

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen on Tuesday 1st August, 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

OBSERVERS

Councillors M.Ll. Davies and A.J. Tobin.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Financial Controller and Administration Services Manager.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader reported that Item 10 (Best Value Approach for Grounds Maintenance) had been withdrawn from consideration.

2. 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) Sustainability and Objective One - Conference;
- (ii) Recruitment of Staff - County Clerk's Department and Directorate of Social Services, and
- (iii) J.N.C. for Chief Officers of Local Authorities - Pay Review 1998/99 National Agreement.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The minutes of the Cabinet held on 18th July, 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters arising:

Membership of Cabinet - Councillor G.M. Kensler requested an update on the current vacancy within the Cabinet. The Leader indicated that a letter had been despatched to Councillor Kensler on that matter and he would be happy to meet any Member of the Cabinet regarding their concerns following his summer vacation.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 18th July, 2000 be approved as correct record and signed by the Leader.

4. PREPARATION OF THE 2001/2002 BUDGET

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking agreement on the principles for the preparation of the 2001/2002 budget. In taking Members through the report Councillor Owens particularly referred to the need for Heads of Service to prepare draft budgets based on two reduction targets i.e. 4.5 per cent and 3 per cent and for draft budget proposals to be presented to the Cabinet on 28th September, 2000. Councillor Owens also indicated that there would be no validation of budgets this year and budget holders were expected to live within the cash limited budget and that any overspends would be the first charge on next year's budget. In considering each budget proposal the Cabinet would treat the S.S.A. proposed revisions as a framework with which to assess service expenditure both for the 2001/2002 budget and for future years. In response to Members' questions Councillor Owens indicated that:-

- (i) discussions would take place with the Assembly regarding the timetable for the submission of the draft budget;
- (ii) details of the current year's budget and pressures would be completed by the end of August, 2000;
- (iii) details of the sources of funding for the redundancy packages for retiring officers would be available shortly, and
- (iv) the views of Partners and members of the public would be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process on the budget proposals.

RESOLVED that the principles for the preparation of the 2001/2002 budget be approved.

5. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- (i) Llandrillo College Further Education Corporation - Local Authority nominee.

RESOLVED that Councillor K.E. Wells and one representative from the Plaid Cymru Group and the Independent Group be nominated 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.

- (ii) Membership of the LGA Rural Commission 2000/2001.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Councillors E.C. Edwards and E.W. Williams be nominated as this Authority's representatives on the LGA Rural Commission 2000/2001 and attendance be approved with the payment of attendance allowance, and
- (b) Councillor E.C. Edwards be nominated to hold this Authority's vote on the Commission.
- (iii) Membership of the LGA Urban Commission 2000/2001.

RESOLVED that Councillor K.N. Hawkins and a Rhyl Member be nominated as this Authority's representatives on the LGA Urban Commission 2000/2001 and the Independent Group be identified as the political affiliation for the purpose of calculating the proportionality for the Urban Commission Steering Committee.

- (iv) WLGA Annual Conference 7th - 8th September, 2000 at Llandudno.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive and Councillors E.C. Edwards, R.W. Hughes, W.R. Webb and one Plaid Member be nominated as this Authority's representatives to attend the WLGA Annual Conference on 7th - 8th September, 2000 and attendance be approved with payment of attendance allowance.

- (v) Sustainability and Objective One - a conference organised by Denbighshire County Council and the Agenda 21 Forum to be held at The Nova on 22nd September, 2000.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agrees to support the above conference and Groups be requested to nominate Members to attend the conference with payment being made out of the Groups' individual budgets. Attendance would be approved with the payment of travelling allowance only.

6. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) Extension to the engagement of a Legal Temp. in the County Clerk's Department,
- (ii) External advertisement for 2 Welfare Rights Assistant Posts (temporary for one year) in the Social Services Directorate,
- (iii) External advertisement for a Social Worker in the Social Services Directorate, and
- (iv) External advertisement for a Switchboard/Receptionist in the County Clerk's Department.

In respect of (i) above Members raised concerns regarding the pressures within the Legal Department and the number of staff currently on extended sick leave. The Chief Executive indicated that the matter had been discussed at the Department's Performance Review and he highlighted the problem of the pressures associated with the Social Services Solicitors and the time spent at Court with Child Protection cases.

In relation to items (ii) and (iii) above Councillor E.A. Owens indicated that she was conscious of the pressures within the Social Services Directorate and she would be meeting Officers to discuss those problems on Monday, 7th August, 2000.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the extended engagement of a Legal Temp. in the County Clerk's Department to the 29th September, 2000 be approved,*
- (b) *the external advertisement of the two Welfare Rights Assistant posts and the Social Worker post be approved subject to the outcome of the meeting to be held between Councillor E.A. Owens and Officers of the Social Services Directorate on Monday, 7th August, 2000, and*
- (c) *the external advertisement of the post of Switchboard/Receptionist be approved.*

7. THE AUDIT COMMISSION'S "HOT PROPERTY" REPORT

Councillors D.M. Morris and W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Members for the Environment and Property and Land Holding respectively, submitted a joint report (previously circulated) which sought Cabinet approval to the formation of a Property Review Group in line with the Audit Commission's Report "Hot Property". The Audit Commission Report stated that the way in which Local Authorities use and managed property assets would be central to their ability to support Best Value service delivery and Councils needed to find ways of using current and future property assets in a way that maximised the quality and impact of the services that they provided (summary of the Audit Commission's recommendations attached to the report).

Councillor W.R. Webb emphasised the need for the establishment of a Property Review Group which would identify the property the Council owned, the usage, the floor space, costings, comparisons and value for money assessments. The remit of the Group would be to produce a preliminary database of information on properties to Cabinet by September.

Councillor R.W. Hughes stressed the need for the Leisure Trust Group to link in with the workings of the proposed Property Review Group. The Leader echoed those sentiments and felt that a meeting of both groups should be convened in September.

RESOLVED *that the establishment of a Property Review Group be approved and Councillors R.W. Hughes, D.M. Morris, D.A. Thomas, W.R. Webb and E.W. Williams be appointed to serve on that Group.*

8. BUSINESS PLAN 2001 - 2004 DESIGN SERVICES/PERFORMANCE REVIEW ON BUSINESS PLAN 1996 - 2001

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought Members' approval for the 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. Councillor Morris congratulated the Officers on the production of the draft Business Plan.

Councillor E.W. Williams felt that the County Council should consider the draft Business Plan and Groups needed time to consider the Plan and comment if appropriate. Councillor E.W. Williams felt that the principles of Best Value had no link with the Business Plan and Design Services would need to address that issue.

***RESOLVED** that the draft Business Plan for Design and Construction Services 2000 - 2004 and the findings of the Performance Review of the previous Business Plan 1996 - 2001 for Design Services be noted.*

9. DESIGN SERVICES BUILDING CONTRACT REVIEW

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking an 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.

***RESOLVED** that:-*

- (a) the review of building contracts completed by Design Services since Local Government Reorganisation be received and noted;*
- (b) a regular timetable for future reports at six monthly intervals be approved, and*
- (c) the production of an annual report which would also include a Performance Review and a six monthly draft report be approved.*

10. BUILDING CONTROL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to adopt national standards for Building Control. In July 1999 Building Control performance standards had been published and the aim of the document was to seek consistent application on the regulations by all the Building Control bodies, public or private, and to raise standards. All Building Control bodies were encouraged to adopt and apply the standards (copy of the Standards for Building Control was reproduced as Appendix A to the report).

***RESOLVED** that the Standards for Building Control as detailed in Appendix A to the report be adopted.*

11. MODERN APPRENTICES' PAY

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member with responsibility for Human Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for an amendment to the Corporate Government Training Schemes Policy to take account of the law with regard to the national minimum wage as it applied to modern apprentices and to apply an annual increase in salaries in line with the National Insurance threshold.

***RESOLVED** that the amendments detailed within the report be accepted with immediate effect and retrospective payments to meet the national minimum wage be applied where applicable.*

12. PEER REVIEW

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Cabinet Member for Training submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought an agreement that Denbighshire should put its name forward as an Authority to participate

in the Peer Review system which had previously been reported to Members. The Improvement Programme was an important scheme run by IDEA which would help with the Authority's organisational development and the programme was a means by which Authorities were reviewed by their peers in other Authorities. The review provided 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. The review would cover all services within the Authority and would take approximately one week to complete.

The Chief Executive felt that the Peer Review would be a useful exercise and Denbighshire would be one of only two Authorities in Wales to undertake such a review. Councillor R.W. Hughes indicated that she had participated in a similar review with Halton Borough Council which was of similar size to Denbighshire and felt that it was a very positive exercise. In response to Councillor E.A. Owens' concerns regarding the financing of the review the Chief Executive indicated that monies would be required from next year's budget. He also referred to the reviews to be undertaken by the District Audit, Audit Commission and the Joint Review Team and felt the Peer Review would be a useful exercise in preparing for those further scrutinies.

RESOLVED that Denbighshire's participation in the Peer Review system be approved.

(Councillor G.M. Kensler wished it to be recorded that she voted against the above resolution).

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (1)

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 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. RUTHIN GAOL MASTER PLAN

The Leader submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to pursue outline planning permission for a Ruthin Gaol Master Plan. The Ruthin Gaol project was now fully funded and would commence in November of this year for a completion in July 2001. The project would be a major flagship development and there would be an opportunity to support development to adjacent land which would enhance the project and provide the gateway development to the town. The plans attached to the report showed indicative proposals to redevelop the area to support the Gaol development and to regenerate and revitalise that area of the town. Whilst welcoming the proposed options for development Members referred to the need to:-

- (i) undertake full consultation regarding the development;
- (ii) obtain full costings on the various options for the Objective 1 match funding process, and
- (iii) that Cabinet needed to finalise any plans prior to submission to Planning.

The Head of Planning Services reported that a full consultation process would need to be undertaken with effected persons regarding the development before any application was submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration. The Chief Executive indicated that there would be a need to consult on the Cabinet's preferred option and that no prior claim could be imposed on the capital budget. Councillor W.R. Webb proposed, seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes that:-

- (a) the indicative redevelopment proposals for Ruthin Gaol and all the adjacent land be approved in principle, and
- (b) the Officers be requested to submit a further report on the issues referred to above to the next meeting of Cabinet on the 31st August 2000.

Upon being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED ACCORDINGLY.

15. WDA LAND RECLAMATION ROLLING PROGRAMME

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for Environment submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to the above initiative and to the endorsement of the priority listing as detailed in the report. In January 2000 the Authority secured WDA funding for Richards Moorhead and Laing Limited to carry out a desktop study to identify former contaminated sites within the County with the objective of submitting a list of identified sites to the WDA for inclusion in their Land Reclamation Programme. The study had identified a possible sixty seven sites but ten sites had been prioritised in accordance with the WDA qualifying criteria.

Councillor E.W. Williams requested information on the sixty seven sites identified in the desktop study and the WDA qualifying criteria. Councillor R.W. Hughes suggested that the initiative should be linked into any Tourism initiatives within the County.

RESOLVED that the priority of schemes listed within the report be approved and they be submitted to the WDA for inclusion in their Land Reclamation Programme.

16. PROPERTY AND LAND HOLDING

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property and Landholding submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) seeking Members instructions in respect of the disposal of identified land property holdings within the ownership of the Authority. Councillor Webb indicated that serious consideration should be given to disposing of surplus land/property at the earliest convenience and the schedule attached to the report was the first step in seeking to move that matter forward. The costs incurred in the sale of any land disposed of would be offset by the Capital Receipts in respect of any sales made. Councillor Webb thanked the Acting Head of Property Services and the Head of Design and Construction Services for the detailed work undertaken in preparing those schedules.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the following decisions taken with regard to the schedule of properties/land referred to within the report be approved, and*
- (b) *in view of the urgency of the matter the Officers be authorised to engage external Agents and Solicitors to deal with the transactions, the costs thereof to be recouped from capital receipts.*

Rhyl Area

Property 1 - Officers be authorised to explore the possibility of the property and car park being sold on the open market following consultation with the appropriate directorates and to report back with further details at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Property 2 - Officers be authorised to consult with the Directorate of Planning and Economic Development to explore in more detail the proposal for the land ; to obtain a formal valuation of the land if it is to be offered for sale with the conditions on the open market and to report back to cabinet.

Property 3 - the land be retained for future possible long term development.

Property 4 - subject to the pre-let conditions and the deposit being agreed on terms satisfactory to the Council the highest bid be accepted and the sale proceed forthwith. In the event of the conditions not being satisfactory to the Council, Officers to proceed with the sale to the second highest bidder having first consulted with the Financial Controller, County Clerk and Head of Internal Audit. Negotiations on both bids to proceed simultaneously.

Property 5 - Officers be authorised to consult with the relevant Directorates concerned and subject to satisfactory agreements being reached for the property to be placed on the open market for sale.

Property 6 - Officers be authorised to consult with the appropriate Directorates with regard to decanting of personnel/declaring the property surplus and the implications of PFI subject to satisfactory consultations to offer the site for sale on the open market.

Property 7 - no further action to be taken in respect of the site. The site to be kept under review pending future proposals for the area.

Prestatyn Area

Property 1 - a presentation to be received by Cabinet Members and local Members for the area concerned to be given by the company interested in securing a long lease for the site; officers to investigate the situation with regards to the grant claw back (if any) with a valuation of the site being obtained should it be sold on the open market with the exclusion of the area required for a tennis centre, bowls centre and common land and the report on the findings be submitted back to the Cabinet.

Property 2 - Officers be authorised to investigate the possibility of relocating the occupants (subject to the lease which is currently being held). Subject to satisfactory arrangements being made the property be offered on the open market for sale.

Property 3 - Officers to consider the matter in further detail when the details of the proposed lease with Prestatyn Town Council were further firmed up and that a further report be brought back to Cabinet at that time.

Property 4 - Officers be authorised to obtain a valuation and to report back to the next meeting of the Cabinet (Councillor W.R. Webb suggested that a small working group be set up to enter into discussions with the tenants in conjunction with Welsh Water).

Rhuddlan

Property 1 - Officers be authorised to consult the Directorate concerned and to offer the land for sale on the open market subject to it being declared surplus and a future report be brought back to Cabinet for consideration of the use of the capital receipt accrued from the sale.

St. Asaph

Property 1 - The Officers be authorised to combine the two plots of land and offer for sale on the open market.

Denbigh Area

Property 1 - The land be retained in its current form and let on a grazing licence pending a future requirement as an extension to the cemetery.

Ruthin area

Property 1 - Officers to investigate the land being sold on the open market (subject to PFI requirements) conditional on the purchaser carrying out certain works for the benefit of the Council as may be required for the Ruthin Gaol scheme and any highway improvements which might be needed in the area.

Property 2 - No further action to be taken pending the outcome of negotiations with the WDA and a report back to Cabinet.

Corwen area

Property 1 - The property be retained for long term development.

Property 2 - Outline planning permission had been obtained for residential development and the site was currently being marketed. The report was for the information of Members.

Nant Glyn area

Property 1 - Officers to investigate the options referred to in the report and to report back to Cabinet making further recommendations as appropriate.

Agricultural Estates - The Chief Executive indicated that a new policy would need to be considered following talks with Flintshire County Council and Officers would report back to the Cabinet at the appropriate time.

17. OPEN SESSION

At the conclusion of the foregoing the meeting resumed in open session.

18. LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader reported that:-

- (i) Councillor G.M. Kensler would be the Lead Member on the Welsh Language Cabinet Policy, and
- (ii) Councillor R.W. Hughes would be the Lead Member on Public Relations.

19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (2)

RESOLVED that under Section 100(a) 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

20. JNC FOR CHIEF OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PAY REVIEW 1998/99 NATIONAL AGREEMENT

(With the exception of the Chief Executive and the Administration Services Manager all Officers left the room during discussion and voting on the following item).

The Chief Executive referred to the recommendations of the Remuneration Panel regarding the review and implementation of the 1998/99 National Agreement on the pay review for Chief Officers. The County Council had satisfied the requirements of the National Agreement to carry out a review but it had not considered its implementation in an all Wales context. Some local authorities had reviewed and implemented the results, some had reviewed and not changed the pay rates and some had not carried out the review and were in the process of looking at it.

With regards to the new management structure arrangements there would be an assimilation process of moving JNC Officers from the old pay structure to the new pay structure. Part of that process would provide the opportunity for individual JNC Officers to review their old job descriptions in the context of the new working arrangements and seek re-evaluation of their posts.

The Chief Executive indicated that the pay review had an implementation date of the 1st January 1999 and the Remuneration Panel had considered whether there would be any retrospective payments from that date up to the implementation of the new management structure. Having considered the matter in some detail the Remuneration Panel recommended that the suggested pay range from the National Employers Organisation be not accepted for implementation on the basis that the County Council was already paying a salary range within the suggested range and no retrospective payments be made during the period from 1st January 1999 to the implementation of the new management structure.

***RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Remuneration Panel as detailed above be approved.*

21. APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS

In response to a question from Councillor W.R. Webb the Chief Executive updated Cabinet on the response to the adverts for the three Corporate Directors and the Assistant Director of Cultural Leisure. The consultants would be preparing a shortlist for consideration by Members at the beginning of September with interviews being possibly held on the 19th/20th September, 2000.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

CABINET

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Cabinet held in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen on Tuesday 1st August 2000 at 2.00 p.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 and K.E. Wells.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Administration Services Manager, Principal Personnel Officer (Bob Singfield) and Assistant Personnel Officer (Mrs Linda Jones).

AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE WAS SUBMITTED FROM

Councillor E.W. Williams.

1. 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 1 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

2. APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Following the decision to advertise the post of Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services internally, four candidates had been invited for interview namely:-

Mr G H Boase (Principal Planning and Enforcement Officer);

Mr K Ewing (Regeneration Services Manager);

Mr B Lyden (Section Manager, Community Services), and

Mr G Sumner (Trading Standards Manager).

The candidates were interviewed in the above order, asked to make a 10 minute presentation and to provide answers to four questions (unseen prior to interview).

Following the interviews a representative from Capita addressed Members on the function and advantages of the use of assessment centres and briefed Members on the processes that had been employed in assessing the individual candidates for the post of Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services. Members took the opportunity to raise questions with the representative from Capita regarding individual assessments. The Leader thanked the representative from Capita for her assessment of each candidate. Members discussed the merits of each individual candidate and it was:-

***RESOLVED** that Mr K Ewing be appointed Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services.*

The meeting concluded at 4.40 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

CABINET MEMBER: **Clr A. Owens**

DATE: **31 August 2000**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET 2000/01**

1 Decision Sought

In the light of the latest projections of the final outturn for the current financial year as detailed in the attached appendix, members are requested to consider what action is necessary to keep the County Council's recovery plan on target.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

The need to comply with the Council's agreed Recovery Plan.

3 Cost Implications

N/A

4 Financial Controller Statement

Failure to minimise the level of negative balances at year end will reduce the resources available for services next financial year and endanger the Recovery Plan.

5 Consultation Carried Out

It will be necessary for lead Cabinet members to consult urgently with Heads of Service to agree remedial actions.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The level of funding available to services together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council.

7 Recommendation

That lead Cabinet members for Education, Leisure, Environment and Personal Services consider as a matter of urgency the unidentified and underachieved target budget reductions together with the new budget pressures, with the intention of identifying the necessary budget reductions and report their findings to Cabinet . Initial progress to be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet. The matter to remain on the Agenda for each Cabinet meeting until resolved.

APPENDIX 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANALYSIS OF PRESSURES 2000/01

	Unidentified cuts £000	Underachiever cuts £000	New pressures £000	Savings £000	TOTAL £000
Education, Culture & ICT					
- Transport		100			100
- S E N		56	444		500
- Advisors			70		70
Planning & Development					
- Leisure	119			-11	108
- Resorts & Attractions	155			-51	104
- Consults	27				27
- Pavilion Theatre			25		25
Technical Services					
- Redundancies			171		171
- Design etc		50		-50	0
- Property & Community	253	14		-35	232
- Highways		11	25	-36	0
- Housing					0
Social Services					
- Children s			503		503
- Adult - provider			318		318
- Adult - purchaser			0		0
- Strategic Planning			73		73
- savings				-409	-409
Chief Executive					
- Legal & Admin			62		62
- Other			9		9
Finance					0

Total position for Services					1893

Corporate					
- Redundancies DSO			109		109
- Precepts			80		80
- Restructure of Senior Management plus Redundancy	250		365	-80	170
					365

Total Corporate					724

TOTAL					2617
					=====

Note.

The performance of certain services will depend upon the summer weather.

A spell of severe winter weather later in the year will impact upon Highways, Property & Social Services Budgets.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 31st August

Conferences

A Report of the Leader

1. Decision Sought

1.1 Approval for a nominated Member and/or officers to attend the following Conferences

Securing the future - the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod, 12th October 2000, Cost £60. Key speakers include Tom Middlehurst.

Breaking down barriers - National Assembly Invitation - Wednesday 25th October 2000 at the Cardiff Moathouse Hotel, 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. No conference fee.

2. Reason Decision Sought

2.1 Youth services are being reviewed by the Assembly as part of a new strategy. This conference provides the opportunity to discuss the emerging agenda in the context of the Learning and Skills Bill.

2.2 Breaking down barriers is concerned with the new agenda to meet black and minority ethnic housing needs in Wales. The invitation requests attendance by the Political Spokesperson on Housing and Chief Housing Officer.

3. Cost implications

3.1 Securing the Future £60 + Travel expenses

3.2 Breaking Down Barriers - Travel expenses only

4. Statement from Financial Controller

4.1 The current budget expenditure overall is well under target.

5. Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Implications for Corporate Areas

6.1 Both Conferences relate to a number of corporate policies: social inclusion, equal opportunities, crime and disorder.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Cabinet approve attendance at conferences

7.2 That nominations for attendance are agreed.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 31st August

Conferences

A Report of the Leader

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1 Approval for two nominated Members and 2 officers, namely:

Cabinet Member for Personal Services
Chair of Personal Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee
Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Personal Services
Officer, Personal Services Directorate

to attend the following Conference:

***Performance, Practice, Partnership: All Wales Social Services
Friday, 8th December, 2000 - Brangwyn Hall, Swansea***

2. Reason Decision Sought

- 2.1 To mark the Millennium year a joint Conference has been arranged by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Cymru for the whole social care industry in Wales.

- 2.2 We are in a period of radical change which is redefining the way we work, establishing a new professionalism with much clearer accountability and more integrated management structures. The Conference will provide an opportunity to come together to understand what these changes will mean and how we can work together to build a distinctive Welsh response to the needs of our communities.

- 2.2 The invitation requests attendance by Officers and Political Spokespersons with responsibility for adult social services and/or children's services. There will also be a meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 7th December, 2000 for Social Services Lead Members, convened by the WLGA.

3. Cost implications

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|
| 3.1 | Overnight Accommodation (Thursday 7/12/00) | £75 p.p. |
| | Conference Fee | approx. £50 (to be confirmed) |

4. Consultation

- 4.1 N/A

5. Implications for Corporate Areas

- 5.1 The Conference relates to a number of corporate policies: social inclusion, equal opportunities, and early years.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That Cabinet approve attendance at the conference
- 6.2 That nominations for attendance (as listed above) are agreed

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE : 31st August, 2000

CABINET MEMBER : Leader

SUBJECT : Appointment of Member, Executive Panel, North
Wales Fire Authority 2000 / 2001

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To appoint one member from amongst Denbighshire's current membership on the North Wales Fire Authority to serve on the Executive Panel 2000 / 2001.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Denbighshire County Council's current membership on the Fire Authority is as follows:-

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies (Plaid Cymru)

Councillor David Jones (Lab)

Councillor Neville Hugh Jones (Independent)

Councillor David Morris (Independent)

2.2 Annually, following the Authority's annual meeting, it is customary for the Executive Panel to be formally re-constituted and the constituent authorities are notified and asked to appoint a member to serve. Councillor David Morris served as the county's representative during 1999/2000 and his re-appointment has been informally agreed and requires confirmation. In formally re-appointing Councillor Morris to serve, Members might also wish consider the appointment of a named substitute.

3. Cost Implications

None

4. Implications for Policy Areas

None

5. Recommendation

5.1 To re- appoint Councillor David Morris to serve on the Executive Panel North Wales Fire Authority, 2000/2001; and

5.2 To consider the appointment of a named substitute.

CABINET - 31 AUGUST 2000

REPORT OF THE LEADER

LEGAL SECTION STAFFING

1. DECISION SOUGHT

Approval of the appointment of an additional Solicitor to the Social Services/Education team.

2. REASON DECISION SOUGHT

Over the past eighteen months there has been a sustained growth in child care cases coming before the Courts putting immense pressure on both Social Services and Legal.

Following representations from the Family Court Judge, Members approved the appointment of a Legal Assistant to provide support for case preparation. Nonetheless not only is there a continued increase in the number of cases but hearing times are also growing considerably. Matters anticipated to take longer than three days are automatically transferred to the County Court and whereas matters might be concluded within say four days we are now frequently experiencing six to eight day cases.

The growth in work has initially been addressed by instructing outside Counsel. However there is no specific budget in either Legal or Social Services to meet this expense but equally failing to attend at Court is not an option. Expenditure on Counsel fees in the first quarter of this year exceeds what was paid in the whole of the previous year.

Engaging external Counsel is a cost effective means of dealing with occasional peaks but once that trend becomes the rule rather than the exception it ceases to represent Best Value.

A considerable amount of in-house work is required to instruct external Counsel who has to be fully briefed and in addition there is a need for Court attendance by a member of the Legal Section albeit at a lower level but nonetheless at the expense of service delivery to other clients.

All steps are being taken to try and reduce hearing times at inter authority level, via the Barristers that we use and also it is proposed that relevant officers meet the Family Court Judge.

Since Child Care Lawyers are presently much sought after the proposal is that Siwan Edwards who currently provides child care support in addition to her main role with regard to Adult Services and Education should transfer wholly to child care with a replacement being sought for her existing sphere of work by external advertisement.

3. COST

The unbudgeted cost of external Counsel for child care cases amounted to £25,000 in the previous financial year. In the first quarter of the present financial year the figure has already reached £27,000. Inclusive of on costs a Solicitor in the range SCP 39-42 would cost £35,000 in a full year.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the proposed transfer of Siwan Edwards to a new child care Solicitor's post and that authority be granted to recruit externally a Solicitor for Adult Services/Education.

IKH/S.9
16 August 2000

**REPORT BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR
CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM**

COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE VACANCY

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To agree to external advertisement of the vacant post of Countryside Officer (Visitor Services).

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 This is an existing job based at Loggerheads which became vacant in April 2000 when the postholder left. The job is very specialised, being the only member of staff undertaking most of the interpretation, information and educational work carried out by the Countryside Service. The post is graded SO1.
- 2.2 The post is essential to undertake these elements of the Countryside Services' role, and is vital to deliver many grant aided projects. Work which will be hit if the post is not filled includes: 'Out and About' Countryside Events Programme (50+ events); Annual Countryside Newsletter; seasonal exhibitions at the Countryside Centre; Countryside Centre supervision; various publications, leaflets, teachers packs, etc.; and support for schools and school groups.
- 2.3 The job was advertised internally in line with procedures, but no applications were received. Cross-matching against redundant staff was also carried out, but no cross-match was found.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This is an existing post with budget. Savings will however be made this year as a result of delaying the appointment.
- 3.2 The post is grant aided by CCW, and is responsible for the delivery of a range of grant aided projects each year. Around £15,250 approved CCW grant will be at risk in 2000-01 if the post is not filled.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 Within grant aided budget.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

- 6.1** The principal impacts relate to Local Agenda 21 and the environmental awareness and understanding elements of this work. Health Promotion and Early Years are other areas affected given the range of guided walks, volunteer events and events for children which are involved.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To agree to advertise the post externally.**

AJH/AJ

August 2000

i/cs/cabrep01

VACANCY CONTROL
APPROVAL FOR THE FILLING OF VACANT POSTS BY EXTERNAL
ADVERTISEMENT

Directorate: Social Services Section: Access/Intake/CM
Post Title: Social Worker - Rhyd Salary Grade: SW1-3

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT
(This part must be completed for all posts)

This is a Welsh Essential post and there are
no SW's available internally to meet this
criteria.

Signed: Mervin Hughes (Director)

Dated: 3/8/2000

Signed: AER Roberts (~~Chief Executive~~ Service Committee)

Dated: 12/8/2000

To: Chief Executive

Signed: AER Roberts

Date: 12/8/2000

Approved Refused

To: Emergency Powers Committee

Signed: [Signature] (on behalf of the Committee) Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

Please return this form to the Director of the Employing Directorate.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET
31st August, 2000
Report of the Leader

Local Members Nominations for LEA Governor Vacancies

1. Decision Sought

- 1.1 To consider nominations received for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located.

2. Reason for seeking decision

- 2.1 Prior to 1st April, 1996 the appointment of LEA Governors was administered by the previous Clwyd County Council as Local Education Authority.
- 2.2 Under the Education (School Government) Regulations 1989 this function now falls to Denbighshire County Council in respect of those Schools within County.

3. Cost Implications

None

4. Implications for Policy Areas

None - Statutory requirement

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the following nomination(s) for LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved, the names listed below being the names nominated by the Local Member(s) for the Schools.

DENBIGH ST BRIGIDS

Local Member: Councillor N.J. Hughes - R.E. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 2

NEW GOVERNING BODY

NOMINATION

Cllr N.J. Hughes.

GWYDDELWERN C.P.

Local Member: Councillor G. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Mr Elwyn Owen Roberts, Hendre Isa, Bryn S.M., Corwen

18.12.00

Mrs Beryl Roberts, Afallon, Gwyddelwern, Corwen

Resigned

NOMINATION

Mrs Anwen Lewis, Encil y Coed, Gwyddelwern, Corwen.

LLANDYRNOG C.P. (YSGOL BRYN CLWYD)

Local Member: Councillor A.E. Roberts

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr A.E. Roberts

18.12.00

Mrs Josephine Edwards, Highcroft, Llandynog, Denbigh

13.12.99

NOMINATION

Miss Hazel Wright, Lodge Farm, Llangynhafal, Denbigh.

LLANGOLLEN, BRYN COLLEN C.P.

Local Member: Councillor R.J.R. Jones - A.J. Tobin

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 2

Cllr A.J. Tobin

18.12.00

Mr John Tate, Thornleigh, Abbey Road, Llangollen

13.12.99

Mrs Nesta Owen Heald, Pennant, Maesmawr Road, Llangollen

26.10.99

NOMINATION

Mr John Tate, Thornleigh, Abbey Road, Llangollen.

Mrs Nesta Hughes, Pennant, Maesmawr Road, Llangollen.

PRESTATYN YSGOL Y LLYS C.P.

Local Member: Councillor G.A. Clague - K.E. Wells

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Mr R.G. Griffiths, Errigal, 8 Clwyd Avenue, Dyserth, Rhyl

14.12.03

Mr John Purser, 13 Rhodfa Derwen, Nant Parc, Prestatyn

22.4.01

Mr Richard John Edwards, Llys Tegid, Sandy Lane, Prestatyn

26.3.00

NOMINATION

Mr Gareth Davies, 81 Victoria Road, Prestatyn.

TREFNANT (C)

Local Member: Councillor M.LI. Davies

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr M.LI. Davies

30.7.00

Mr Arthur Ellis Williams, Bron Derw, 14 Ffordd Pen y Coed, Trefnant

9.2.01

NOMINATION

Cllr M.LI. Davies.

RHUDDLAN YSGOL TIR MORFA

Local Member: Councillor F.D. Jones - S. Thomas

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: NIL

Cllr F.D. Jones

15.3.01

Mr Arwel Roberts, Fachwen, Rhyl Road, Rhuddlan

Resigned

Mrs Margaret Pamela Green, 4 Groom Avenue, Rhyl

15.3.01

NOMINATION

Cllr R.W. Hughes.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 31st August 2000

Amendments to the WLGA Constitution

A Report by The Leader

1. Decision Sought.

1.1 To agree a response to the WLGA consultation paper for recommendation to Council.
(consultation paper enclosed)

2. Reason Decision Sought.

2.1 The WLGA has issued the attached draft constitution for consideration by Association Members.

2.2 The amendments are minor and represent an update due to the existence of the NAFW and the need for certain drafting revisions.

The main changes are as follows:

- The distinction between Members and Votes is removed, but Authorities have the capacity to vest all their votes in a single Member. (6.2)
- The Co-ordinating Committee will comprise one Member from each authority, but with the capacity of the Council to appoint additional Members to the Committee to maintain the political balance of the Council. (8.1)
- The total number of WLGA representatives should reflect the political balance of the WLGA Council. (11.2 and 15)

2.3 Additionally the section on regional groupings is rewritten changing a requirement for a structures for regional groups with specific areas to a permissive one allowing authorities to determine their own grouping. (13)

3. Comment.

3.1 The constitution is not being radically altered and it has arguably served the Association well over the past 4 years. The main problems with the Association have been political rather than constitutional, although as of late this has become less of a feature.

3.2 One criticism of the proposals might be the reducing of the requirement to have regional structures. Given the National Assembly's regional structure it can be argued that this should have been strengthened. This Authority has always argued that this should be the case.

3.3 Another issue is the Partnership Council and political balance. Fortunately for this Authority Cllr Rhys Webb is the nominated Independent representative sitting on the Council, thus providing for a local and regional representation on the Partnership Council; however a change in composition of the WLGA Council could remove this advantage. Consideration therefore ought to be given to include a regional representation on the Partnership Council. Again we have made these comments to the WLGA before.

4. Cost

4.1 There are no costs associated with this report.

5. Statement of the Financial Controller

5.1 N/A

6. Other Policy Impacts

6.1 None

7. Consultation

N/A

8. Recommendation

8.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council the accepting of the Constitutional document forwarding at the same time the criticism listed in 3 above.

APPENDIX NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet 31st August 2000

Draft Policy Agreements

A Report of the Leader

1. Decision Sought.

1.1 Cabinet's views on the proposed National Assembly's initiative on policy agreements. For these views to be forwarded to Council Council and subject to Council's views for forwarding to the National Assembly and the WLGA. (See attached Draft on Policy Agreements)

1.2 To agree to preparation work to be able to enter into a policy agreement with the National Assembly on specific targets as appropriate.

2. Reason Decision Sought

2.1 The National Assembly through the Partnership Council has been progressing with representatives of local government the idea of an agreement between the National Assembly and individual local authorities over specific areas of the Assembly's policy agenda as identified in Better Wales. Policy agreements are entirely voluntary and there are no sanctions relating to the non achievement of targets.

2.2 The Assembly's policy agreements aim to secure from local government an agreement to deliver on certain targets within the broad policy areas which form part of the National Assembly's policy agenda. See appendix for diagram :

2.3 Agreements would be for a 3 year period commencing April 1st 2001 with a year being added each year to maintain a rolling programme of agreements.

2.4. The policy agreement recognises that the targets cannot be delivered by LA's alone, but sees the new Community Planning duty as the means of tying partners down to contribute to the achievement of the agreed targets. Both documents will therefore have to be produced in tandem in future.

3. Comments

3.1 A joint approach to the achievement of shared policy objectives may be welcomed, but many things are still unclear about policy agreements which suggest that more work is required before the system can be introduced and there are questions about their desirability:

- As agreements would be combined with performance monitoring, this opens up the possibility of more central government influence over local government.
- It is unclear whether Authorities if they enter into these agreements will have to set targets against each of the agreed indicators.
- Some of the indicator areas are either inadequate or inappropriate and certainly not necessarily relevant to each local authority area.
- It is not clear whether there will be any additional funding from the National Assembly to achieve the targets. The documents suggests that targets should be challenging which tends to suggest resource implications.

- The schedule for the introduction of the scheme is out of alignment with the budgetary planning cycle which would make their introduction this year very difficult.
- As many of the targets will relate to our partners it is again too late in the year to be charging authorities with entering into agreements which have implications for such diverse bodies, including funding implications.
- The National Assembly has not yet brought out its guidance on Community Planning which is the central planning tool relating to the introduction of policy agreements.

3.2 For the reasons stated above policy agreements should only be given a qualified welcome. Cabinet would be advised to recommend to Council therefore to endorse the principle of policy agreements, but to require that criticisms made here and by other authorities be given serious consideration prior to decision to introduce.

3.3 However, in the event of the National Assembly being minded to introduce policy agreements for 2001/2002, that preparations be made to determine appropriate targets.

4. Cost

4.1 There are no immediate costs arising from this report, but policy agreements may have an effect on the funding of services.

5. Statement from the Financial Controller

5.1 The impact of this matter on the Council's budget for next year is unclear at present as is any likely additional funding from the Assembly.

6. Consultation

6.1 Each Directorate has been asked for comments on the specific indicators.

7. Implications for Other Policy Areas.

7.1 There is a potential to cause a shift away from the Council's policy agenda to that of the National Assembly

8. Recommendation

8.1 Cabinet agree the report as the basis to make recommendations to Council in line with Section 3. above

Appendix

National Assembly's Overall Vision	Core themes	Broad Policy Action Areas	Target Improvement Areas. There are a range of indicators for each area. Examples are illustrated below.	Specific Target to be negotiated
United, confident and Creative Wales	Sustainable Development	Better Opportunities for learning	Increase in 11 yr. olds achieving at Least Level 4 in the Core subject Area.	
Committed to fostering identity whilst welcoming cultural diversity	Tackling Social Disadvantage	Better Stronger Economy	Increase in employment Rates	
Prosperous well educated, skilled healthy environmentally and culturally rich	Tackling Social Disadvantage	Better Health and Well Being	Reduce the proportion of population which is inactive through long term illness	
Served by modern, effective, efficient and accessible public services	Equal Opportunities	Better Quality of Life	Reduction in number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents	
Active in its local communities	Equal Opportunities	Better simplest Government	Improve collection of Council Tax and Business Rates	
Fairer - a place where everyone is valued and given an opportunity to play a full part.				

DRAFT POLICY AGREEMENT NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

REPORT TO CABINET

Agenda Item No. 9

CABINET MEMBER : Councillor David Morris

DATE : 31 August 2000

SUBJECT : External works at Ty Nant, rear of Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To seek compliance with planning conditions relating to external works at Ty Nant (new council offices) Prestatyn and to seek support for capital funding.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 In December 1996 planning permission was granted for the erection of new County Offices in Prestatyn, the development incorporating alterations to access roads, car parks and external works to form a town square. A number of planning conditions were imposed, including some relating to the details and implementation of external works and landscaping.
- 2.2 Subsequently in July 1998 a number of conditions including that relating to external works (condition no. 3) were approved by this Committee. During the summer of 1998 an additional phase of the external works was implemented, including the provision of a stretch of carriageway across the town square. However, a full scheme including works to the existing car park at the rear of the original council offices was not implemented at this stage and remains outstanding to date.
- 2.3 In September 1998 Planning Committee were advised on progress of the works and at that time the Committee resolved to secure the implementation in full of the town square works and also to request that the appropriate committee move forward a study of traffic arrangements and management within Prestatyn town centre as a whole.
- 2.4 Full implementation of the scheme is important in townscape terms and also to ensure proper provision of an area for disabled car parking. Other measures to be incorporated in the full scheme would be signage containing information on services available in the buildings.
- 2.5 The Council has been attempting to secure funding and support for the completion of the external works including from Prestatyn Town Council. Some funding has been offered by the Town Council for the town square and the area around the library. However, there will be a need for this Council to make provision to allow completion of the works. In the circumstances it is important that the Council make provision within the future capital programme.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This has implications for the capital programme. The amount required is £14,000 for 2001/2002.

4. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

4.1 Consultations carried out at planning application stage

5. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

5.1 This report is consistent with one of the main priorities of the Council - to provide accessible spaces for disabled people, and compliance with planning permissions.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Cabinet make provision within the Council's 2001/2002 capital programme for the planning requirements to be completed in 2001/2002. The amount required will be £14000.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER : Councillor David Morris

DATE : 31 August 2000

SUBJECT : Diversion of Public Footpath No. 48 in the Community of Tremeirchion

1.0 **Decision Sought**

1.1 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.

2.0 **Reason for seeking decision**

2.1 To facilitate a residential development for needed low cost rural housing by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association Limited. Planning permission (47/1996/0819/PF) has been granted for the development.

3.0 **Cost Implications**

3.1 The cost of making the Order to be borne by the Applicant - Clwyd Alyn Housing Association Limited

4.0 **Corporate Implications**

4.1 None

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That the Cabinet authorises the County Clerk, prior to consultation, to proceed to make the appropriate Order under Section 257 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Denbighshire County Council - Cabinet, August 31, 2000

Corporate Advertising

A report by the Lead Cabinet member for Public Relations

1. Decision sought

Authority to extend the current corporate advertising agreement to March 31, 2001.

2. Reason decision sought

The current advertising agreement with North Wales Independent Press ends on September 30, 2000. It is 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 2001-2, on the same basis as the current agreement, in March 2001 to be effective from April 1, 2001.

3. Cost implications

None

4. Financial Controller Statement

None

5. Consultation

5.1 North Wales Independent Press are agreeable to an extension with prices held at the current rate.

5.2 Public Relations staff are satisfied with the current agreement and service provided.

6. Implications for policy areas

None

7. Recommendation

7.1 That the extension of the corporate advertising agreement with North Wales Independent Press be extended to March 31, 2001.

7.2 That suitably qualified companies be invited to bid for the 2001-2 agreement in March 2001.

REPORT TO CABINET: Corporate Property Portfolio Member

DATE: 31st August 2000

SUBJECT: LAND AT YSGOL HIRADDUG, DYSERTH

1.0 Decision Sought

1.1 Approval to dispose of land currently forming part of Ysgol Hiraddug, Dyserth.

2.0 Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 To respond to request to purchase the afore-mentioned land.

3.0 Background

3.1 A formal request has 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 consists of approximately 370 sq m, as hatched black on the attached plan.

3.2 The Management Committee have received a substantial lottery grant to redevelop the former Urdd Building, Cwm Road, Dyserth (as outlined black on the attached plan) and require the afore-mentioned land for additional car parking.

4.0 Consultation Carried Out

4.1 Local Members
The Local Member has been consulted and is in favour of the proposal.

4.2 Education
The disposal was approved by the Local Education Authority and School Governors at the Monitoring and Scrutiny Committee (Education), on the 22nd May 2000.

5.0 Officers Advice

5.1 Valuation
The Valuer recommends disposal at best value.

5.2 Legal
The Head of Legal and Administration awaits instruction.

6.0 Implication on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 The Generation of a Capital Receipt.

7.0 Cost Implications

8.0 Financial Controller Statement

Will assist with the recovery plan through capital receipts

7.1 The cost incurred in the sale of the land to be recouped from the capital receipt gained

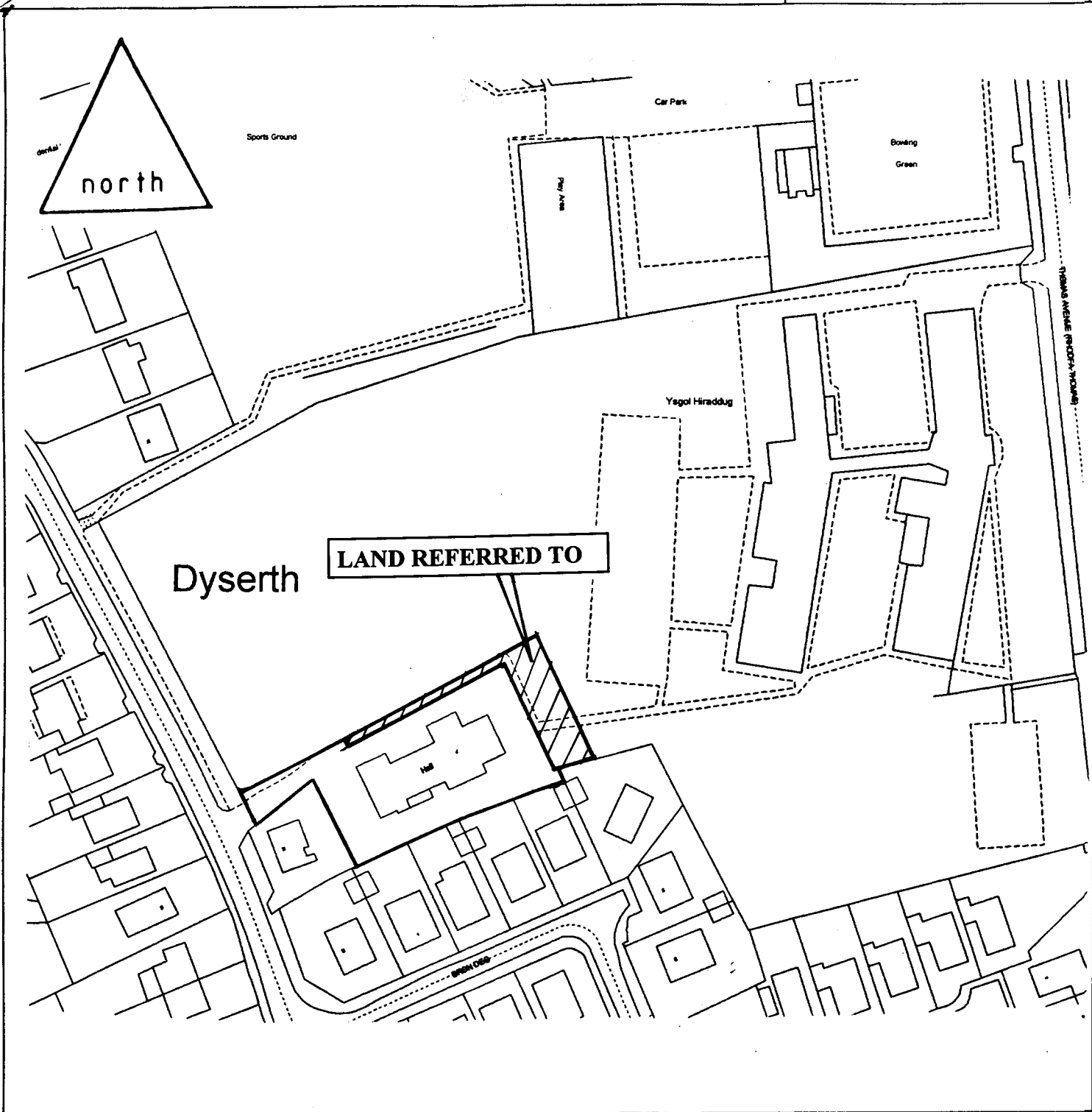
9.0 Recommendation

9.1 That Members;-

9.1.1 Approve the disposal of 370 sq m 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.

Acting Head of Property and Community Services

Ref. - p/ke/gdj/16.08.00



Site
**LAND AT YSGOL HIRADDUG,
 DYSERTH.**

Project
SITE PLAN



Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Technegol Director of Technical Services
H.E.Roberts BSc CEng DMS FICE FIHT MIMgt
 Tel: 01824 706555 Fax 01824 706865
 Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Denbigh LL16 3RJ

Drawn	Scale 1:1250	Project Ref.
Date MAY. 00		

**REPORT BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR
CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM**

SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES MEETING

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To respond to a request from SCW to meet the Cabinet to discuss sport and leisure issues.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The Chief Executive of SCW, Huw Jones, has written to the Council to suggest that he and his Chairman meet with the Cabinet to provide an overview of national issues and how these fit in to the local scene, and to give members an opportunity to raise questions and to discuss any sport and leisure topics of interest.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No significant cost implications.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

- 6.1 Sport and leisure are important elements of 'quality of life', which is a key part of Local Agenda 21. Healthy living is another policy area in which sport and leisure play a part.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 **To agree to invite the Chief Executive/Chairman of the Sports Council for Wales to a future meeting of the Cabinet.**

AJH/AJ

August 2000

**REPORT BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR
CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM**

LEISURE CENTRE USER FORUMS

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To consider the responses received as a result of consultations on proposals to establish user forums at all Leisure Centres, and to agree the way forward.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 In May this year Council agreed to establish a Users Forum for each Leisure Centre, and to consult on draft proposals for the constitution and working arrangements for such Forums (Min. 14).
- 2.2 Following Council's decision, copies of the draft constitution and working arrangements were circulated to a range of interested parties for comment. Copies were sent to schools with dual-use facilities, Town Councils, Sports Council for Wales, local sports clubs and other organisations representing users of the leisure centres. In total some 74 organisations were consulted, but replies were only received from 12. Comments received are summarised in Appendix 1 attached to this report.
- 2.3 From the summary of responses, members will note that two main issues have emerged. These are the rights of school governing bodies to have more input in management of the leisure centres, and the number of representatives of some organisations on the User Forum. A suggested response to these comments and other issues raised by consultees is set out below.
- 2.4 Given that the schools on dual-use sites make substantial use of the facilities and will make a direct financial contribution towards the costs of this curricular activity following the full implementation of Fair Funding, it is proposed that the Users Forum for such sites be supplemented by a separate Management Liaison Group made up of representatives of the Council and School Governors. This would be a small group which would meet three times a year. Its primary role would be to monitor the eventual Dual Use Transfer of Control Agreement which will be signed by the Council and School, and to discuss other issues of mutual interest in respect of the centre. Further work is required on drawing up a document to cover the terms of reference and arrangements for the Management Liaison Groups.
- 2.5 Denbigh, Ruthin and St Asaph Town Councils have asked that their representation be increased to two members in line with the proposals for Rhyl and Prestatyn. In the interests of consistency it is agreed that all User Forums should have two Town Council representatives, and the constitution and working arrangements document has been amended accordingly. A number of schools also suggest that the number of school representatives should be increased. Again, in the interests of consistency it is proposed that all dual use sites should have three school representatives. The document has also been amended to take on board the suggestion that the Head of PE can be nominated as one of the school representatives if they wish to do so.

- 2.6 Comments about the need to increase the minimum number of meetings a year are made by two schools. The draft constitution does not preclude additional meetings being called and does not therefore require amendment. The concerns of these schools may also have been addressed in part by the proposed new Management Liaison Group set out in para 2.4 above which it is suggested should meet three times a year. Another consultee suggests that meetings should be called if at least 50% of the members agree. This is supported and the constitution has been amended accordingly.
- 2.7 One consultee suggests that meetings should not be abandoned if they are not quorate. The advice of the County Clerk is that this provision should not be dropped as it is important that such groups have a minimum number of people taking part. No change is therefore proposed in this regard.
- 2.8 A query is raised about the selection of local club / users' representatives. It is likely that such local groups will be self-selecting and that they will nominate their own representative. The Denbighshire Sports Council will also nominate its own club representatives. If there is competition between local clubs / groups for the two users places it will be necessary to have a fair selection process involving all other members of the Forum.
- 2.9 The need for detailed written reports, including finance, budgets, etc is requested by one school consultee. The level of detail of reporting will be appropriate to the meeting, but it is unlikely that the Users Forum will require such detail. Such information would be more appropriately discussed at the proposed Management Liaison Group which involves the key financial partners.
- 2.10 The draft constitution and working arrangements document has been amended to take account of these issues, and is attached as Appendix 2. If agreed, this will be incorporated into the emerging draft Transfer of Control Agreements being prepared for dual use sites.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no significant additional costs associated with the establishment of leisure centre User Forums, although they will clearly involve more officer and member time.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Consultations carried out on draft proposals; see main body of the report and Appendix 1.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

- 6.1 Leisure Centre User Forums are intended to involve users in the delivery of our services, and as such will be an important component of Best Value.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 **To establish Leisure Centre User Forums at each Leisure Centre, and to agree the revised constitution and working arrangements.**
- 7.2 **To establish Management Liaison Groups for dual-use sites involving representatives of the County Council and School.**

LEISURE CENTRE USER FORUMS

**Consultation on Draft Constitution and Working Arrangements
Summary of Responses**

ORGANISATION	SUMMARY OF COMMENTS
Corwen Swimming Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements required at centre: spectator facilities; cafeteria/waiting area; non-communal showers; possible pool slide.
Denbigh High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome setting up of Users Forum. • Forums should meet at least 3 times a year. • Secretariat should be informed at the establishment of the forum of the names of members and their named substitutes. • Meetings should not be abandoned if a quorum is not present. • Membership should be increased to 3 school governors (Headteacher, plus 2), and the Head of PE included.
Denbigh Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council should have 2 representatives on the Forum. • Forum and its membership should also relate to the Lower Park area, which is now managed from the Leisure Centre.
Llangollen Junior Badminton Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support proposals • Should increase user/club representatives by one. • Need to avoid Forum becoming a 'talking shop', and to ensure that adequate resources are available to invest in/improve the centre.
Prestatyn High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of school governor representatives. • Concerns about possible trust being formed for leisure centres. • Query how user/club representatives will be selected. • Minimum 2 meetings a year. • Concerns that only Secretariat can call meetings; should include clause allowing meetings to be called by at least 50% of the members. • Need for each meeting to receive detailed written report from manager, including income/expenditure, budgets, etc.

ORGANISATION	SUMMARY OF COMMENTS
Prestatyn Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome establishment of Forum, but note that the number of service users is low. • Request that Management Committee also be maintained, including representation from the Town Council. • Reference made to Town Council funding of the Leisure Centre over a number of years.
Rhyl High School (Governors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that School Governors have no input to management of the Leisure Centre. • Proposed User Forum will not meet this need. • Concerns about: timing of repairs/maintenance; changes to facilities; common equipment; primary school swimming.
Rhyl High School (Headteacher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a formal Dual-Use Agreement. • Non-executive User Forum does not allow School Governors to protect their interests. • Lack of consultation on important issues in past. • Not opposed to Users Forum, but also need an executive body.
Ruthin Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council should have 2 representatives on the Forum, particularly given previous and proposed investment in the facility by the Town Council.
Ruthin Town Youth F.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome proposals.
St. Asaph Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council should have 2 representatives on the Forum.
Welsh Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse proposals; positive step. • Fencing takes place at two centres - Ruthin and Llangollen.
Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about delay in replacing former Liaison Committee arrangements. • User Forum will not safeguard the schools interest with regard to the leisure centre. • Need for a Management Committee with adequate representation from the School Governors. • Will nevertheless play a part in the proposed User Forum.

DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE CENTRE USERS FORUM

CONSTITUTION AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Introduction

1. Successful management of both dual use or standalone Leisure Centres requires interaction with the wider community and users, and co-operation and partnership with key stakeholders in the facility and the services it provides. Leisure Centre User Forums are intended to achieve this aim. They will be non-executive bodies which will bring together representatives of all the main interests.
2. Best Value legislation also requires the County Council to consult with and to involve key interests in the delivery of services. Leisure Centre User Forums also have an important role to play in this.
3. Leisure Centre User Forums are proposed for all Council controlled Leisure Centres. These are:

Corwen Leisure Centre
 Denbigh Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 Llangollen Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 Prestatyn Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 Rhyl Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 Ruthin Leisure Centre (Dual Use)
 St Asaph Leisure Centre (Dual Use)

Terms of Reference

4. The Terms of Reference for each Leisure Centre Users Forum are set out below:

To bring together those organisations with an interest in the Leisure Centre with representatives of users and the local community to:

- (i) **Provide a forum for discussion and exchange of views on issues affecting the centre.**
 - (ii) **Build consensus and partnerships to develop and enhance the centre and the services it provides for users and the local community.**
5. The membership arrangements for each site will vary according to the key interests in the centre. Typically, they will include the County Council, the school (on dual use sites), Town/Community Council, and Denbighshire Sports Council, together with other users of the facility. Appendix A sets out the membership proposals for each centre. The number of members has been set at a level which seeks to balance the need for the effective operation of the group and yet be representative of all the main interests.
 6. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum shall be selected at the first meeting of the group and subsequently annually. Members of the Forum shall serve for two years and will be subject to reselection after this period.

Meetings

7. Each Leisure Centre Users Forum will meet at least once a year, subject to a maximum of three meetings a year. Additional meetings may be called in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Secretariat, or if 50% of the members of the Forum agree that a meeting should be called. The Secretariat for the meetings will be provided by Denbighshire Leisure Services, who will be responsible for calling meetings and distributing agendas and papers in advance of meetings. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and circulated by the Secretariat.

8. Members who cannot attend a meeting can nominate a substitute to attend on behalf of their organisation. The Secretariat should be notified of substitutes in writing at least two days in advance of a meeting.
9. At least a quarter of members (or their nominated substitutes) should be present at meetings to constitute a quorum. The meeting will be abandoned if a quorum is not present.
10. Other relevant officers of the County Council and Sports Council for Wales may attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

Voting

12. As a body which embodies the principles of co-operation and partnership it is hoped that the collective view will prevail and a consensus will be reached. However, where there is a clear difference of opinion on an issue a vote can be taken to establish the majority view. Each of the permanent members of the Forum (or their nominated substitute) has a vote. Where the votes are even the Chair shall have the casting vote.

Alteration of Constitution and Working Arrangements

13. The constitution and working arrangements for the Leisure Centre Users Forum may only be amended by the County Council following consultation with all parties.

AJH/AJ

August 2000

LEISURE CENTRE USERS FORUM : MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

1.	Corwen Leisure Centre	2 County Councillors 2 Corwen Community Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives 1 School User Representative <u>1</u> Centre Manager 9
2.	Denbigh Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Denbigh Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives <u>1</u> Centre Manager 12
3.	Llangollen Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Llangollen Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives <u>1</u> Centre Manager 12
4.	Prestatyn Leisure Centre	4 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Prestatyn Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Centre 2 User/Club representatives <u>1</u> Centre Manager 13
5.	Rhyl Leisure Centre	4 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Rhyl Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives <u>1</u> Centre Manager 13
6.	Ruthin Leisure Centre	3 County Councillors 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff) 2 Ruthin Town Council 1 Denbighshire Sports Council 2 User/Club representatives <u>1</u> Centre Manager 12

7. St Asaph Leisure Centre

- 3 County Councillors
 - 3 High School (Governors / Teaching Staff)
 - 2 St Asaph Town Council
 - 1 Denbighshire Sports Council
 - 2 User/Club representatives
 - 1 Centre Manager
- 12**

AJH/AJ

August 2000

**REPORT BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR
CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM**

RUTHIN CRAFT CENTRE DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet support for the need to refurbish and redevelop Ruthin Craft Centre, and to seek authority to commission a feasibility study to consider these needs in more detail.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 Ruthin Craft Centre is now over 18 years old, and there is 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 our tenants.
- 2.2 The Centre now copes with more than double the level of visitors it was originally designed to accommodate, (100,000 in 1999) and the layout no longer reflects or adequately deals with footfall patterns or demands. Current catering facilities cannot cope with the demand of multiple group visits during the peak summer period, and toilet facilities are outmoded and inadequate particularly for disabled visitors. The Centre does not fully comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, which will be imperative by 2004. Outdated and cramped facilities have also forced the limitation and curtailment of education and training activity levels, despite growing demand and need articulated by a range of groups and organisations. Heavy wear and tear on facilities has now reached the point where urgent attention is needed in order to satisfy Health and Safety requirements.
- 2.3 Refurbishment and development needs can be summarised as follows:
- expansion and improvement of gallery space,
 - upgrading and expansion of catering facilities.
 - refurbishment and development of educational space and facilities.
 - expand and upgrade craft/exhibition storage.
 - improved public toilets.
 - create accessible facility for all users.
 - enhanced information for visitors, relocate/improve tourist information centre.
 - environmental improvements, including landscaped central courtyard.
- 2.4 The first step in the process of securing these improvements is to commission a feasibility study to look at the issues in more depth. This is usually a pre-requisite for any subsequent applications for funding to carry out the works, and would have to be carried out by specialist consultants with the necessary expertise and experience. Members will know that the Arts Council for Wales (ACW) regard Ruthin Craft Centre as a centre of excellence, and they have informally indicated that they could grant aid 75% of the cost of the feasibility study in the current financial year. This presents an excellent opportunity for the Council which should be pursued.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** The estimated cost of the feasibility study is £10,000. ACW grant will meet 75% of the cost, leaving a shortfall of £2,500. The study is vital to the future of the Craft Centre, and it is therefore proposed that economies be made this year to finance the shortfall from within the existing Craft Centre budget, or from enhanced income.
- 3.2** The study will pave the way for applications to secure necessary funds to carry out the proposed works. It is anticipated that Objective 1 funds matched with ACW Lottery funding will provide a way forward.
- 3.3** Members should also note that, if successful, the refurbishment and redevelopment of the facility will produce savings by addressing the many outstanding building maintenance issues which will have to be faced by the Council in any event. In addition, upgrading the centre will also enhance opportunities to generate income to offset revenue costs.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1** Match funding needed for 75% grant aid to come from within base.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1** Initial consultations have taken place with ACW, but the proposed study will also include further consultations with a range of other interests such as WTB, North Wales Tourism, and tenants.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

- 6.1** Enhanced cultural facilities and opportunities provided by the Craft Centre are an important component of quality of life, lifelong learning, and LA21. Its enhanced role as a visitor attraction would also bring economic benefits to Ruthin and the county as a whole.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** To support the need for refurbishment and development of Ruthin Craft Centre.
- 7.2** To agree to commission a feasibility study, subject to funding, and to apply for Arts Council for Wales grant for the study.

AJH/PH/AJ

August 2000