus and recommended that it be disposed of to the applicant with part of the proceeds of the sale reinvested in the Bodynys holding. The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services referred to the open market value of the land and the amount required for reinvestment in the Bodynys holding. In response to Members' comments the Chief Executive indicated that a new policy would need to be considered on the Council's agricultural land holdings following talks with Flintshire County Council and officers would report back to the Cabinet at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the sale of land at Bodynys, Rhewl, Ruthin be approved on terms to be agreed with the Acting Director of Technical Services in consultation with the County Clerk, and*

(b) *that an element of the sale proceeds be reinvested in the Bodynys holding.*

415. FFRITH BEACH, FESTIVAL GARDENS, PRESTATYN

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval to enter into a "lock out agreement" with a prospective lessee/purchaser. An expression of interest had been received in the whole of the Ffrith Beach site from a potential developer who was seeking to develop the site. The developer had requested the Council to enter into a "lock out agreement" for a period of six months. The developer would be giving a presentation to Members on 8th September, 2000 outlining the proposals for the Ffrith Beach area and the developer had requested that the agreement be entered into to give them some security in being able to progress and complete negotiations for their proposals for the site. In response to Members' concerns regarding entering into a "lock out agreement" before having the proposed presentation the Chief Executive suggested that Members should receive the presentation on 8th September and the developers should outline their reasons for seeking the "lock out agreement" at that presentation. Members agreed to that course of action and it was:-

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

416. PROVISION OF EDUCATION TRANSPORT SERVICE BY RHUALLT SCHOOL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking approval for Denbighshire County Council to enter into a contract with Rhualt Behavioural Support School for the provision of education transport. The proposal was for the school to have a contract with Highways and Transportation based on existing conditions of contract to provide a home to school transport service. A separate contract would be established for the school with fleet management in respect of leasing of the vehicle.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *officers be authorised to enter into a contract with Rhualt Behavioural Support School for the provision of transport as referred to in the report, and*
- (b) *the operation and financial performance be carefully monitored to help gauge scope for wider implementation in the future.*

417. AWARD OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES CONTRACTS AND CONTRACT AWARD PROCEDURES

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a confidential written report (previously circulated) seeking approval for the letting of home to school transport contracts to commence on 1st September, 2000 and to agree procedure for the letting of contracts in general. Councillor Morris also referred to an addendum to the report (circulated at the meeting) requesting Members to consider amending standing order No. 11 relating to the opening of tenders.

The tendering exercise for the letting of home to school transport contracts had now been finalised and to help contain the impact of price increases on tenders the duration of some contracts had been increased from three years to five years.

Councillor Morris also referred to the need to consider the method of awarding contracts and briefly referred to the proposed contract letting procedure as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report. The proposed procedures would be for a trial period of twelve months to allow members the opportunity to review and develop the process.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the award of school transport contracts commencing on 1st September, 2000 to the lowest tenderers be approved;*

- (b) *subject to the approval of the County Council the proposed contracts letting procedure as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report be approved;*
- (c) *subject to the approval of the County Council Standing Order No. 11 be amended to allow the officers to open tenders under £50,000 (previously £25,000), and*
- (ch) *subject to the approval of the County Council Contract Standing Order No. 11 be amended to allow the Leader of the Council or the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member to open tenders which exceeded £50,000.*

418. PRESTATYN CCTV SYSTEM

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) requesting Members to agree to the relaxation of Contract Standing Order No. 5 to purchase CCTV equipment. As part of the Planning Consent for the construction of the Aldi Store on Meliden Road, Prestatyn a CCTV camera linked into the Prestatyn system would be provided. Three DDCT cameras were to be installed on the Prestatyn - Dyserth Walkway by ADT and that contract could be extended to include the proposed cameras at the Aldi store on Meliden Road.

RESOLVED *that the relaxation of Contract Standing Order No. 5 to facilitate the connection of the camera at the Aldi Store into the cable network for the Prestatyn - Dyserth Walkway cameras be approved.*

At this juncture (12.20 p.m.) the meeting adjourned for lunch.

CABINET

Minutes of the resumed meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 31st August, 2000 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors I.M. German, D.M. Holder, R.W. Hughes, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts, W.R. Webb, K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers - Councillors P. Douglas, and W.G. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Head of Personnel and Administration Services Manager.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader) and G.M. Kensler

419. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (2)

- (i) **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 ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

420. SHORTLISTING - CORPORATE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Chief Executive welcomed to the meeting Mr Tim Lewindon of Rileys, Consultants who had been engaged in the recruitment process for the above mentioned posts. Mr Lewindon briefed Members on the recruitment process and the preliminary interviews that had been held with selected candidates for the various posts. Following the preliminary interview process Cabinet Members would need to shortlist

those candidates for individual assessment by the consultants. Following the receipt of the individual assessments Members would need to consider short listing those candidates for final interview by the Cabinet/Council.

(i) **Appointment of Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure**

The Chief Executive submitted a confidential schedule of the applications received for the post of Assistant Director Culture and Leisure. Mr Lewindon gave his assessment of each individual candidate and submitted his recommendations for consideration.

RESOLVED that the candidates selected by Cabinet be invited to attend for individual assessment for the post of Assistant Director Culture and Leisure.

(ii) **Appointment of Corporate Director Resources**

The Chief Executive submitted a confidential schedule of the applications received for the post of Corporate Director Resources. Mr Lewindon gave his assessment of each individual candidate and submitted his recommendations for consideration.

RESOLVED that the candidates selected by Cabinet be invited to attend for individual assessment for the post of Corporate Director Resources.

(iii) **Appointment of Corporate Director Environment**

The Chief Executive submitted a confidential schedule of the applications received for the post of Corporate Director Environment. Mr Lewindon gave his assessment of each individual candidate and submitted his recommendations for consideration.

RESOLVED that the candidates selected by Cabinet be invited to attend for individual assessment for the post of Corporate Director Environment.

(iv) **Appointment of Corporate Director Lifelong Learning**

The Chief Executive submitted a confidential schedule of the applications received for the post of Corporate Director Lifelong Learning. Mr Lewindon gave his assessment of each individual candidate and submitted his recommendations for consideration.

RESOLVED that the candidates selected by Cabinet be invited to attend for individual assessment for the post of Corporate Director Lifelong Learning.

The Chief Executive indicated that the individual assessments would take place on 6th, 7th and 8th September and following the receipt of the individual assessments the Cabinet meeting on 12th September would need to select those candidates for final interview. Prior to final interview the candidates would have the opportunity to have discussions with the Chief Executive plus Leading Members of the Cabinet in their respective fields. Interviews for the Corporate Directors would be carried out by the County Council on 19th/20th September and interviews for the post of Assistant Director Culture and Leisure would be carried out by the Cabinet on 28th September, 2000.

The meeting concluded at 2.25 p.m.
