

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.

1. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following items which, in his opinion, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

- (i) 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. **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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.LI. Davies be nominated as his substitute.

8. 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.

9. 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).

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 and 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.*

16. 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.

17. 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.*

18. 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.*

19. 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

20. 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).*

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.*

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.*

31. 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.

32. 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.*

33. 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.*

34. 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

35. 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.

36. 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.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4(i)

CABINET MEMBER: Leader of the Council

DATE: 12th September, 2000

SUBJECT: Area Environment Group Appointments

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To nominate a representative to serve on the Area Environment Group of the Environment Agency Wales.

2. Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 The term of membership of all existing members of the Area Environment Group expires on 31st October and the Agency are seeking a nomination from the Council to serve on the Group as from 1st November, 2000.

2.2 The Authority's previous representative was Councillor A.E.W. Jones.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 As an approved representative on an outside organisation, travelling allowance will be payable.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 N/A

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 N/A

6. Implications on other Policy Areas including Corporate

6.1 Principal impacts relate to Agenda 21 Policy

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Members nominate a representative to serve on the Area Environment Group of the Environment Agency Wales as from 1st November, 2000.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4(ii)

CABINET MEMBER: Leader of the Council

DATE: 12th September, 2000

SUBJECT: Denbighshire (North) Citizens Advice Bureau
Management Committee

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To nominate two representatives to serve on the Denbighshire (North) Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee for the year 2000 - 2001.

2. Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 A request has been received for two nominations to represent the County Council on the Denbighshire (North) CAB Management Committee. Whilst making this request, the Chairman of the Management Committee has asked that those members appointed this year have a particular interest in the work undertaken by the CAB as neither of the Labour or Independent Group nominees submitted last year attended any meetings of the Management Committee.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 As approved representatives on an outside organisation, travelling allowance will be payable.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 N/A

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 Both the Labour and Independent Groups have been consulted on this matter as neither of their representatives had attended meetings of the Management Committee during 1999/2000.

6. Implications on other Policy Areas including Corporate

6.1 The work of the CAB could have an impact on all of the Authority's policy areas.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Members nominate two representatives to serve on the Denbighshire (North) Citizens Advice Bureau for the year 2000/2001.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5(i)

CABINET MEMBER: David Morris- Lead Member for the Environment

DATE: 12 September 2000

SUBJECT: Appointment of Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety)

1 Decision Sought

Authority requested to fill vacant post of Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety).

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

There are two posts with the designation of Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) within the Public Protection Department and both these positions have recently become vacant. Interviews to appoint a replacement for the first vacant post were held on the 11th July 2000 when four candidates were interviewed and Mr. Pius Bamukumba was appointed. Subsequently the second Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) post has become vacant, and authority is now requested to offer the position to one of the suitable candidates who was unsuccessful at the interview on the 11th July 2000, or if this is not possible, to readvertise the vacant post.

3 Cost Implications

Within budget.

4 Financial Controller Statement

Confirmed within budget.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Yes.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

None.

7 Recommendation

Approve authority to appoint.

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

Directorate: Social Services Section: Q/A

Post Title: Q/A Officer ^{Temp.} Typ Salary Grade: PO1

(Quality Assurance)

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

This post has been advertised internally, but
not appointed to. There is a pressing need
to progress readiness for external evaluation through
Joint Review and without this post we would not be able to
do this

Signed: Meimian Hughes (Director)

Dated: 3/8/2000

Signed: HR Roberts (Chair of Service Committee)

Dated: 4/9/2000

To: Chief Executive

Approved Refused

Signed: HR Roberts Date: 4/9/2000

Comments/Reasons

To: Emergency Powers Committee

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Committee) Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

Denbighshire County Council

Performance Reviews

A Report of the Leader

1. Decision Sought.

1.1 To approve the attached performance summaries for forwarding to Council and Scrutiny Committees

2. Reasons Decision sought

2.1 These reports have been compiled following meetings with the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Member or Members, where available, reviewing Directorate Performance.

2.2 The general themes which have emerged are as follows:

- **Modernising**; specifically the need to service the new system and make it work effectively. The work of the modernising panel is especially here in reviewing current arrangements. The work of the Scrutiny panels is awaited as they take up their duties in September.
- **Financial Solvency**. The continuing need for vigilance with spending to meet this year's target as set out in the recovery plan. There are causes for concern, some of these are long term and well known to Members: SEN budgets, school transport; solicitors and coroners costs but Cabinet has recently addressed these at its meeting on 31st August. Opportunities exist with asset disposals to improve the Council's financial position.
- **Best Value** The impact of best value and the current financial position of the Authority in compelling Directorates to examine radical policies to deliver improved service provision.
- **Restructuring and the impact of the new Directorates**. Preparations are underway to introduce the new system, but as with the modernising agenda there is a need for monitoring the success of implementation and subsequent working.
- **Communication**. With new a new system of working there is a need for a new strategic approach to corporate communications. Additionally, the onset of the new agendas of Best Value and Community Planning make this particularly important.

3. Financial Controller Statement

3.1 It is of the utmost importance that the Authority delivers the recovery Plan Action Plans and meets the service planning requirements to ensure immediate progress with securing solvency and to lay foundation for a sound financial management arrangements.

3.2 The Authority to reap the advantages of adhering to budget targets in order to release funding to meet service improvement needs.

4. Costs

4.1 N/A

5. Consultation.

5.1 Directorates have been consulted on the attached reports.

6. Impact on other Areas

6.1 There are none arising out of this report.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Cabinet agrees that these reports should be forwarded to Council and Scrutiny Committees

Performance Review Summary July 2000

Chief Executive's Directorate

Note of a meeting held between the Chief Executive and the Departments of his directorate.

A. Finance

Service	Cash Limited Budget 1999/2000 £000's	Cash Limited Budget 2000/2001 £000's	Overspends 1999/2000 £000's
CEO Secretariat	424	426	0
Emergency Planning	10	16	7
Legal and Administration	875	1,018	246
Personnel	526	532	-2
Public Protection	1,269	1,320	-7
Total	3,104	3,312	244

Contract Services

Activity	Final Outturn 1999/2000			1st Quarter 2000/2001		
	Income	Expend	Sur (DEF)	Income	Expend	Sur (Def)
Blg Mtnce	1,601.5	1,447.2	154.3	346.8	333.8	12.9
Grds Mtnce	702.4	785.8	-83.4	191.9	184	7.9
V. Mtnce	419.4	417.2	2.2	93.3	97.6	-4.29
Ref Coll	1,402.6	1,349.4	53.1	357.1	350.4	6.7
St. C/sing	899.7	882.1	17.6	252.5	246.5	6
Sign Shop	485.8	463.4	22.4	141.1	134.1	7
H/ways Mtnce	1,876.8	1,862.1	14.6	361.1	357.2	3.8
Catering	1,784.4	1,845.3	-60.8	430	442	-12
Building Cleaning	443.1	419.2	23.9	118.2	116.5	1.8
Total	9,614	9,471.8	143.9	2,292	2,262.1	29.81

Main Issues.

- Overspends largely validated during budget exercise last year. There are still sources of overspending however. **Legal and Admin. budgets** continue to be under pressure from coroners in particular and solicitor costs.
- With **CEO's emergency planning** continues to face difficulty arising from reductions in Home Office funding
- **Public Protection** is predicting an overspend of £5k for environmental Health and £10k for public conveniences. Problems of vandalism a factor here.
- **Contract Services** financial position is a cause for celebration. Figures annually improve allowing for reinvestment to improve the quality of the service and renew hardware.

B. Performance

- **CEO's/Emergency Planning.** There are no performance indicators as yet, but CEO's is part of a bench marking club which is working to produce useful comparators. During the year the Policy Unit has, with the assistance of Legal and Admin. introduced the new constitution. Emergency Planning's work on Y2k helped the Authority successfully plan for possible emergencies.
- **Legal and Admin.** 66% of search requests being processed within a 10 day target. Performance in other departments feeds into the time taken and there is an accumulation of searches due to leave. Cutbacks have reduced capacity to fill in during leave. Solution will have to be computerisation for the long term.
- **Public Protection.** Vol. of Health and safety inspections increases with 535 for 1999/2000 as compared to 245 for 1998/99. Food safety inspections however had reduced from 1020 for 1998/99 to 771 for 1999.2000.. During 1999/2000, however, a large amount of staff time was spent on infectious diseases and food poisoning investigations e.g. Plas Bondyffryn. Food standards inspections by Trading Standards however increased from 387 1998/1999 to 593; the return of a Trading Standards officer after a long illness accounts for the rise.
- **Personnel.** Performance indicators are being developed through Saratoga .No data is available as yet. Personnel have had to cope with restructuring requirements arising out of the consultants' report and subsequent agreement of Council.
- **Contract Services.** (see comments in financial section). Contract services have also been awarded IIP. Catering services have been successfully been transferred fro Education Services. Schools who ceased receiving service from the County are returning to Contract Services.

C Policy/Service Issues

- **CEO's** The need to respond to the new Cabinet arrangements and to provide both cabinet and the new Corporate Directors with service. The need to provide a revised strategic Press and Public Relations service in the light of the Cabinet's approach..
- **Emergency Planning** - the need to address the funding shortfall
- **Contract Services.** The need to examine surpluses in the light of overall Council financial performance, whilst still providing for investment strategy. Contract awarding process in the light of unsatisfactory history of Grounds Maintenance contract this year.
- **Personnel.** Restructuring; The need for IIP to be corporately driven. Clarification of respective responsibilities for schools over Health and Safety. Single Status and Grading Review. New targets required on Training budgets.
- **Public Protection** Staffing issues i.e. capacity to deal with serious outbreaks. Capacity to respond to increase demand for services with lower budgets and staff.

Performance Review Summary July 2000
Finance

Notes of a meeting held between the Chief Executive and the Finance Directorate

A. Finance

Service	Cash Limited Budget 1999/2000 £,000s	Cash Limited Budget 2000/2001 (£'000s)	Projected Overspend 1999/2000 £000's
Management and support	129	129	4
Accountancy	380	366	0
Audit	240	272	10
Exchequer Services	427	331	42
Revenues	504	529	-11
Total	1,680	1,627	45

Main Issues

- **Accountancy.** The need to further develop the general ledger system to maximise the benefits to service users and assist with budgetary control, with the funding implications of these developments.
- **Audit.** Welfare Benefits Savings. Loss of income will require a policy decision on how deficit is to be made up in the long term. Government pressure on fraud prevention and penalties for non achievement will have to be addressed.
- **Exchequer.** Fair funding will produce an income line of £90k. Need to ensure contract is retained for the future.
Expenditure reductions agreed last year on target to be achieved this year.
- **Revenues** Loss of income due to WBS subsidy a budget pressure which will require addressing. Pressure from pay (annual pay award and increments) are forcing the service to introduce economies which will have an effect on service provision.

B. Performance

- **Accountancy** Meaningful PI's do not as yet exist, but work continuing with Accountancy bench marking groups. There is an improvement each year in meeting deadline requires from the closure of Accounts.
- **Audit** Internal Audits performance is in the upper quartile in 8 out of the 12 local indicators. Number of planned audits completed, for example, is 84.5% as compared to the Welsh Average of 62.7%. Satisfaction with audits is 100% ; the highest in Wales.
- **Exchequer Service** has joined the CIPFA bench marking club. Results of comparisons not yet available, but hoped will follow shortly. However, Denbighshire has matched the Upper Quartile for Wales for 1998/99 (81%), well ahead of the average which was 75%.(National ACPI)

Service Department	Performance Indicators 1998/99	Wales Average 1998/99	Target 1999/2000	Target 2000/01
Creditor Payments Prompt payment ACPI 8	81%	75% (Upper Quartile 81%)	Actual 84%	85%

- **Revenues**

Item	1998/99	Wales Average 1998/99	Actuals 1999/2000	Target 2000/01
%tage of tenants in arrears of 13 weeks	8,5%	3.3%	10.29%	8.5%
%tage of new Council Tax Claims processed within 14 days	52	78	46.3	52
%tage of Council Tax collected	95.9	94.7	96.2	98
%tage of Business Rate collected	98.1	95.4	93.92	98

- Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates are above average for 1998/99. Computer failure explanation for drop in 1999/2000.
- The problem of benefits collection has been reported on to Council and remedial measures taken earlier in 2000. The problems has meant no interim payments are made on benefits. Problem of transient population a significant factor affecting capacity to deliver same level of service to other authorities.
- Rents performance have, however, continued to improve.

C. Policy/Service Issues

Accountancy. Need to consider financial management arrangements of the Authority as indicated in the recovery plan. Continuing issue of capital grants verification arising from Rhuddlan legacy.

Audit Problem of loss of WBS income. Problem of risk to authority if audit capacity reduced. Best Value reviews will place additional demands on the system. Possibility of use of hotdesking to overcome accommodation requirements.

Exchequer Monthly pay for all achieved. Need for examination of use of cash facilities. Impact of Construction Industry scheme on workload.

Revenues. Resolution of problems of backlog for benefits payments. Best Value review, although externalisation not thought to be a serious option

**Performance Reviews July 2000
Education and Culture Directorate**

Note of a meeting held between the Chief Executive and Senior Management to discuss Directorate Performance on 17th July.

A. Financial

Service Department	Cash Limited budget 1999-2000 £000s	Cash Limited Budget 2000-2001 £000's	Overspends 1999-2000 £000's
Cultural Services	2,316.8	2,347.2	41
Education			
Resource management	3,587	2,803	76
Curricular Services	3,405.3	38,156.6	1,161
ICT	1,069.5	1,146.2	5
Total Education and Culture	41,027.8	44,453.1	1,283

Main Issues

- **Size of overspend for Directorate as a whole.** Last year's overspend largely dealt with during last year's budget round via validation. But budget continues to overspend in key areas i.e. school transport and SEN. Overall overspend prediction for both areas was £700k Latest fig contained in Financial Controller Budget Statement to Cabinet for 31st August was £670k
- Resolution of these issues will requires a combination of budget examination and policy changes

B. Performance

Cultural Services

- Archives. Net expenditure per household in 1998/99 are above Flintshire's but considerably lower than Gwynedd's. Targets have been set for 2000/2001 which reduce the Denbighshire figure.
- Arts Higher targets set increasing income and grants
- Library and Information service - Higher target set for number of visits to libraries
- Youth and Community: lowest level of expenditure per head on youth and community services.

Schools

KS2	KS1
English 12th	English 9th
Welsh 4th	Welsh 6th
Maths 14th	Maths 6th
Science 17th	Science 13th

Key Stage 3

	1,997	1,998	1,999	C/f Wales
English	60	60	63	61
Wales	74	75	82	71
Maths	63	68	63	60
Science	64	56	55	55

Position across Wales shows that the Authority in a good to middle position, but is among the top ranking in Welsh. Analyses of the 2000 results show an improvement in most subjects.

Key Stage 4

Denbighshire average should move upward consequent upon the challenging targets set this year.

A -G	1996/7/8	1997/8/9	1,999
Denbighshire	82	84	87
Cf Wales	80	82	83

A- C	1996/7/8	1997/8/9	1,999
Denbighshire	43	46	49
Cf Wales	44	46	48

Post 16 A Level results correspond the National Average in Wales

ITC

- Exceeded the target on the number of major ICT projects completed target 50 actual 101.

C. Policy/Service Issues

Cultural

- Need for replacement of Rhuddlan Library
- Paper on development of Youth and Community Services required in the light of the Assembly's new strategy.
- Recharging for Archives Service
- Development of One Stop Shops
- Objective 1 funding to be pursued for Plas Newydd.

Education

- Schools maintenance
- Need to pursue objective 1 fro community schools initiatives
- Fair funding and vulnerability of authority if schools withdraw from arrangements
- Development of SEN provision part grant funded at Plas Bondyffryn
- Budget allocations.

ICT

- Staffing resources and performance levels. Performance above average, but might suffer due to resourcing difficulties.
- Need for review of ICT funding

**Performance Review Summary
Planning and Economic Development**

Note of Performance Review meeting with the Chief Executive and the Directorate on 17th July 2000

A. Finance

	Cash Limited Budget 1999/2000 £000's	Cash limited Budget 2000/2001£000's	Overspend 1999/2000 £000's
Community Agency	165.8	161.8	0
Countryside Services	305.8	321	35.4
Economic Development	693.3	743.7	3.8
Leisure Services	1,352.5	1,496.8	305.3
Resorts and attractions	32	58	121.5
Pavilion Theatre	293.3	409.6	248.9
Planning Services	643.7	706.2	-0.85
Support Services	361.2	414.7	-0.87
Total	3,847.6	4,311.8	713.18

Main issues

Overspends partially validated in last year's budget round

Countryside Service ; Susceptibility to Grant Cuts. Delay income line from implementation of Moel Famau charging.

Planning - Increased legal fees may account for overspend

Leisure Services - Council has already taken action to reduce overspend in the longer term via the setting up of the NP/DO feasibility study into the trust option. Still overspend expected this year.

Resorts and Attractions externalisation of Tourism properties will produce long term savings

Pavilion. National problem regarding ticket sales allied to unpredictability of market performance lies at the root of the overspends.

For this year every attempt will be made to drive down on the overspends. All budget lines need to be held to.

B. Performance

Countryside. No reliable data exists to provide comparisons on performance.

Economic Development. No performance indicators exist as yet. Work proceeding with Pembrokeshire.

Leisure Services and resorts and attractions. No recent figures available. Previous figs indicate spending below the Welsh Average on sport and recreation.

Planning Speed for dealing with planning applications down from 1998/99 68.5% down to 51.7%. A target of 70% was been set for Last year. Benchmarking data not yet available.

Pavilion Theatre

- Number of performance 1998/99 259 Estimate 1999/2000 229
- Number of Tickets sold " 101,345 " " 92,283

The average ticket yield is below the national average.

(See comment on finance above.)

C. Policy/Service Issues

- **Countryside** Financial implications arising from Countryside and rights of Way Bill and other issues AONB, open access land and SSSI's.
- **Economic Development** - Objective 1. Need to take account of pressure for space when developing new business units. Development of Tourism strategy.
- **Planning** UDP and resource implications. Implication of Human Rights Act. Staffing issues.
- **Leisure Services** Development of Leisure Strategy; Trust Status option.
- **Resorts and Attractions** Externalisation via trusts. Implications on restructuring of Directorate. Ongong need to attract investment into the Ffrith.
- **Pavilion**. Awaiting decision on whether to follow the route of Trust status..

Performance Review Summary July 2000

Social Services

Note of meeting held between the Directorate and the Chief Executive.

A Finance

a. Budget 1999/2000 (prior to restructuring)

Service	Cash limited Budget 1999/2000 £000's	Under/Overspends £000's
Children & Families	2,493.2	475.8
Adult Services (purchaser)	4,996.9	-418.2
Adult services (provider)	3,533.6	36.2
Mental Illness	1,090.1	139
Learning Disabilities	2,643	48.1
Community Support	680.4	-71.1
Strategic Planning	1,753.6	10.7
Community Care	212.9	-212.9
Total	17,403.7	7.6

b. Budget 2000/01 (following Restructuring)

Service	Cash Limited Budget 2000/2001 £000's	Measures to achieve Budget Reductions
Children and Families	2,706.9	Reduce out of county placements
Assessment and Care Management (North)	4,578	Encouraging clients to fund their own care by maximising benefits; more robust management of hospital discharge arrangements
Assessment of Care Management (south)	2,636.1	
Adult Services Provider	5,183.2	Control employee Cost, Externalisation, closure of project and greater emphasis on reablement.
Strategic Planning	2,751.4	There are current pressures relating to Children's Services and Adult Services (provider, and as already reported the overspend at year end in £276k
Community Care	109	
Total	17,964.6	

Main Points

- Out of County Placements for Children proving very expensive
- 40% increase of children looked after (reflects national problem)
- Need to look at home care and in-house provision. Costs need to be addressed by Cabinet and Council
- SSA consultation needs a response.

B. Performance

- **Provider Service** - small reduction in performance from 100% to 93.9. Target for this year back to 100%. Welsh Average 72%. Denbighshire previously highest.
- **Adult Services** Respite nights/1000 adults. 147.58. Welsh Average for previous years 101.
- **Adult Services** Statement of Needs. Actual performance for 1999/2000 90% higher than Welsh Average.
- **Children** Percentage in Foster Care increasing percentage 81.9% 1998/99 95/1% for 1999/2000 Welsh Average 79%
- Percentage of Children Moved : Lower percentage 14.5% 1998/99 11.63% 1999/2000. Moving to Welsh average of 7.6%.

C. Policy/Service Issues

- **Children.** Increased time spent attending courts taking time away from normal duties. The numbers (58) on the Child Protection register. (See also issue of number of children looked after in finance section)
- **Strategic Planning** - Need for information system to aid the performance management system. Need to review planning arrangements overall to reduce duplication.
- **Adult Provider.** Need for co-operation with Health Authority over protocol - clear boundaries required to ensure effective working.
- **Budget Issues.** In-house provision and home care. Both issues in need of policy changes. Link to recovery plan.
- **Preparations for joint review.** The Directorate is preparing for a Joint Review; the process involves a thorough inspection by an inspectorate. Reviews tend to be very critical and require considerable preparation.

Performance Review July 2000
 Technical Services

Summary of Performance Review held between the Chief Executive and the Directorate

A Finance

Service	Cash Limited Budget 1999/2000 £000's	Cash Limited Budget 2000/2001 £000's	Overspends 1999/2000 £000's
Design and Construction Services	1,905	1,922	17
Highways and Transportation	5,066	5,088	126
Housing Non HRA	74	89	15
Property and community Services	4,823	5,130	235
Support Services	14	15	0
Total	11,882	12,244	393

Main Issues

- **Overall** downward trend in overspending
- **Building and Design Services.** Building Services Zero overspend targets for 2000/2001 on staffing, property maintenance and office accommodation budgets Design Services - improved debt position being maintained.
- 2 major areas of overspend **Highways and Transportation** (emergency related) and **Property and Community Services.** Overspends received a level of validation during last budget round.
- There are continuing costs however on refuse and waste, environmental maintenance and a reduced income from car parks. Refuse costs could be reduced with a new landfill site in Denbighshire. There is also a problem of higher contract prices for Grounds Maintenance following extension to the contract with the DSO due to higher rates being negotiated. Indexed linked contracts for street cleansing, refuse collection and waste disposal have cost implications.
Progress has been made on the car parking issue
- **Housing Non HA** Homelessness budget was overspent: budget has been increased accordingly
- **Housing HRA** £10.1m for 2000/2001 There no balances - all moneys spent on capital works. The capital programme for this year has been abandoned. Routine repairs and maintenance level (£2m) - steady level.

B . Performance

- **Building and Design Services.** Good budgetary performance (see above). Projects completed on time 40/80% - Improved performance.
- **Highways and transportation.** Improvements in streets light working achieved. Authority in the upper quartile nationally and registers the lowest faults in Wales Response to incidents of dangerous damage on highways is also well above the national average. Level of expenditure on highways has increased slightly, but still very low in comparison with other authorities in Wales.
- **Property and Community Services.** Net cost per household of refuse collection seems to be plateauing at £35, although slight reduction last financial year. Low recycling figures by comparison with Flintshire and Conwy, but higher than Wrexham.
- **Regeneration Services.** Home repairs applications reduction continuing and reflected in Grants total, although average grant approval levels higher. E.g. reduction from 192 to 24 grant applications ; grants reduced from £120k to £61k.

- **Housing.** Lower than average percentage of dwellings that are empty. Actual for 1999/2000 is 0%. But time taken to relet dwellings slightly higher than average: 6 weeks as opposed 5.5 weeks.
Average weekly cost per dwelling however lower than average 6.54 as compared with the average England and Wales of 9.96
- **Support Services.** Improved performance in creditors payments being maintained.

C. Policy/Service Issues

- **Design and building Services** - Need for Asset Management Plan - in progress; major projects at Ruthin Goal and Ysgol Plas Bondyffryn; Welsh Water contract implications for capacity; property database.
- **Housing** - Transfer of Housing stock. Consultation process underway, but need to maintain momentum.
- **Highways and transportation;** need for capital funding for the bridges programme and contingency arrangements for winter maintenance, Implications of Woolf report i.e. to reduce impact through attention to accident black spots.
- **Property and Community services.** Review of property stock; waste collection costs need for review with policy changes if necessary to reduce annual costs
- **Regeneration Services** - 2 new renewal areas hopes for. Problems with HMO's; home energy conservation officer required to home energy conservation targets.

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Members for Education & ICT, Culture and Finance

DATE: 12th Sept 2000

SUBJECT: Learningstream

1 Decision Sought

- 1.1 That Cabinet support the capital (£335,280) and revenue (£180,795) investment in the delivery of the Learningstream network proposal, which is needed to provide the **minimum** network requirement, in the short term, to enable Schools and Libraries access to external funds from NOF and the Welsh Assembly and, long term, support the Authority's policy towards electronic service delivery, lifelong learning, objective one, social inclusion, agenda 21 and community strategies. This will also meet the needs of multiple projects that are up and coming and relate to the government's e-government agenda.
- 1.2 To agree that all departments within the Authority must take a more co-ordinated approach to ICT projects that attract external funds and not proceed autonomously.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

- 2.1 British Telecom (BT) has the monopoly on wide area network provision in Denbighshire. This means Denbighshire's costs in this area are generally higher than other authorities where there is competition. Learningstream is a new pricing band offering from BT on wide area network links, which provides medium speed links for Department For Education and Employment (DFEE) registered buildings at significantly less cost than standard circuit costings.
- 2.2 ICT has spent time designing a network based on Learningstream, which despite the restrictions BT put on us, feels will meet the needs of schools, the Local Authority and Denbighshire as a whole. This will provide a major advantage and cost saving over the use of traditional BT circuit offerings.
- 2.3 The designed network will provide up to 2Mbps (line speed) links to every school in Denbighshire, which is a **minimum** requirement for Libraries to access NOF funding and if schools want to access £80M of funding opportunities from the Welsh Assembly. This will also support the major increase in Internet and Intranet use. Failure to implement the network will mean that Denbighshire schools will be **excluded** from these new funds.
- 2.4 The Network design is based on libraries within Denbighshire being the focal points in the communities. They will soon, using NOF funding, be kitted out with PC networks that will be made available to the public. They can become:
- One Stop Shops - the single point of enquiry to Council services. (Integration strategy).
 - True all encompassing information centres.
 - Internet access to the public - a complete reference online.
 - Life long learning - training days held at libraries.
 - A focal point for SMEs, as per current Objective 1 proposals - Betterbusinesswales and NETSME projects.
 - Future possibilities of cashless cash office (Smartcards)
 - Not forgetting a library too!

This in itself is a minimum requirement for us to proceed with meeting the targets laid down in the national e-government strategy and those we must comply with in the "Information Age Government - Targets for Local Government" document.

- 2.5 Other Local Authorities have already funded networks equal to and, exceeding this minimum requirement - their schools and libraries will benefit from external funds.
- 2.6 Once installed, it is hoped that future enhancements could be made to the network without significant costs. e.g.:-
- Voice over IP - enable all 71 sites to come onto the internal phone system.
 - Provide access to colleges and other partners.
 - Provide virtual learning/training across the network.
 - Provide drop in centres/hot desk facilities for "teleworkers"

3 Cost Implications

- 3.1 The capital costs for the Learningstream network, including all equipment, lines and installation for 71 sites, is **circa £335,280**.
- 3.2 The "new growth" revenue requirement for circuit rentals would be **£180,795**, required annually from 2001/2002 onwards.
- 3.3 The equivalent cost of implementing the network outside of the Learningstream offer would be £424,680 capital and £503,070 revenue.

4 Financial Controller Statement

- 4.1 The figures mentioned to be included in the ICT budget growth bids and considered as part of the budget setting exercise for next financial year.

5 Consultation Carried Out

- 5.1 The schools' representatives from Secondary and Primary have been consulted and recognise the need for this network and are aware of the situation in other authorities.
- 5.2 Education, the schools and Cultural Services have been consulted and agree a co-ordinated approach to delivery of targets/external bids.
- 5.3 Cabinet Members for Finance, Culture, Education and ICT have also been consulted and recognise the immediate need for this network.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

- 6.1. This network will meet the needs and requirements for many of the policy areas of the County, as well as supporting the delivery of priorities.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 That Cabinet agree with the guidance of the paper and note the £335,280 requirement from the 2001/2002 capital program.

7.2 That Cabinet note the requirement for £180,795 of new growth in the ICT revenue budget.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services

DATE: 12th September 2000

SUBJECT: Housing Options Working Party

1 Decision Sought

- 1.1 Following the recommendations of the Housing Options Working Party a decision is sought to arrange a seminar so that all Members of the Council be further informed regarding this important policy initiative.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

- 2.1 The Housing Options Working Party consisting of Five Members and Five representatives of the Denbighshire Tenants and Residents Federation is investigating the Options for the future of the Council's Housing Stock including possible transfer to a Community Ownership Housing Organisation.
- 2.2 Four sets of Consultants have now been appointed to advise the Working Party and the Lead Consultants are producing an Options Appraisal to assess the best way forward. The Working Party will then make a recommendation to the Council on a preferred option.
- 2.3 If the decision is to consider Stock Transfer then there will need to be an extensive period of consultation and a large number of decisions on detailed issues on the transfer and the offer to be made to tenants which is the basis of a ballot.

3 Cost Implications

- 3.1 Stock Transfer will involve the new organisation in borrowing some £30m to purchase the properties from the Council and another £30 - £50m over time to implement the programme of improvements. The Council should receive a substantial Capital Receipt even after allowing for the cost of transfer and paying off the existing Housing Capital Debt (approximately £17m).
- 3.2 Part of the costs of preparing for transfer are covered by a Supplementary Credit Approval but there are substantial costs involved which may be abortive if the transfer does not proceed.

4 Financial Controller Statement

The potential Housing Stock transfer is in accordance with the Council's Financial Recovery Plan.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Consultation on Stock Transfer continues with the Tenants and Residents Federation and the Housing Options Working Party.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The Housing Revenue Account is ring fenced from the Council's General Fund. Stock Transfer has an impact on Corporate Policy areas especially Community Governance.

7 Recommendation

That the above proposals be implemented.

**CYNGOR SIR DDINBYCH
DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

REPORT TO CABINET: Corporate Property Portfolio Member

DATE: 12th September 2000

SUBJECT: LAND ADJACENT TO BRYN COLLEN SCHOOL, LLANGOLLEN

1.0 Decision Sought

- 1.1 Approval to release land for Highway adoption, which currently forms part of Bryn Collen School, Llangollen

2.0 Reason For Seeking Decision

- 2.1 Tai Clwyd Housing Association, in partnership with Lloyd Construction, are proposing to develop 22 houses on land located adjacent to Maes Pengwern Estate, Llangollen (**as outlined - Appendix One**).
- 2.2 Planning Permission for the development has been received from the Local Planning Authority, which is subject to Section 106 conditions (planning conditions), restricting the occupancy to local people only (**as attached - Appendix Two**)
- 2.3 The Local Education Authority have been approached by Tai Clwyd, some time after planning permission was received, requesting to purchase a strip of land/release land for adoption (approximately 70 sq.m - **as outlined Appendix Three**). A condition of the planning consent is that the existing road needs to be widened to cater adequately for the extra traffic produced by the new housing development. The land in question currently forms part of Bryn Collen School, Llangollen.
- 2.4 The LEA subsequently consulted the Headmaster and Governors of Bryn Collen School to seek their agreement to Tai Clwyd's proposal.
- 2.5 The Headmaster and Governors of the School have rejected the proposal on safety grounds. They consider the safety of the School, in particular the school children, were not adequately considered at the planning stage. As Local Members are aware, there is already a substantial problem with the traffic at the school, in particular drop of/pick up times (please refer to Local Member comments - 4.2). The Headmaster and Governors believe that the Development will only add to the current problems.

2.6 The Local Highway Authority were consulted on road safety during the planning consultancy stage, They stated that the following should be undertaken (S.278 agreement) to alleviate any problems caused by the extra traffic:-

2.6.1 Road Layout - Widening of existing carriageway to adhere to Highway Authority requirement (Appendix Three)

2.6.2 Traffic calming measures on the adopted highway. These were considered at design stage but additional features (such as humps/rumble areas) were considered inappropriate on the approach road (serving the estate) because of the speed reducing nature of the proposed horizontal and vertical alignment (road setup).

2.6.3 Traffic Management. The Contractor, during the construction period, will be required to maintain access to the School at all times and complete the road widening/access prior to the commencement of any on the remainder of the development.

2.6.4 Programme of works. To be submitted to the Highway Authority prior to the commencement of works on site incorporating the traffic management requirements referred to above.

2.7 As the Headmaster and Governors of the School considered the Highway requirements to be insufficient, it was decided that a separate report would be submitted by the Council's Health/Safety Officer and the Council's Road Safety Officer, incorporating their advice as to the works required to safeguard the School from the extra traffic produced by the development.
(The report is attached as Appendix Four)

3.0 Cost Implications

3.1 No cost implications.

4.0 Financial Controller Statement

4.1 No direct financial implications

5.0 Consultation Carried Out

5.1 Headmaster and Governors - Bryn Collen School, Llangollen
A verbal update will be given of the Headmaster and Governors response to the Health and Safety and Road Safety Officers report.

5.2 Local Members

5.2.1 Cllr Jeff Jones

Stated that there is very strong opposition to the development. Cllr Jones believes the Schools concerns should be satisfied before the development can proceed.

5.2.2 Cllr Paddy Tobin

Comments still awaited.

5.3 Highway Authority

The Highway Authority were consulted during the planning consultancy stage (please refer to 2.6).

5.4 Education

The Head of Education and Culture supports the concerns of the Head and Governors of the Bryn Collen School, Llangollen (please refer to 2.5).

5.5 Housing (Head of Housing - comments as quoted)

“Housing Services strongly supports the scheme for Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd at Maes Pengwern which is to be developed in response to a high level of need for rented housing for families in Llangollen (51 families currently registered on the Council's local Housing Waiting List). We have been seeking a suitable site in the town for many years and there are no other reasonable alternatives. The project has been supported in the Housing Strategy and Operational Plan and was a high priority in bids for Social Housing Grant approved by the National Assembly in 1999/2000.”

6.0 Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 Provision of works to safeguard Bryn Collen School, Llangollen, due to the increased traffic generated by the new development.

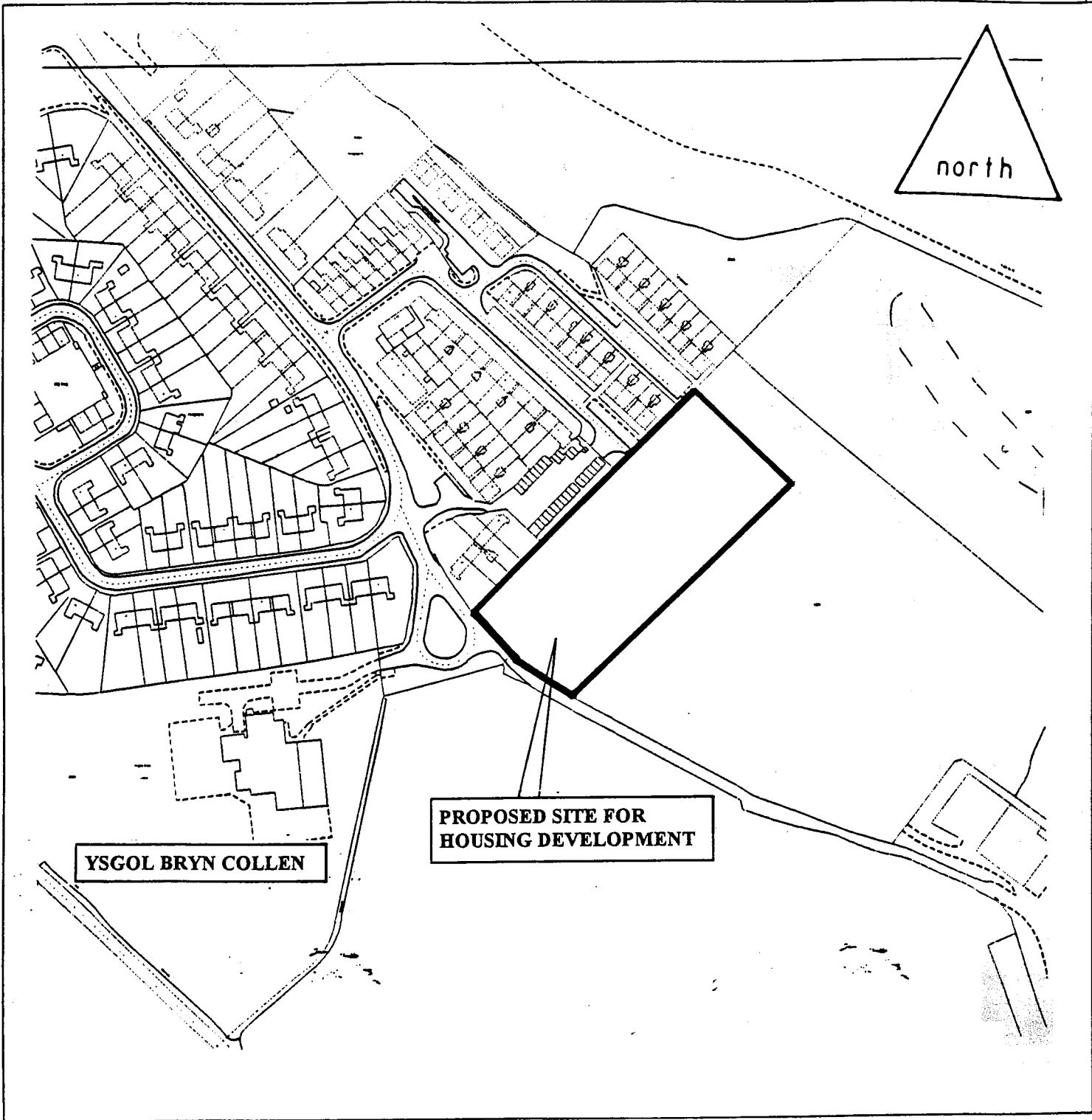
7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Members;-

7.1.1 Consider that subject to the concerns of the Head and Governors of Bryn Collen School, Llangollen, being adequately addressed by the Health and Safety and Report and Tai Clwyd Housing Association agreeing to fund and undertake the works recommended, that Members approve the release of the land for Highway adoption.

Background Documentation : A copy of the following can be obtained from the Acting Head of Property and Community Services:-

- A. An A1 plan of the proposed development.
- B. A full copy of the Section 106 agreement.
- C. A copy of the 'Certificate of Decision'.



Site
LAND AT MAES PENGWERN,
LLANGOLLEN.

Project
APPENDIX ONE
LOCATION 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

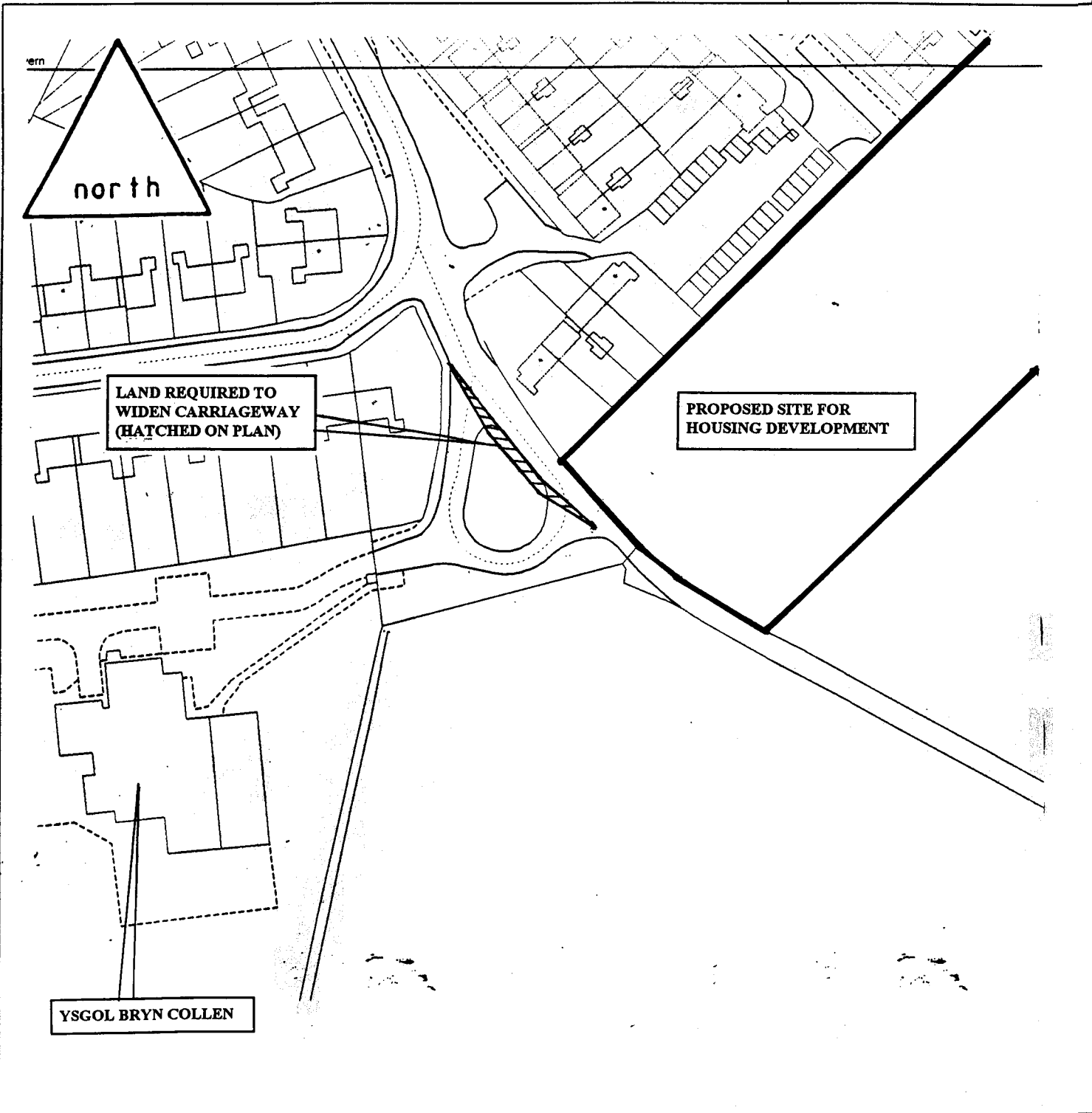
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Date SEPT. 00		

APPENDIX TWO: SECTION 106 CONDITIONS

In Paragraph 4(iv) a qualifying person shall be defined as follows:-

A person shall be a qualifying person if

- (i) (a) he has resided in the Community of Llangollen Town for a continuous period of one year immediately preceding the proposed occupation of a dwelling
 - or (b) is in permanent full time employment amounting to not less than thirty hours per week situated within the Community of Llangollen Town and has been in such employment for a period of six months immediately preceding the proposed occupation of a dwelling.
 - or (c) has previously resided in the Community of Llangollen Town or been in continuous full time employment as described above for a continuous period of ten years.
- (ii) if on notification of a vacancy no qualifying person as in (i) above can be identified from the waiting lists and after at least one advertisement has been placed in a newspaper circulating in the locality then after a period of at least four weeks the requirement for residence or employment shall be extended to include the following Community areas as well as Llangollen Town - Trevor, Froncysyllte, Corwen, Cynwyd, Llandrillo, Gwyddelwern, Betws Gwerfil Goch, Bryneglwys and Llandegla
 - (iii) if on notification of a vacancy no qualifying person as in (ii) above can be identified from waiting lists and after at least one advertisement has been



Site
LAND AT MAES PENGWERN,
LLANGOLLEN.

Project
APPENDIX THREE
LAND REQUIRED TO WIDEN
EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY.
(APPROX. 70m²)



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 Tel: 01824 706555 Fax 01824 706865
 Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Denbigh LL16 3RJ

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

APPENDIX FOUR: REPORT

Report from Council Health/Safety Officer and Council Road Safety Officer:-

In conjunction with S A Broadway and L V Owen I have visited Ysgol Bryn Collen and comment as follows:-

It is understood that the developer has provided an alignment drawing which fully complies with the requirements of proposed development and is satisfactory to the Highway Authority. I am also advised that it would not be reasonable to reject the proposal.

The proposed alignment as indicated on the drawing and the standard of the new roadway which includes a new foot way should create an improvement on the existing school access layout.

In order to safeguard access to the school for pupil, parents and staff. It is felt that a number of safety measures could be built into the proposal.

- A) Reduce the height and size of the roundabout so that visibility is increased for all concerned.
- B) Speed restriction signs and school informative signs should be erected.
- C) Consideration given to the introduction of sleeping policemen with appropriate signage.
- D) It is understood that occasionally some members of the teaching staff have to park their cars in the vicinity of the roundabout as there is insufficient parking facilities within the school grounds. This situation could be alleviated by creating extra car parking bays within the school grounds and thereby reducing the traffic problems at peak times.
- E) Suitable signs and road markings to ensure that vehicle traffic clearly understand the points of access and egress and that traffic does not encroach on education directorates land.

FOOTNOTE

I have not been in a position to visit this school site during school term therefore I would welcome the opportunity to monitor the conditions at peak times prior to a final decision being made and the opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Headmaster and School Governors.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to let me know, my telephone number is 01824 706573.



T A Ashton
County Safety Advisor