

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 14th November, 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 P. Douglas, S. Drew, K.N. Hawkins, M.M. Jones, W.G. Thomas and C.H. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Financial Controller, Legal Services Manager and Administration Services Manager.

1. URGENT MATTERS

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

- (i) Flood Incidents in Denbighshire;
- (ii) Appointment of County Safety Adviser;
- (iii) Appointment of Occupational Health Assistant;
- (iv) W.L.G.A. Annual Council, and
- (v) Meetings with the National Assembly.

2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 23rd October, 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters arising:-

- (i) item 4(i) (Protocol for Cabinet Members) - the Leader reported that the Protocol document was currently being developed and would be available for Members in the near future;
- (ii) item 4(iii) (West Rhyl Renewal Area - Housing Regeneration Grant Funding) - Councillor D.M. Morris reported that the inaugural meeting of the Members/Officers Working Group had taken place on 10th November, 2000 and a commitment had been given that the Authority would establish a conservation approach towards repairing and adapting buildings in the Town Heritage Initiative area and to proceed with the Heritage Lottery application for funding works within that Area, and
- (iii) item 6 (Housing Benefits Recovery Plan) - Councillor E.A. Owens reported that the reduced opening hours of the Revenues Office had been in operation for two weeks and the staff had reduced 25% of the backlog. Councillor Owens paid tribute to the co-operation of staff in the Libraries and Cash Offices during the shutdown and in particular to members of the public who had acknowledged the initiatives put in place to clear the backlog. The first liaison meeting with the user groups had now taken place and great use was now being made of the e-mail system via Reception areas, Libraries, etc. to log enquiries during the shutdown period.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14th November, 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3. **BUDGET 2001/2002**

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval for the next step in the budget setting process for 2001/2002 in the light of the progress to date.

The Financial Controller outlined to Members the budget process for 2001/2002 and referred to the Appendix attached to the report which analysed the pressures and cuts within individual Directorates. He emphasised that further work needed to be undertaken to fully identify and review both pressures and cuts within Directorates and referred to the additional pressures identified within the Planning; Chief Executive and Corporate budgets.

The Financial Controller referred to the projected R.S.G. settlement to be announced in December and the view of the W.L.G.A. that it would be increased by 6%. Taking into account that Denbighshire had exceeded this year's Assembly guideline by 1% the projected increase, in real terms, would be 5% for this Authority. The W.L.G.A. had also indicated that part of the projected 5% increase could be ring fenced for certain Services. The Financial Controller also felt that it would still be prudent to continue seeking 3% reduction in Directorates budgets for 2001/2002 and await the final R.S.G. settlement.

Councillor E.A. Owens emphasised the need to examine the projected growths/pressures within budgets with some vigour and for Directorates to prioritise those areas when the R.S.G. settlement had been announced. She indicated that the draft budget would be presented to Council on 16th January 2001 and Lead Members would play an important role in determining the priority lists. The Scrutiny Committees would also play an important role in the budget process and Councillor Owens looked forward to receiving their views on the budget papers.

Councillor E.W. Williams congratulated Councillor E.A. Owens on the excellent work undertaken by herself and the Financial Controller during the budget process. He emphasised the need for Best Value to play a part in that process and for Lead Members, not Directors, to prioritise the budget pressures/cuts within Directorates.

The Leader thanked Councillor Owens and the Financial Controller for the comprehensive budget report.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *a decision on the level of additional funding for pressures and growth be recommended to Council following consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committees and in the light of the provisional R.S.G. settlement in early December;*
- (b) *after considering the latest forecasts of the R.S.G. settlement, 4.5% reductions be no longer sought, and*
- (c) *further consideration be given, including reference to Scrutiny Committees, of the proposed 3% reductions.*

4. **FLOODING INCIDENTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE**

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

The Chief Executive referred to the recent flooding incidents in Denbighshire and indicated that the National Assembly would be introducing the Bellwin Formula which provides assistance to local authorities for immediate works in connection with flooding incidents at the rate of 100% for eligible costs above a threshold of 209k. The Assembly required estimates of costs to be submitted by the end of November and Officers were currently engaged on that exercise.

The Chief Executive warned Members that there would probably be a demand on the Capital budget and other budgets over and above the initial £209K costs. He raised concerns over the budget priorities within the Assembly, with the ring fencing of monies to Education and Social Services and felt that the

Assembly should revisit its budget and take into account the needs of local authorities following the flooding crisis.

The Chief Executive finally paid tribute to the staff who had responded to the flood incidents and indicated that the Social Services Department was still canvassing residents to identify their needs.

The Emergency Planning Co-ordinator, by reference to a written report (circulated at the meeting) gave a detailed account of the flooding incidents within the County between 30th October and 9th November, 2000 and the action taken by the Authority in response to those incidents. He indicated that a debrief chaired by the Corporate Director, Environment would be held on 15th November to look at all aspects of those incidents.

All Members paid tribute to the efforts of staff in responding to the flooding incidents and also raised the following issues:-

- concerns over the ongoing instances of flooding in Corwen and queried whether it was the Council or the Environment Agency responsible to remedy matters;
- that the Assembly should now be making monies available for all Agencies to look at the infrastructures in place to avoid future flooding;
- that the W.L.G.A. should be pressurising the Assembly to make funds available for flood defence works, and
- that immediate action should be taken to divert water from the Mwrog Street culvert.

The Chief Executive indicated that Officers would be in a position to make an announcement on the closure of the Horseshoe Pass by the end of the week and there would also be a similarly timed response to the Mwrog Street situation.

The Chief Executive referred to the delegated powers conferred on him to act in emergencies. He felt that where it was necessary to consult Members reference should now be to consultation with the Leader or any appropriate Cabinet Lead Member .

The Leader thanked the Chief Executive, Emergency Planning Co-ordinator, Social Services staff, DSO staff and all other staff and Agencies who had worked closely together in responding to the flooding incidents. He also thanked the local media for their sympathetic coverage of the flooding incidents. The Leader indicated that Cabinet Members would be informed of the outcome of the debriefing to be held on 15th November 2000.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the report be received and noted, and*
- (b) *the County Council be recommended to authorise the Chief Executive when exercising his delegated powers to act in emergencies to consult where appropriate with the Leader of the Council or any appropriate Cabinet Lead Member.*

5. CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

(i) Denbighshire (North) Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Personal Services Scrutiny Committee of the 18 October 2000 that Councillors P.M. Jones and J.A. Smith be nominated as this Council's representatives to serve on the Denbighshire (North) Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee for the year 2000/2001 be approved.

(ii) **Area Environment Group Appointment**

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Environment Scrutiny Committee of the 18 September 2000 that Councillor P. Douglas be nominated as this Council's representative to serve on the Area Environment Group of the Environment Agency Wales be approved.

(iii) **Denbighshire Local Health Alliance**

RESOLVED that Councillor A.E. Roberts be nominated as a substitute representative to serve on the Denbighshire Local Health Alliance

6. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:

- (i) External advertisement for a Senior Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) in the Environment Directorate;
- (ii) External advertisement for the post of County Health and Safety Adviser in the Chief Executive's Directorate
(This item was considered as a matter of urgency, the Leader having given notice at the commencement of the meeting), and
- (iii) External advertisement for Occupational Health and Safety Clerical Assistant in the Chief Executive's Directorate
(This item was considered as a matter of urgency, the Leader having given notice at the commencement of the meeting).

RESOLVED that the external advertisement of the above mentioned posts be approved.

7. OUTCOME OF COUNTY CLARE VISIT

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking an agreement to nominate four members to visit Brussels on the 30th November and 1st December 2000, and four members to visit Vasternorrland on the 8th -11th March 2001 following the successful outcome of a visit to Clare County Council by a delegation from Denbighshire County Council.

The Head of Economic Regeneration reported that arrangements had been made by the Wales European Centre for a delegation from Denbighshire to visit Brussels on the 30th November and the 1st December. He also reported that following a previous report agreed by the County Council, the County Council of Vasternorrland in Sweden had now invited a delegation from Denbighshire to visit Vasternorrland on the 8th -11th March, 2001 and it was proposed that the delegation would comprise four Councillors and two Officers,.

With respect to the delegation to Brussels the Head of Economic Development suggested that the Officer delegation should comprise the Corporate Director of the Environment and himself.

Councillor D.M. Morris proposed seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes that the Member delegation to Brussels be comprised of the Objective One Executive Group i.e. the Leader, the Deputy Leader, Councillors K.E. Wells and P. Douglas. Councillor E.W. Williams suggested that Councillor K.E. Wells was not now a member of the Executive Group and proposed an amendment seconded by Councillor G.M. Kensler that the delegation should be politically balanced i.e. two Independent, one Labour and one Plaid Cymru. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was LOST. With respect to the delegation to Vasternorrland the Head of Economic Regeneration indicated that there was some urgency in nominating the delegation so as to enable Vasternorrland to make preparations. It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the Head of Economic Regeneration should form the Officer part of the delegation and Councillor W.R. Webb proposed seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes that the

Chairman of the County Council and the Leader of the County Council be nominated as two members of the delegation and that the Cabinet give further consideration to the remaining two representatives.

The Head of Economic Regeneration referred to the visit to County Clare and indicated that a presentation thereon would be provided to the Modernising Panel at the end of November.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the Leader, Deputy Leader, Councillors K.E. Wells and P. Douglas (members of the Objective One Executive Group) together with the Corporate Director for Environment and the Head of Economic Regeneration be nominated as this Authority's representatives to visit Brussels on the 30th November and 1st December 2000, and*
- (b) *the Chair of the County Council and the Leader of the Council be nominated to form part of the delegation to visit Vasternorrland on the 8th - 11th March, 2001. The remaining part of the delegation be appointed at a later date and the delegation to be accompanied by the Chief Executive and Head of Economic Regeneration.*

8. LOCAL ENTERPRISE AGENCIES

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval in relation to the future provision of enterprise agency services in Conwy and Denbighshire; the disaggregation of assets of the existing agencies and the nomination of Directors to the board of the successor agency.

The Head of Economic Regeneration reported that since local government reorganisation two local enterprise agencies had served the unitary authority areas of Conwy and Denbighshire, namely Coastal Enterprise Ltd and Clwydfro Cyfyngedig and this Council was constitutionally involved with both agencies as it nominated directors to serve on the boards of both companies. Consultants had been jointly appointed by the two councils and Celtec in 1999 to review the service and had concluded that it would be preferable for the two agencies to each serve just one unitary authority area.

Directors of the two agencies had expressed their support for a proposal whereby Clwydfro Cyfyngedig became the agency serving Denbighshire and Coastal Enterprise Ltd. served Conwy and the current assets of each company transferred with it to its new area of operation. Directors also supported a proposal whereby fixed assets became the property of the agency which would in future serve the unitary authority area in which they were located.

The Head of Economic Regeneration further reported that the functions of Clwydfro Cyfyngedig would also be the subject of further discussions with Denbighshire following a review to be undertaken by the Assembly of business support.

In response to Members' concerns regarding the number of directors to be appointed to Clwydfro Cyfyngedig the Chief Executive suggested that the officers should reflect further on the matter in order to obtain a proper balance between local authority directors and private sector directors. Councillor E.W. Williams referred to the present County Council membership on Clwydfro and suggested that the new local authority directors should represent all areas throughout the Authority. The Head of Economic Regeneration reported that his officers, in conjunction with the Legal Department would need to look at the constitution of Clwydfro and report back further. Councillor D.M. Morris also felt that the legal position regarding the County Council members currently appointed to Coastal Enterprise Ltd. should be clarified.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the arrangements whereby with effect from 1st April, 2001 Clwydfro Cyfyngedig becoming the local enterprise agency serving Denbighshire and Coastal Enterprise Ltd. becoming the local enterprise agency serving Conwy by approved in principle;*

- (b) *the arrangements for the disaggregation of the assets of the two companies whereby the current assets of each company transferred with it to its new area of operation and the fixed assets of each company becoming the property of the company which would serve the unitary authority in which they were located be approved;*
- (c) *the number of directors to represent the Council on the Board of Clwydfro Cyfyngedig from the 1st April, 2001 be deferred pending discussions with the Head of Economic Regeneration and the Officers from the Legal Department and those Officers be also requested to clarify the legal position of the existing County Council Directors on Coastal Enterprise Ltd., and*
- (ch) *that the responsibilities of the new Enterprise Agencies be clarified following the outcome of the National Assembly's reviews of business support in Wales.*

9. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Public Relations submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval of a new Communications Strategy which was aimed at elected members and all employees and which would contribute to the image and public perception of the Authority. The Public Relations Team would work in partnership with the Cabinet, the Council Officers and staff to deliver an integrated and proactive two phased Communications Strategy. In taking Members through the Communications Strategy Councillor Hughes referred to the excellent profiles undertaken by the Vale Advertiser on Cabinet Members and congratulated the reporter Mr. David Jones on those profiles.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the Communications Strategy as outlined to Members be approved, and*
- (b) *a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr. David Jones of the Vale Advertiser congratulating him on the profiles undertaken on the Denbighshire Cabinet Members.*

10. LEISURE SERVICE PRIMARY CARE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

(The Director of Personal Services declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.)

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking an endorsement on the submission of bids for funding Leisure Service health initiatives from the Denbighshire Local Health Group Primary Care Development Fund. Physical activity, regular exercise and fitness were all components of a healthy lifestyle in which Leisure Services played an important part. The Service wished to develop and extend its work in that area and had submitted two schemes to the Denbighshire Local Health Group for funding via their 2000/2001 Primary Care Development Fund. The two projects were a pilot GP Exercise Referral Scheme and the development of a "Girlzone Project".

RESOLVED *that the submission of Leisure Service bids for funding for a pilot GP Exercise Referral Scheme and the "Girlzone" Project from the Primary Care Development Fund be approved.*

11. COUNTRYSIDE "JETSETTER" PROJECT

Councillor R.W. Hughes Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking agreement to submit a bid for funding the "Jetsetter" Project as part of the Bruton Park Healthy Living Centre Initiative. Councillor Hughes explained that the project was part of the larger Bruton Park Healthy Living Centre Initiative which was seeking to address health inequalities in the Rhyl area. The "Jetsetter" Project was aimed at children in the Rhyl area with unhealthy lifestyles and was designed to encourage them to become involved in practical, outdoor conservation work and associated physical activity. Delivery of the project would be via a new Countryside Educational Warden post to be based at the Countryside Services Office at Brickfields Pond in Rhyl and the estimated cost of the "Jetsetter" Project over its five year life would be approximately £176,000.

RESOLVED that the Officers be authorised to submit a bid for funding for the Countryside "Jetsetter" Project as part of the Bruton Park Healthy Living Centre Initiative.

12. FOOD HYGIENE INSPECTIONS 2000/2001

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting authority to seek tenders for the employment of qualified Food Safety Consultants to carry out full programmed inspections of up to two hundred category B and C Denbighshire food premises. Denbighshire's Public Protection Department had a statutory duty to enforce and execute the provisions of the Food Safety Act of 1990 and during the first six months of this year the Council's Food Safety Section had been seriously disrupted for the reasons outlined in the report. As a consequence the number of programmed inspections carried out was well below the Council target and an acceptable percentage of the full year target would not be achieved. The employment of consultants to carry out the proposed inspections would be funded by utilising the budget under spend in salaries resulting from the periods of when the Environmental Health Officers (Food Safety) were not in post.

RESOLVED that the Head of Public Protection be authorised to seek tenders from qualified Food Safety Consultants to carry out a full programme of Inspections of up to 200 Category B & C Denbighshire Food Premises and to accept in conjunction with the Lead Member for the Environment the most suitable tender received.

13. HANDLING THE MEDIA - DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNCILLORS

Councillor D.M. Holder Lead Cabinet Member for Training and Development submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval for two half day media skills workshops for Cabinet Members to be arranged at a cost of £2,100 + V.A.T. + travel + expenses. Councillor Holder suggested that the funding of the workshops could be met from next year's budget as this year's funding within the Groups' budgets was now very limited.

The Lead Cabinet Member for Finance indicated that a bid against next year's budget would have to be made to fund the two workshops.

The Leader suggested that the matter be deferred for further discussion with the appropriate Lead Members and it was

RESOLVED accordingly.

12. W.L.G.A. COUNCIL

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

The Chief Executive reported that a letter had been received from the W.L.G.A. requesting how this Authority's representatives would vote and exercise its voting allocation at the W.L.G.A. Council on 24th November, 2000 i.e. "en bloc" or one vote per representative.

RESOLVED that the Authority's voting allocation at the W.L.G.A. Council be used as one vote per delegate.

13. MEETINGS WITH OFFICERS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

The Chief Executive referred to the numerous requests received from the National Assembly for meetings to take place with Cabinet Lead Members and felt that procedures should be put in place for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to authorise Cabinet Lead Members to attend such meetings and report back to the Cabinet thereon.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader be given delegated powers to authorise Cabinet Lead Members in consultation with the Leader to attend meetings of the National Assembly and other such organisations and to report back to Cabinet thereon.

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED 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 7, 9 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15. LLYS MARCHAN, RUTHIN

The Leader indicated that this item had been withdrawn .

16. 19 BEDFORD STREET, RHYL- DENBIGHSHIRE EARLY YEARS FORUM

Councillor W.R. Webb the Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) advising members of a request received from the Denbighshire Early Years Forum to pay rent in relation to a new lease of the above property for less than best consideration. The Forum was seeking to take a lease with Denbighshire County Council for part of 19 Bedford Street, Rhyl and had requested a nominal rent due to their charitable status. Councillor W.R. Webb proposed seconded by Councillor E.A. Owens that a near 100% discount be applied with a net rental of £1 a year to be paid and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) a near 100% discount be applied in accordance with the benchmarks as set out in the Council's Policy on "Leasing/Renting Council Property to Non-Commercial Organisations" and a rental of £1 a year be levied, and
- (b) on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Corporate Director of Environment in consultation with the County Clerk.

17. PROPERTY/LAND DISPOSALS

Councillor W.R. Webb Lead Cabinet Member for the Corporate Property Portfolio submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) updating members on the progress made on the disposal of land and property as instructed by Cabinet. The report identified the property/land holdings of the County Council which were currently with the Council's appointed estate agents which were in the process of being marketed.

Councillor Webb reported that the Fforddlas Depot, Rhyl had been withdrawn from the list of properties for sale and that part of the land holdings at Maes Derwen, St. Asaph had also been withdrawn.

Councillor Webb congratulated the Officers on the work undertaken with regard to the properties/land disposals.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

CABINET MEMBER: **Clr A. Owens**

DATE: **23 November 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 further 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

Lead Cabinet members are consulting in an ongoing manner 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 continue to consider as a matter of urgency the budget reductions to be identified and report their findings to Cabinet on a regular basis.

Subject: Social Services Revenue Budget 2000/01

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the anticipated year end revenue financial position.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

2.1	<u>Children's & Families</u>	£K	
	Underachieved cuts	128	Out of County Placements
	Out of County Placements	611	Service Strategy not achieved
	Savings	<u>(100)</u>	Reduction of Out County Placements
		<u>639</u>	
2.3	<u>Adult Services - Provider</u>	£K	
	Underachieved cuts	411	Full year effect of savings not realised
	Pressures	150	Residential Income Reducing
	New Pressure	25	S117 After Care
	Savings	(15)	Residential Home Staff
	Savings	<u>(40)</u>	Income Generation
		<u>531</u>	
2.5	<u>Adult Services - Purchasing</u>	£K	
	Pressures	111	Learning Disabilities
	Savings	(55)	Quality Initiatives
	Savings	(64)	Staff
	Services to Older People	(124)	Residential/Nursing Home
	Savings	<u>(40)</u>	Income Generation
		<u>(172)</u>	
2.7	<u>Strategic Planning</u>	£K	
	Retirement Costs	73	2 X Service Managers
	GALRO	48	Increase in number of cases
	Savings	<u>(432)</u>	Administration/Operational savings
		<u>(311)</u>	

3.0 SUMMARY

		<u>£K</u>	
	Children's & Families	639	
	Adult Services - Provider	531	
	Adult Services - Purchasing	(172)	
	Strategic Planning	(311)	
		<u>687</u>	

4.0 ACTION

Further measures are being introduced through the setting up of an Austerity Panel who will need to approve any request for expenditure/service above £50; travel restrictions of 300 miles per essential user per month and other tough monetary controls.

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, CULTURE & INFORMATION

Updated Budget Position 2000/01

SERVICE	DETAIL OF PRESSURE/SAVINGS	COST/ (SAVINGS) £K
Individual Schools budget	No projected overspend	-
Non School Funding	No projected overspend	-
Library & Information	No projected overspend	-
One Stop Shops	No projected overspend	-
Heritage & Culture	No projected overspend	-
ICT	No projected overspend	-
School Funds Held Centrally		
SEN	Current cost of Special Educational statutory needs excess of budget provision. A complete review of the service is in progress. (NB. Includes additional pressure of £50K since September reported last month)	500
School/College Transport	Additional cost of Education Transport following retendering of contracts	100
Advisory	Review of Advisory Service & Curricular Support Service being undertaken. CSS is subject to a joint Best Value review with Flintshire, Wrexham and Conwy	70
Client Services	Compliance with HSE Prohibition Notice in respect of replacement cookers following accident at one of the County's High Schools	18
	Salary savings in respect of delayed filling of post	(12)
	Insufficient budget to meet significant increase in repairs & maintenance costs for kitchen equipment projected figure to March 2001	30
	Good housekeeping savings	(15)

In respect of the Client overspends reported I am looking to achieve savings in other equipment budgets to meet the residue of the cost of the replacement cookers. I am also looking to achieve further Good Housekeeping savings towards the balance of the increased repairs and maintenance costs.

The potential savings of £50K which were discussed in respect of the proposed move from Mold to (say) Middle Lane would be offset by the cost of the disturbance payments and the ICT costs involved.

Potential Strategic Management staff savings which would have been offered in this report have, I understand, been taken corporately.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

<u>Service</u>	<u>Detail of pressure/saving</u>	<u>Cost/saving</u>
<u>Design & Construction</u>		£k
Underachieved Cuts	Budget transfer from Schools	50.
Saving	Reduce Property Maintenance	(50).
Saving	Rate Savings	(120).
<u>Property & Community</u>		
Unidentified Cuts	Budget Shortfall	253.
Underachieved Cuts	Ground Maintenance	40.
	Full year effect not realised	19.
Pressure	Car Park Income	40.
	Waste Disposal Costs	100.
Saving	Refuse Collection Income	(34).
	Support Costs	(35).
	Coast Protection Maintenance	(11).
	Refuse Leasing & Bin Bags	(20).
<u>Highways & Transportation</u>		
Underachieved Cuts	Full year effect not realised	11.
Pressure	Winter Maintenance	25.
	Structures	20.
Savings	Support Costs	(20).
	Leasing	(11).
	Reduce Maintenance	(25).
<u>Housing Services</u>		
None		

BUDGET MONITORING 2000/2001 - AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2000

Service	Detail of pressure / savings	2000/2001 Overspend/ Underspend
		£
Chief Executives Dept	the figures have changed from last mth due to the appointment of new staff with no budget and the transfer of £5000 income to legal and admin	12,260
Emergency Planning	The forecast has reduced from £7k but the loss of grant, staff regradings has meant the budget is under pressure.	4,469
County Clerks	Committe administration Solicitors Civics Translation Land Charges Registrars Coroners Reg of Electors	6,210 35,877 362 -14,912 -7,523 3,200 36,537 487 60,238
	The overspend of solicitors budget has been increased due to the appointment of the social services solicitor. Coroners is an ongoing problem due to the increase in the number of cases.	
Revenues	The overspend is due to the need to take on temporary staff to clear the backlog of claims etc	40,000
Public protection	The prediction has changed from an overspend to an underspend because of staff leaving. we need to discuss the budget in detail with Gary Sumner bec of the changes Ken Ewing's planning.	-20,000
Personnel		nil

APPENDIX 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANALYSIS OF PRESSURES 2000/01

	Items to be capitalised £000	Items likely recommended as allowable £000	Items likely recommended for penalty £000	Savings £000	TOTAL £000	Movement since the last report £000
Education, Culture & ICT						
- Transport		100			100	
- S E N		500			500	
- Advisors			70		70	
- Other				21	21	
sub total	0	600	70	21	691	(+71)
Planning & Development						
- Leisure			29		29	
- Resorts & Attractions			103		103	
- Other		18	17		35	
sub total	0	18	149	0	167	(-75)
Technical Services						
- Redundancies	171				0	
- Design etc		50		-120	-70	
- Property & Community			353		353	
- Highways					0	
- Housing					0	
sub total	171	50	353	-120	283	(+111)
Social Services						
- Redundancies	73				0	
- Children s		639			639	
- Adult - provider			531		531	
- Adult - purchaser				-172	-172	
- Strategic Planning				-384	-384	
sub total	73	639	531	-556	614	0
Chief Executive						
- Policy & Secretariat		12			12	
- Legal & Admin		60			60	
- Other		4		-20	-16	
sub total	0	76	0	-20	56	(+2)
Finance						
sub total		40			40	0
Total position for Services	244	1423	1103	-675	1851	(+109)
Corporate						
- Youth Offending team		90			90	
- Precepts		80			80	
- Restructure of Senior Management plus Redundancy	365	130			130	
Total Corporate	365	300	0	0	300	0
TOTAL	609	1723	1103	-675	2151	(+109)

Note.

Balances brought forward from last financial year were less in deficit than had previously been anticipated by £319k. This is the only funding available for the costs of the recent flooding incidents. It is hoped to recover most of the costs in excess of the Bellwin threshold of £209k from the Assembly.

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

CABINET

23 NOVEMBER 2000

AGENDA ITEMS NOS. 4 AND 5 NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CABINET - 23RD NOVEMBER 2000

LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

A REPORT BY THE LEADER

1. PURPOSE

- 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. BACKGROUND

- 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. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 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.

CARROG C.P.

Local Member: Councillor W.R. Webb

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 2

Cllr W.R. Webb, OBE. 18.12.00

Mr Richard Keith Lloyd, Penarth Farm, Holyhead Road, Corwen 18.12.00

NOMINATION

Cllr W.R. Webb, OBE.

Mr David Jones, OBE, The Cottage, Carrog, Corwen.

NEW TERMS OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 18.12.00

CORWEN C.P.

Local Member: Councillor W.R. Webb

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 2

Mrs Zena Mabel Jones, Gwynfryn, The Crescent, Corwen 26.2.01

Mr William Richard Jones, Garth, 2 The Terrace, Corwen 18.12.00

Mrs Susan Snow, Ty Eira, Godre'r Gaer, Corwen 18.12.00

NOMINATION

Mr William Richard Jones, Garth, 2 The Terrace, Corwen.

Mrs Susan Snow, Ty Eira, Godre'r Gaer, Corwen.

NEW TERMS OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 18.12.00

LLANDRILLO C.P.

Local Member: Councillor C.H. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 2

Mr W.O. Jones, Garn, Llandrillo, Corwen 18.12.00

Mr Emyr Geraint Roberts, Cryd-yr-Awel, Llandrillo, Corwen 18.12.00

NOMINATION

Mr Arwel D. Jones, Tyn y Coed, Y Faerdref, Llandrillo, Corwen.

Mr Emyr Geraint Roberts, Cryd-yr-Awel, Llandrillo, Corwen.

NEW TERMS OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 18.12.00

PRESTATYN YSGOL BODNANT INFANTS C.P.

Local Member: Councillor S. Drew - N. Hugh-Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: NIL

Cllr N. Hugh-Jones 28.1.01

Mr John Edward Carson, 11 Bryneithin Avenue, Prestatyn 19.1.03

Mrs Yvonne Freida Lawrence, 40 Aberconway Road, Prestatyn 28.1.01

NOMINATION

Cllr N. Hugh-Jones.

Mrs Yvonne Freida Lawrence, 40 Aberconway Road, Prestatyn.

NEW TERMS OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 28.01.01

RHYL, BRYN HEDYDD C.P.

Local Member: Councillor A.E.W. Jones - P.M. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 4

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr A.E.W. Jones 28.1.01

Miss Julie Hartless, 43 Highfield Park, Rhyl 15.3.04

Mr Des Manifold, 5 Lon Bedw, Rhyl 5.5.02

Mrs Jennifer Bruer, 4 Highfield Road, Rhyl 5.5.02

NOMINATION

Mr Wayne Roberts, 4 Islwyn Avenue, Rhyl.

NEW TERM OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 28.01.01

RHYL, YSGOL EMMANUEL

Local Member: Councillor P. Douglas - G. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 4

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr P. Douglas 19.2.03

Mr Michael J. Pender, 35 Brookdale Road, Rhyl 15.3.04

Mr Brian Siddall, Grosvenor Avenue, Rhyl 19.2.03

Mr William Elwyn Conway J.P., 71 Vale Road, Rhyl 18.12.00

NOMINATION

Mr William Elwyn Conway J.P., 71 Vale Road, Rhyl.

NEW TERM OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 18.12.00

RHYL, YSGOL LLEWELYN

Local Member: Councillor E.A. Owens - W.G. Thomas - P.J. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr F. Shaw

7.4.02

Reverend John Lomas, Grange Court, Rhyl

21.9.03

Mr D. Foulds, Flat 7, Llanbedr Hall, Llanbedr, Ruthin

Disqualified

NOMINATION

Cllr P.J. Williams.

RHYL HIGH SCHOOL

Local Member: Councillor E.A. Owens - W.G. Thomas - P.J. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 5

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr W.G. Thomas

21.9.03

Cllr P. Douglas

19.2.03

Cllr F. Shaw

19.2.03

Cllr E.A. Owens

19.2.03

Mr William Elwyn Conway J.P., 71 Vale Road, Rhyl

28.1.01

NOMINATION

Mr William Elwyn Conway J.P., 71 Vale Road, Rhyl

NEW TERM OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 28.1.01

RUTHIN YSGOL BRYNHYFRYD

Local Member: Councillor E.C. Edwards - K.N. Hawkins - M.M. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 5

No. of Vacancies: 2

Cllr K.N. Hawkins

21.9.03

Cllr E.W. Williams

16.9.01

Cllr E.C. Edwards

22.4.01

Mr W.G. Williams, Wern, Ruthin

18.12.00

Mr G.LI. Evans, 4 Maes Derwen, Llanbedr D.C., Ruthin

18.12.00

NOMINATION

Cllr M.M. Jones.

NEW TERM OF OFFICE TOP COMMENCE 18.12.00

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CABINET MEMBER: Councillors Rhiannon Hughes and David Morris,
Lead Members for Culture, Leisure, Tourism and
Environment

DATE: 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To approve the attached Denbighshire Landscape Strategy as a draft for further consultation.

2. Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 Preparation of a Landscape Strategy for Denbighshire is a commitment in the Council's current Statement of Priorities and is a policy in your Countryside Strategy. At this consultative draft stage, copies of the document have been circulated to Cabinet members only but reference copies have been placed in group rooms.

2.2 The draft strategy has emerged over a period of 2 years as part of the Countryside Services' work (in conjunction with a cross departmental Project Team) on the new CCW sponsored and developed all-Wales landscape assessment methodology known as LANDMAP (Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process). Denbighshire has been one of the first few authorities in Wales to embrace the new methodology, and has received grant aid from CCW to carry out the work. Members will recall that the Planning Committee agreed to proceed to carry out a LANDMAP assessment in July 1998 (Min 212).

2.3 LANDMAP aims to increase understanding of the fabric of the Welsh landscape and what makes it distinctive. It adopts an integrated approach, assessing and evaluating the different aspects of landscape, including geology and landform, biodiversity, historic and cultural associations, visual character, development and rural land-use, and public perception of the landscape. The central element of LANDMAP is a very detailed computerised geographical information system (GIS) and associated databases. This provides a framework for future landscape management and conservation policies and decisions. In addition to providing a basis for the Landscape Strategy, the LANDMAP database will be used for a variety of other purposes, including informing planning and land management decisions; AONB boundary review; UDP review; Forestry Strategies; Local Biodiversity Action Plan; etc.

2.4 The Landscape Strategy covers part of Flintshire and Wrexham. This is to take in the entire Clwydian Range AONB and the adjoining areas which could be included in any future extension of the AONB. The document divides the study area into 45 cohesive landscape character areas, summarises their qualities and, most importantly, sets out key management objectives for each area.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 Not applicable. Costs covered by existing revenue budget.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 Costs covered from within existing base budget.

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 At the outset of the LANDMAP process a Steering Group was established to guide the work and to act as a sounding board. The Steering Group was set up to reflect the views of a range of organisations with an interest in the landscape. Representatives from the following organisations were invited onto the Steering Group: Flintshire/Wrexham County Councils, CCW, Forestry Commission, Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, Environment Agency, Welsh Development Agency, Cadw, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Country Landowners Association, Farmers Union of Wales, NFU and the Timber Growers Association. The Steering Group have been involved in LANDMAP and the Strategy from the outset and have agreed that the draft document should proceed to wider consultation.

5.2 If Cabinet agree the document, it is proposed to undertake consultations early next year. A six week consultation period is envisaged. Copies of the document will be sent to a wide range of interested organisations, including Town and Community Councils, and will be made available for public inspection at libraries and other Council offices. It is also proposed to issue a news release and hold a public open meeting during the consultation period to promote awareness of the draft Strategy.

5.3 The eventually agreed Landscape Strategy will be Council policy, and will therefore require the formal approval of full Council. However, at this consultative draft stage it is proposed that Cabinet give authority to proceed with consultation. When the results of the consultations are available they will be considered by the Steering Group prior to reporting to the relevant Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council.

6. Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 LANDMAP and its associated Landscape Strategy are an important part of the environmental conservation elements of Local Agenda 21. It is also a commitment in the Council's agreed Statement of Priorities and Countryside Strategy.

7. Recommendation

7.1 **To approve the Draft Denbighshire Landscape Strategy for further consultations**

APPENDIX NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

CABINET MEMBER : CLLR I GERMAN

DATE : 23 NOVEMBER 2000

SUBJECT : CHILDREN'S PROMISE CHARITY APPEAL

1. **DECISION SOUGHT**

To decide whether support is to be given for a further year to the Children's Promise Charity Appeal.

2. **REASONS FOR SEEKING DECISION**

Children's Promise raises money to offer significant help to children who face abuse, have run away, are excluded from school or suffer from poverty. Contributions from employees and members are made via a payroll deduction service giving tax benefits. Contributions are given out of gross pay, not net pay, and the government will give a charitable 10% top up bonus on the donation. Children's Promise was operated by the Authority last year and 499 persons contributed, raising £5895.00.

3. **COST IMPLICATIONS**

The authority will need to produce enrolment forms and distribute them to all employees and members at a cost of approximately £100.

4. **FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

No significant budgetary implications.

5. **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

None.

6. **IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

None

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

To seek approval for a continuation of support for the Children's Promise Charity Appeal for a further year.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

CABINET MEMBER: D Morris

DATE: 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: Transportation Study for Denbigh

1 Decision Sought

The reports are being submitted to Cabinet to agree setting up of the steering group noting that the policy will be formulated in due course.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

The County Council, with substantial financial support from WDA, has commissioned a transportation study for Denbigh. The study was founded on the following basic principles:-

- to maintain the vitality of the town by ensuring good accessibility;
- to minimise environmental impact;
- to encourage use of alternatives to the car.

The report, copies of which have been circulated to Cabinet Members, has identified problems for a number of modes of transport and recommends potential measures to resolve them.

The Preferred Strategy is outlined on pages 32 - 33 of the Study report. It consists principally of improved facilities for pedestrians and bus users, signing schemes and traffic calming. A number of schemes are proposed that are directly related to development proposals. Their timing and funding are allied to the developments themselves.

3 Cost Implications

Implementation of the Preferred Strategy would incur the following capital costs:-

Short term	£31,500
Medium term	£420,000
Long term	£55,000

Implementation of the Study recommendations will be dependent on identifying the necessary capital funding. The WDA contributed 80% of the cost of commissioning the Study though currently they do not have any financial commitment to implement the Study's recommendations. However, subject to the Council adopting the Study recommendations, it is likely that the Agency will financially support the implementation of the preferred strategy

programme from the next financial year. It would also be possible to make a bid for funding from the Council's own capital programme in due course.

4 Financial Controller Statement

N/A

5 Consultation Carried Out

Extensive consultation with Local Groups and the Community was undertaken at an early stage to identify issues for investigation. At an intermediate stage this process was repeated to assess the interim findings and recommendations.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The Study recommendations are intended to support the Council's efforts to regenerate Denbigh's economy and support Local Agenda 21 aims.

7 Recommendation

That Cabinet approve the Preferred Strategy outlined in the Transportation Study for Denbigh.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

CABINET MEMBER: D Morris

DATE: 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: Transportation Study for Rhyl

1 Decision Sought

The reports are being submitted to Cabinet to agree setting up of the steering group and that the policy will be formulated in due course.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

The County Council, with substantial financial support from WDA, has commissioned a transportation study for Rhyl. The study was founded on the following basic principles:-

- to improve accessibility to the town centre and sea front facilities;
- to encourage use of public transport;
- to minimise environmental impacts of traffic, especially in residential areas;
- to reduce congestion within the heart of the town;
- to improve safety;
- to encourage walking and cycling, in particular for short journeys within the town;
- that these aims are met without provision of new road links to the sea front from the A525.

The report, copies of which have been circulated to Cabinet Members, considers a number of themes or modes of transport examining in turn for each of them current provision, problems and potential measures. Evaluates the results of the consultation exercise and identifies issues raised. These indicate that the single most important problem identified was parking. Consequently this topic is considered in the Study in greater depth than the others.

The Preferred Strategy is outlined on pages 60 - 63 of the Study report. It is split into non-parking and parking elements. The non-parking elements consist principally of improved facilities for pedestrians, tourist based park and ride/landtrain proposals, environmental improvements for the lower High Street and traffic calming in residential areas. Numerous schemes are proposed that are directly related to development proposals. Their timing and funding are allied to the developments themselves.

There are two strands to the parking strategy, to improve enforcement and to improve car park security, quality and signing. A three phased approach is proposed for consideration in due course by the proposed working group.

3 Cost Implications

3.1 The total capital cost of the non-parking elements of the Preferred Strategy is as follows:-

High priority	£526,000
Medium priority	£1,205,000
Low priority	£50,000

3.2 Implementation of the parking strategy would incur the following capital costs:-

Short term	£761,000
Medium term	£387,000
Long term	£101,000

3.3 Subject to adopting the CPZ proposals, the parking strategy potentially could generate a net revenue of £54,800 per annum in the short term.

Implementation of the Study recommendations will be dependent on identifying the necessary capital funding. The WDA contributed 80% of the cost of commissioning the Study though currently they do not have any financial commitment to implement the Study's recommendations. However, subject to the Council adopting the Study recommendations, it is likely that the Agency will financially support its implementation from the next financial year. It would also be possible to include a bid for funding as part of the next Package Bid submission to the National Assembly for Wales in August 2001. Alternatively a bid could be made for funding from the Council's own capital sources. All options will be examined in detail to identify the most appropriate course of action.

4 Financial Controller Statement

N/A

5 Consultation Carried Out

Extensive consultations were undertaken at an early stage with Local Groups and the Community to identify issues for investigation and at an intermediate stage further consultations were carried out to evaluate the findings of the interim report.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The Study recommendations are intended to support the council's efforts to regenerate Rhyl's economy and support Local Agenda 21 aims.

7 Recommendation

That Cabinet approve the Preferred Strategy outlined in the Transportation Study for Rhyl and the formation of a Rhyl Members Transportation Strategy Working Group.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Alby Roberts

DATE: 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: Rehabilitation Services for People who Misuse Drugs
and / or Alcohol

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To approve the Guidance on Eligibility for Rehabilitation Programmes for People who Misuse Drugs and / or Alcohol (Appendix 1).

2. Reason for Seeking the Decision

2.1 The Social Services Directorate provides a range of services for people who misuse drugs and / or alcohol, including residential and community based rehabilitation services. These services are provided under the NHS Act 1977. Social Services is also required under the Community Care legislation to ensure that there is fair access to services and that services are targeted effectively. To achieve this, guidance on eligibility and priority for services is required.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 The budget for 2000 - 2001 for residential rehabilitation services is £54,330. Agreeing the attached guidance on eligibility for the services will ensure that this budget is targeted on those in greatest need and those most likely to benefit from the service.

4. Financial Controller Statement

These measures should assist budgetary control by targeting clients with the greatest need.

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 Services for people who misuse drugs and / or alcohol is a key area for joint working and the guidance on eligibility for services was developed in consultation with a range of social services staff, the Denbighshire Drug and Alcohol Local Action Team, CAIS, the Young Person's Substance Misuse Service and the relevant Consultant Psychiatrist.

6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 Well targeted services to help people who misuse drugs and / or alcohol may impact on a range of corporate policy areas including:

- Community Safety - services may contribute to the prevention of crime; and
- Social Inclusion - services may assist people to gain / regain their skills, confidence and employment.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Cabinet approve the Guidance on Eligibility for Rehabilitation Programmes for People who Misuse Drugs and / or Alcohol (Appendix 1).

People who Misuse Drugs and / or Alcohol
Guidance on Eligibility for Rehabilitation Programme
(Residential and / or Community based)

Denbighshire Social Services Directorate

November 2000

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following a detoxification programme, some individuals with a career in drug or alcohol misuse may benefit from a period of time limited rehabilitation enabling them to maintain a drug / alcohol free lifestyle. This document sets out the criteria that Social Services will use to determine eligibility for accessing a rehabilitation programme. These criteria will be used for residential and / or community based programmes.
- 1.2 Assessment is the key process in establishing needs and determining eligibility for services. A person will be eligible for a rehabilitation programme when a comprehensive assessment of his / her needs shows that he / she has the priority needs described in the criteria below. The person must also provide evidence of his / her motivation to accept help.
- 1.3 The need for assessment should be identified before or as soon as possible during the detoxification treatment programme. If the initial assessment is favourable, the Specialist Social Worker may negotiate an extension to the detoxification programme (1 - 2 weeks). This is to enable more detailed assessment and examination of options.
- 1.4 These criteria are primarily for use by the Specialist Social Worker (Drugs & Alcohol) and other staff contributing to the assessment. The support of the GP and other health professionals will be particularly crucial.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 A person with an alcohol or drug problem will be eligible for a rehabilitation programme if:
 - he / she meets one of the Priority Levels listed below; and
 - this is the most cost effective way of meeting his / her needs; and
 - he / she has successfully completed a detoxification programme; and
 - he / she is co-operating fully with the Community Drugs and Alcohol service; and
 - he / she can demonstrate a commitment to achieving a drug / alcohol free lifestyle.

Priority Level 1. People whose physical safety is at immediate and high risk and who cannot be left alone. A child suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. There may be no carer present, or the carer may be unable to provide appropriate or sufficient support.

Priority Level 2. People who are unable to maintain a safe environment without substantial help from others, or a child whose development is significantly impaired. This would include people who require assistance with personal care tasks several times every day. Where there is a carer present, they too require help and support in order to continue.

Priority Level 3. People whose loss of daily living skills (or level of dependence) means that a high level of support is required. There is an on-going risk of physical harm or allegations requiring investigation. This includes people who need help every day; carer showing significant signs of stress.

2.2 The Priority Level will be determined using the agreed Social Services Directorate Risk / Needs Matrix.

NB A person in one or more of the following categories will **not** usually be eligible for rehabilitation services arranged by Denbighshire Social Services:

- the responsibility for rehabilitation services lies with another agency;
- on release from prison, the person has not achieved a drug / alcohol free lifestyle;
- the person's main motivation in seeking rehabilitation services is to secure a bail or probation order;
- previous rehabilitation programmes have been arranged in accordance with the guidelines in section 3 below, and the programmes were not successful (this is irrespective of which agency arranged the programmes).

3. Ensuring Fair Access to Services

3.1 Denbighshire Social Services has a responsibility to ensure that all clients and potential clients defined as eligible have fair access to services. To achieve this, guidance on the level of service and also on the sums of money usually required have been developed.

3.2 Where a residential rehabilitation programme is assessed as needed:

- the initial placement will be for 6 - 8 weeks;
- the placement will be reviewed after 6 weeks;
- an extension up to 12 weeks may be arranged in which case there will be a further review after 12 weeks;
- following a residential placement of 6 - 8 weeks, a move to a community based option may be appropriate.

3.3 Subject to meeting the criteria in section 2 above, a person undertaking a residential rehabilitation programme of 6 - 8 weeks may usually have 2 attempts in one year, up to a maximum of two years.

3.4 Subject to meeting the criteria in section 2 above, a person undertaking a residential rehabilitation programme of 12 weeks may usually have one attempt per year, up to a maximum of two years.

3.5 Subject to meeting the criteria in section 2 above, a person undertaking a residential rehabilitation programme of 6 - 8 weeks plus limited community support, may usually have one attempt per year, up to a maximum of two years.

- 3.6 The cost guideline for a residential rehabilitation programme is £237 per week (based on DSS levels). This amount will not usually be exceeded. Where it is necessary to exceed this amount, this must be authorised by the Service Manager.

4. Published Information

- 4.1 A leaflet will be developed explaining these criteria to individuals whose needs are being assessed.
- 4.2 These guidance notes are primarily for reference by Social Services and other professionals. However, they are freely available to members of the public and other agencies on request.

Drugs & Alcohol

Appendix 1

Physical safety of self or others	1) Very high risk to physical safety of individual or carer. Intervention needed immediately.	1) High risk to physical safety of individual or carer requiring prompt intervention	2) Strong indicators of continuing physical risk / inability to maintain a safe environment	3) Ongoing risk of harm to individual or others - daily support needed to maintain situation	4) Some concerns about physical safety of individual or carer - risk potential or slight
Physical health and development, functional ability regarding safety, comfort and convenience.	1) Addiction dominating family life with breakdown imminent. Physical health showing significant deterioration.	2) Addiction placing severe strain on individual, their family or carers. Severe difficulties anticipated.	3) Deterioration or return to addiction highly likely. Reliable evidence of deterioration in physical health without support.	4) Some concern about deterioration or return to addiction.	5) Some concerns about demands placed on family and carers by addiction.
Mental health of self and others	2) Addiction having major effects on mental health of individual , their family or carer.	3) Addiction precipitating acute depression/or other mental illness in individual, their family or carer.	4) Mental health affecting functional abilities.	5) Addiction beginning to affect mental health of individual , their family or carer.	6) Some concerns about mental health of individual, their family or carer.
Opportunities for social and emotional development / independent living rehabilitation	3) Loss of daily living skills or high level of dependence on others. Requires a high level of social / emotional support and frequent monitoring	4) Limited daily living or social skills requiring some support from others in order to stay at home. Regular monitoring required.	5) Reduced quality of life due to limited daily living skills / emotional difficulties. Minimal help required	6) Unable to fulfil ambitions due to limited daily living /social skills or emotional difficulties	7) Partially unable to fulfil ambitions due to limited daily living / social skills or emotional difficulties
Opportunities for social interaction and / or community involvement	4) Very isolated - contact with family / partner / others absent of damaging	5) No involvement outside immediate family / partner / household / neighbours	6) Social contacts strictly limited by mental disorder or living situation	7) Limited opportunity for social contact	8) Intermittent opportunity to enjoy full social contact. May need advice and information to build up social contacts

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services
DATE: 23rd November 2000
SUBJECT: Housing Options

1 Decision Sought

1.1 To endorse the recommendations of the Housing Options Working Party and seek progress on a preferred option as soon as possible.

1.2 To recommend these proposals to full Council - a report has been placed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council on 28th November 2000.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 The Council has been seeking ways of securing investment of £33 million or more which is required to bring its housing stock up to modern standards but which is not available under current Public Sector borrowing rules. 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 in order to secure the necessary investment in the dwellings.

2.2 A Seminar for all Members of the Council was held on 26th September to explain the options for the future of the Housing Stock.

2.3 At its meeting on 2nd November the Working Party received an Options Appraisal from the Lead Consultants (Copy attached) and advice from the other Consultants and after discussion agreed the following amended Recommendation

(a) Stock transfer is adopted as the preferred option, the Working Party to continue to review other options for securing the investment needed within the housing stock; this includes Objective One funding;

(b) consultation is commenced with all tenants so that tenants may form an informed opinion regarding transfer and the Council may assess the views, concerns and aspirations of tenants in this respect. The Working Party continue to review the timetable;

(c) a decision whether or not to proceed to formal consultation, and thereafter ballot, is made by the Working Party in light of the feedback from tenants, following initial informal consultation.

(d) Tenant representatives on the Working Party should be invited to speak to the proposals when these recommendations are considered by the full Council

3 Cost Implications

3.1 Stock Transfer will involve the new organisation in borrowing some £20m-£30m to purchase the properties from the Council, the exact valuation depends upon the results of the recent Stock Condition Survey and on future assessment of rental incomes and repair and management costs. There will also be a need to borrow another £30 - £50m over time to implement the programme of improvements. The Council could receive a 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. These are currently estimated as follows:

Budget	2000/2001	2001/2002 Pre Ballot	2001/2002 Post Ballot
SCA from NAFW	£ 70,000	£ 50,000	
HRA Capital	£ 60,000	£ 45,000	
General Fund	£ 10,000	£ 5,000	
Charged to Capital Receipt			£1,370,000
Total	£140,000	£100,000	£1,370,000

The National Assembly has provisionally agreed that the remaining £35,000 of the allocated SCA for this year which will not now be required can be used for other Housing Capital purposes.

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, and the Unions.

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 recommendations of the Housing Options Working Party be accepted..

Denbighshire County Council

Housing Services
Council Offices
Ruthin
Denbighshire
LL15 1YN

Report: Options for Investment

Presented by;

**Pennington
Consulting & Support**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council, through the Working Group has been considering options for future investment within the Denbighshire Council housing stock for some time. This work has included commissioning an option appraisal, by HACAS Consulting, which was reported upon in December 1998.
- 1.2 Since that time the Council has:
- Established the Working Group
 - Undertaken initial consultation with tenant and elected member representatives
 - Commissioned a stock condition survey
 - Appointed consultants to assist with the process
 - Consulted with the National Assembly for Wales
- 1.3 The Working Group and independently, tenants, have received training and further information regarding the options available to secure stock investment.
- 1.4 The Local Government and Housing Committee of the National Assembly have commissioned a review of stock transfer policy and specifically to examine whether the 'Community Ownership' model which has been proposed for Wales is sufficiently flexible. It is understood that this review will report next year.

2. INFORMATION SUMMARY

HACAS Consulting Report, December 1998

- 2.1 The report analysed the ability of the Council, through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), together with capital allocations to meet the investment requirements of the housing stock as it was estimated at the time. This work concluded that the Council would have a significant shortfall in resources, compared to the investment needs of the housing stock. The report also concluded that the HRA could go into deficit in the medium term, requiring a reduction in maintenance expenditure, in order to balance the account.
- 2.2 The report considered the potential for securing investment within the housing stock, outside of the HRA. It concluded that the only viable option would be for the Council to transfer the housing stock to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). In this respect the estimated value of the stock was calculated, using a prescribed methodology, called the Tenanted Market Valuation (TMV). This estimated that the stock had a value of between £20-£30m.
- 2.3 The report concluded that the Council faced significant investment challenges in respect of the housing stock and insufficient resources to tackle them and that stock transfer should be investigated as the preferred option.

FPD Savills Stock Condition Survey (all values include professional fees and VAT)

2.4 This report, which is still in draft format has suggested that the investment needs of the housing stock are greater than originally anticipated, both in extent and cost. It is estimated that £202m is required to meet the investment needs of the stock over the next 30 years. Within the first 5 years, investment of £56m is required compared to the £46.2m cost estimated in the HACAS report. This is summarised below:

Cost Period	HACAS	Savills	Difference
5 Years	£46.2m	£56m	+£9.8m
30 Years	£122m	£202m	+£80m

2.5 The exact implications of the stock condition survey are still being examined with further work being required with Savills. When this work is complete revised valuations will be calculated which will take into account changes in rental income and management costs, as well as the stock condition information. However it is anticipated that the valuation will change and that it is likely to be lower than originally anticipated.

3. OPTIONS

3.1 Without attempting to repeat the work undertaken by HACAS the options available to the Council can be summarised as:

Stay as you are – Do Nothing

Stock Transfer

PFI

Other models

3.2 There are a number of other models that have been suggested to facilitate securing investment in Council housing stock. Some of these models require a change in the way in which public sector borrowing is measured. The Government has indicated very clearly that they do not intend to do this. Other models require some form of public sector resource support. For example the ‘Arms length’ management company concept proposed for England in the Housing Green Paper, would require public resources. Within England, DETR have indicated that the resources available will be very small in comparison to the potential demand. In Wales, while there are to date no firm proposals to allow such vehicles, it has, in any event, been indicated that there are no additional resources available to support such an approach.

- 3.3 The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) within Housing is in its infancy, with a number of 'pathfinder' schemes currently being developed in England. These schemes are directed at relatively small scale projects, to undertake either brown field development or re-investment in existing stock. There have been no schemes to date, where the numbers of dwellings involved have been comparable to the housing stock of Denbighshire. It is generally perceived that PFI finance is relatively expensive, although there is to date no firm evidence to support this view.
- 3.4 For a PFI scheme to go forward, some level of public sector support is usually required, through a 'PFI Credit'. No such resources are available within Wales. In conclusion therefore, PFI, is not a viable option for Denbighshire at this time.
- 3.5 The Council could choose to 'do nothing' at this time. Such an approach would clearly not provide for the investment which the housing stock requires. If this view was taken, the National Assembly would expect the Council to put forward an alternative strategy as part of the Housing Strategy and Operational Plan process. In the absence of such a strategy, the National Assembly may find it increasingly difficult to support the Council with capital resources to invest in the stock. At this stage, it is difficult to imagine what such an alternative strategy might be. In the absence of securing investment in the housing stock, there would be concerns that tenants would be faced with unacceptable risks to their health and safety and that the stock, or parts of it would become increasingly difficult to let. Such a situation could easily lead to a spiral of decline for parts of the housing stock.
- 3.6 Stock transfer at this time, still appears to be a viable option for Denbighshire, subject to revision of the stock value. Additionally it would appear to be the only realistic and viable option open to the Council, if it wishes to secure resources to meet the identified repair and investment needs of the housing stock, at this time. On balance it is not likely that an alternative, viable approach will be available within the next 2-3 years, to Denbighshire.

4. TRANSFER OPTIONS

- 4.1 If the decision to pursue stock transfer is made, there a number of options regarding the format of the receiving landlord. On the presumption that transfer to an existing Registered Social Landlord (RSL) is not appropriate, transfer could be undertaken using one of the following models:
- (a) Company limited by guarantee; or
 - (b) Industrial and Provident Society.
- 4.2 The 'Community Ownership' model proposed by the National Assembly, would be better suited to a company, with it generally being easier to achieve the split of voting rights and representation, in this way. It is suggested therefore, that subject to specific legal advice that a company limited by guarantee would be the most appropriate format for a transfer in Denbighshire.

4.3 Either of the above models can have ‘charitable’ status, although the registration procedures and regulatory requirements associated with the two models do differ significantly.

5. TRANSFER IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 The stock transfer process has two main parts to it.

5.2 In the first instance the Council is required to consult with tenants, both informally through newsletters etc and then formally through the ‘offer document’ and a ballot of tenants to gauge support for the proposal. This approach allows the Council to genuinely consult with tenants to gauge views towards transfer. Through research the Council can assess the views, concerns and aspirations of tenants and provide extensive information so that tenants can make an informed choice, through the ballot, regarding the proposal to transfer.

5.3 Following a positive ballot, the Council, with the new RSL, would work towards practically completing the transfer and in particular:

- (a) Establishing the company etc
- (b) Registering the new RSL with the National Assembly
- (c) Securing funding with a lender
- (d) Negotiating the transfer price
- (e) Agreeing the conveyance
- (f) Obtaining consents to transfer from the National Assembly

5.4 A realistic timetable for stock transfer in Denbighshire, should the decision be made to pursue this at this time, would be:

Informal consultation – Jan-May 2001

Formal Consultation – May/June 2001

Ballot – June/July 2001

Transfer – end of March 2002

5.5 A detailed project plan would be developed with the Council and Working Group in order to manage the transfer process smoothly.

5.6 The initial phase of consultation, is important, in that it allows the Council to put forward extensive information regarding its stock transfer proposals and to seek feedback from tenants and other stakeholders. The results of this feedback can be used to:

- (a) Evaluate the views, concerns, aspirations and hopes of tenants in respect of transfer;
- (b) Identify the need for further information in respect of specific issues
- (c) Identify the issues that are upper most in the minds of tenants, that would need to be addressed as part of any formal stock transfer proposal

- 5.7 In order to ensure that any consultation is effective and meets the needs of tenants, so that they are able to make an informed decision, the Council appointed consultants to undertake, two specific roles.
- 5.8 Stanniforth Public Relations have been appointed to act as communication consultants for the Council. Their work will involve producing a series of newsletters, supported by specific initiatives such as producing videos, organising public meetings and small workshop style meetings with tenants and other events. In addition, regular briefing sessions would be established for tenant representatives, elected members and staff. The effectiveness of the communication will be evaluated, through research, so that the views of tenants may be gauged.
- 5.9 First Call, have been appointed to act as independent advisors to the tenants. This role is distinctly different and separate from that of Stanniforth, with the consultants working directly to the tenant body. Their role will be to provide impartial advice and information regarding the transfer proposals, further ensuring that consultation is effective.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is faced with a significant need to undertake investment in the housing stock, for which resources are unavailable. Stock transfer to a RSL, is the only viable option at this time to secure the necessary investment, while safeguarding the rights of tenants.
- 6.2 The decision to transfer is firstly one for the Council, but ultimately a decision for tenants. In order for tenants to make an informed decision on a proposal to transfer it will be necessary to consult extensively with them and to provide detailed information regarding the transfer.
- 6.3 It is recommended therefore that:
- (a) stock transfer is adopted as the preferred option for securing the investment needed within the housing stock;
 - (b) consultation is commenced with all tenants so that tenants may form an informed opinion regarding transfer and the Council may assess the views, concerns and aspirations of tenants in this respect;
 - (c) a decision to proceed to formal consultation and thereafter ballot, is made by the Working Group in light of the feedback from tenants, following initial informal consultation.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services

DATE: 23rd November 2000

SUBJECT: Housing Revenue Account Budget and Staffing

1 Decision Sought

1.1 To allocate additional HRA Budget for 2000/2001 as follows:

1. Additional Housing Benefit Subsidy of £40 per dwelling X 4200 = £168,000 received from the National Assembly for 2000/20001 and recurring in subsequent year
2. Grant under Section 16 Housing and Planning Act 1986 of £11,775 for one year only for the development of Tenants Compacts (agreements on Tenant Consultation and Participation) subject to matching funding from the Council.
3. Agreement from the National Assembly that any of the Capital Allocation for work on preparing for Stock Transfer which is not required in 2000/2001 for agreed payments to Consultants, etc. can be used for additional staffing resources on the issue (approx £50,000).

1.2 To allow for the following additional posts:

Senior Housing Officer South	SO1	(Housing Services)
Housing Maintenance Inspector	Sc6	(Housing Services)
Tenant Participation Officer	Sc5	(Housing Services)
Secretary/Best Value Officer	Sc3	(Housing Services)
Contact Wardens X 4	Sc2	(Housing Services)
Housing Rents/Benefits Officer	Sc4	(Finance)

All posts to be Job Evaluated and filled from internal redeployment and transfer wherever possible in accordance with normal Personnel procedures

1.3 To confirm as permanent five posts in Housing Services and a further three posts in Finance (Housing Rents) currently filled by temporary staff (or staff acting up) for which budget is now secure.

1.4 To provide match funding for the Section 16 Grant and implement the programme for developing Tenant Compacts.

1.5 To allocate the remainder of the additional Housing Subsidy to the Housing Repairs Budget for Routine Repairs (DSO Contract).

1.6 To allow for the following additional temporary posts for six months to undertake work on Stock Transfer:

Principal Housing Officer	PO3	(Housing Services)
Conveyancing Assistant	Sc5	(Legal)
Estates Assistant	Sc5	(Property)

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 Additional budget will enhance services in the following priority areas:

- Anti Social Behaviour - Senior Housing Officer and Estates Officers
- Tenant Participation -Tenant Participation Off and development of Compacts
- Housing Repairs - Additional Inspector and DSO costs
- Rent Arrears - Liaison Officer with Housing Benefits
- Sheltered Housing - 4 Wardens for Rural areas to complete coverage
- Asylum Seekers - Tenant Participation Officer to assist with casework
- Best Value - Secretary will develop Performance Indicator monitoring

2.2 Providing the additional staff and confirming permanent appointments will assist the extensive consultation process for Stock Transfer and protect staff who will then transfer under TUPE.

2.3 The additional temporary staff will liaise with the Consultants and sort out the details of the conveyance of dwellings and land.

3 Cost Implications

Additional Staff 2000/2001	£68,000	(Full year cost £170,000)
Section 16 Match Funding	£12,000	
Repairs	£100,000	
Temporary Staff Stock Transfer	£41,000	

4 Financial Controller Statement

The impact on the County Fund should be neutral while the effect on the Housing Revenue Account can be contained within the revised budget level.

5 Consultation Carried Out

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

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

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

7 Recommendation

That the above proposals be implemented.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

CABINET MEMBER: **Councillor Eryl Williams**

DATE: 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: Best Value Progress Report - Year 1 Service Reviews

1 Decision Sought

To approve the programme of Year 1 Service Reviews for publication in the 2001 - 2002 Performance Plan.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

Year 1 Best Value Service Reviews were carried out as pilots before National Assembly Guidance was issued and a corporate methodology introduced. A decision was made to publish and invite for inspection only four out of the fourteen pilot reviews in the 2000 - 2001 Performance Plan.

Denbighshire's Best Value Toolkit, a corporate methodology for carrying out Service Reviews was distributed in October. Project Team Leaders have considered further work needed to meet Toolkit requirements and consequently whether the Service Review will be ready for publication and inspection in 2001 - 2002 or should held back for another year.

Appendix 1 shows the programme of Year 1 Service Reviews for Cabinet approval.

3 Cost Implications

The cost of completing Reviews will be met by individual services within existing resources

4 Financial Controller Statement

The Financial Controller concurs with 3 above.

5 Consultation Carried Out

As noted above, the proposed programme follows consultation with Project Team Leaders. Project Team Leaders were required to consult with all members of the Project Team, including representatives from Cabinet and the Best Value Scrutiny Panel.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The Best Value Toolkit emphasises that service outcomes should be linked to corporate priorities when carrying out Service Reviews.

7 Recommendation

That Cabinet approve the programme for the publication of Year 1 Best Value Service Review

APPENDIX - SERVICES TO BE REVIEWED 2000-2001

Home Care

Fostering

Personnel

ICT

Payroll

Design Services

Agricultural Estates (in partnership with Flintshire County Council)

Cross cutting Review of Transport Operations to commence 2000-2001, completed 2001-2002

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

CABINET MEMBER: Eryl Wyn Williams

DATE: Cabinet Meeting 23 November 2000

SUBJECT: District Audit Report on Best Value Performance Plan 2000/2001

1 Decision Sought

Approval of proposed Action Plan to address the recommendations made in the Statutory Report of the District Auditor on Denbighshire County Council's Best Value Performance Plan 2000/2001

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

The District Auditor has given a qualified opinion on 4 areas of the 2000/2001 Best Value Performance Plan and made 48 recommendations for improvement. The proposed Action Plan seeks to give due recognition to the importance of achieving the improvements recommended, also stating that progress towards accomplishing the proposed actions was being made before the District Auditor made his report and arise from Denbighshire's commitment to performance management as part of its Recovery Plan.* We also consider that the District Auditor has been over influenced in determining his conclusions by a checklist methodology.

*It is necessary to note that the Authority liaised closely with District Audit in its preparations for Best Value.

3 Cost Implications

Costs are outlined in the draft Action Plan. The majority of costs relate to Member and Officer time. However many of the proposed Actions already exist within the Best Value/Performance Management work programme for 1999-2000 and so are not additional to work already being undertaken.

4 Financial Controller Statement

Best Value is an important component in the recovery plan. The proposals in the action plan specifically the emphasis on performance management will strengthen the Council's financial planning system.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Discussed at Management Team 9 November 2000

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

Best Value is an overarching Policy, impacting on all areas within the Authority.

7 Recommendation

1 That the proposed Action Plan is approved

2 That in presenting the Action Plan to District Audit further attention is drawn to the fact that much of the action had already been agreed as part of the Recovery Plan and that District Audit were aware of this.

Statement of Action in Response to the District Audit's Statutory and Detailed Report on Denbighshire County Council's Best Value Performance Plan 2000/2001

Following receipt of the District Audit's Statutory and Detailed Report on the 27 October 2000 the Authority is required to prepare a statement in response. The statement should explain the action the Authority intends to take as a result of the Reports and the timetable it intends to follow and should be prepared within 30 working days of receiving the Reports and published with the Reports.

The District Auditor has given a qualified opinion on 4 areas of the 2000/2001 Best Value Performance Plan and has made 48 recommendations for improvement. Denbighshire County Council acknowledges the importance of achieving the improvements recommended, but would draw attention to the fact that progress towards accomplishing the proposed actions was being made before the District Auditor made his report and that the Authority in its preparation for Best Value worked closely with the DA. These actions arise from Denbighshire's commitment to performance management as part of its Recovery Plan.

The Action Plan outlined below shows the qualified opinion or recommendation (column A), the Authority's response and planned action (Column B), completion date (Column C), the responsible person(s) (Column D) and the resource implications (Column E).

ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO DISTRICT AUDIT'S STATUTORY AND DETAILED REPORT	
Qualified Opinion	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comparative Wales and England and Wales only average figures were included in the BVOO for 22% of the 1998/1999 Audit Commission Performance Indicators (ACPI's) • No performance information was included in the BVPP for 25% of the 1999/2000 BVPI's • No performance information was included in the BVPP for 25% of the 1999/2000 ACPI's • No performance targets were included in the BVPP for 35% of the 2000/2001 BVPI's 	<p>Prior to publication, and following discussions with the Audit Commission Best Value Inspection Unit, Denbighshire County Council stated its intention not to publish estimates of performance information and related targets. Publication of estimates frequently proves to be negative exercise and the reliability of such figures have been challenged in other authorities. Criticism by the District Audit is therefore rejected. In addition under the Authority's Recovery Plan, the Authority believes that to allocate resources to the calculation and publication of estimates rather than to the speedy calculation and</p>

publication of actual performance information and targets would be misuse of finite resources and would add nothing to the performance management of the Authority or the achievement of its Recovery Plan

Details of proposed actions to ensure that Statutory Guidance is followed in the 2001/2002 Performance Plan are outlined in the following Action Plan

Recommendation	Action Required	Completion Date	Responsible Person(s)	Resource Implications
A	B	C	D	E
<u>Linking Best Value to the Council's Mission</u>				
Recommendation	Action Required and Progress Made	Completion Date	Responsible Person(s)	Resource Implications
A	B	C	D	E
R1: Links between the selection criteria and the BVR programme are clarified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of selection criteria for the BVR is already underway. • The outcome of general satisfaction and service specific consultations carried out during 1999/2000 are being taken into account as part of this review. • The outcome of future consultations will be used 	March 2001	Cabinet, Management Team and Best Value Core Team	Member and Officer time, consistent with the Recovery Plan
R32: Consultation Procedures are used to inform corporate policies and objectives as well as individual BVR's				
R33: Consultation is used to shape and inform the future five year BVR programme				

Recovery Plan				
Recommendation	Action Required and Performance Made	Completion Date	Responsible Person(s)	Resource Implications
A	B	C	D	E
R6: Future BVPP's contain linkage between financial and performance information and targets	These recommendations will be addressed within the Authority's Performance Management system	Performance Management system introduced during financial year 2001/2002	Business Planning and Performance Management Working Group	Member and Officer time, consistent with the Recovery Plan
R7: Future BVPP's contain, where necessary, remedial actions for DLO's and DSO's which do not achieve their financial objectives				
R37: Consideration is given to establishing "fast track" procedure to realise cost savings identified in BVR action plans				
R40: The 2000/2001 BVR timetable is reviewed to determine the resources available to complete the first year programme	Gap analysis to be carried out and resource requirements identified	November 2000	Cabinet and Best Value Core Team	
Performance Management				
Recommendation	Action Required and Performance Made	Completion Date	Responsible Person(s)	Resource Implications
A	B	C	D	E
R2: Level of inclusion of performance information particularly the required ACPI's and BVPI's is significantly improved	These recommendations are currently being addressed by the Business Planning and Performance Management	Recommendations relating to reporting of ACPI's and BVPI	Business Planning and Performance Management Working Group	Resources for strengthening support for performance management within
R3: Where required by statutory guidance,				

five year upper quartile targets are supported by annual targets	Working Group (comprising Members and Officers), established in June 2000	- March 2001 Recommendations relating to introduction of corporate Performance Management regime - March 2002	the Authority allocated in October 2000 - consistent with Recovery Plan
R4: The links between corporate objectives and service priorities are clarified			
R5: Locally developed performance information eg local PI's are developed and included in future BVPP's			
R8: Financial estimates are available to enable the calculation and publication of finance-based PI's in future BVPP's			
R9: The quality and consistency of performance information is improved through the introduction of a staff training programme			
R10: A system of independent checks is implemented to validate the accuracy of performance information			
R11: Produce detailed action plans to identify tasks, responsibilities and timetables to establish and implement a performance management system			
R12: Clarify the responsibilities of Corporate Directors, Heads of Service and Cabinet Members in achieving the Cabinet key tasks			
R13: Clarify and strengthen the role of Members in performance management within the new political management arrangements			
R14: Establish clear corporate objectives, standards and priorities			

R15: Set service level targets which are compatible with budget and supportive of corporate level objectives				
R16: Integrate actions identified at corporate level into service level action plans				
R17: focus the results of Best Value review on the delivery of service targets				
R18: Agree and monitor individual targets				
R19: Introduce corporate arrangements for monitoring and reviewing performance				
R20: clarify roles and responsibilities to ensure robust monitoring of performance at all levels within the organisation				
R21: Establish a small number of key PI's via which progress against corporate aims can be measured				
R22: Establish corporate protocols for addressing "under performance" against agreed performance targets				
R23: Centrally review all targets to ensure that they meet the SMART criteria and relate to corporate and service objectives				
Achieving A Corporate Approach to Best Value				
Recommendation	Action Required and Progress Made	Completion Date	Responsible Person(s)	Resource Implications
A	B	C	D	E
R24: A formal statement of the approach to Challenge is agreed by Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A training programme for Members and Officers is 	April 2001	Business Planning and Performance	Resources for strengthening support

R25: The proposed framework of Challenge is agreed as a matter of urgency	currently taking place and will be completed by March 2001		
R26: Officer and Member training is completed as soon as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Best Value Tool kit, detailing a corporate approach to implementing Best Value has been produced and will be presented to Council for approval after the current period of consultation is complete. • Implementation and monitoring of compliance with this corporate approach will be part of the Business Planning and Performance Management regime. 		
R27: Consideration is given to the early involvement of stakeholders and potential partners in the Challenge process			
R28: The Challenge process, as detailed in the BVR Tool kit, is applied robustly and consistently across all BVR's			
R29: A formal statement of approach to Comparison is agreed by Members			
R30: Robust comparative information is used by all BVR's			
R31: The Best Value Corporate Team assists individual BVR's in the timely generation and collection of comparative information			
R34: consideration is given to co-ordinating consultation exercises with other authorities			
R35: The Corporate Best Value Team co-ordinates consultation procedures to ensure the availability of robust and timely information for individual BVR's			
R36: A corporate approach to Competition, as agreed by Officers and Members, is established as a matter of urgency			
R38: A Procurement Strategy is developed for use throughout the Council			
		Management Working Group (includes members of the Best Value Core Team)	for Best Value as part of performance management within the Authority allocated in October 2000 - consistent with Recovery Plan

R39: The competition process, as detailed in the BVR Tool kit, is applied robustly and consistently across all BVR's				
R41: Detailed project plans are developed and implemented for 2000/2001 BVR's				
R42: Roles and responsibilities are clarified for the regular monitoring and reporting of progress of individual BVR's and the overall BVR programme				
R43: Future BVR programmes are reassessed on the basis of a formal evaluation procedure which provides a consistent method for selecting and prioritising service for review				
R44: A protocol is established for revising and updating the BVR programme				
R45: BVR team Leaders and the Corporate Best Value Team undertake early scoping and information gathering for future BVR's				
R46: Clear procedures are in place to provide timely reporting of the findings of external challenges including inspections				
R47: Monitoring and follow-up of action plans from BVR's and external challenge is reported on a monthly basis				
R48: Action plans for internal and external challenges are consistent with those of other corporate programmes				