

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday 23rd 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, M.A. German, F.D. Jones, K.N. Hawkins, D.A. Thomas, W.G. Thomas, A.E. Fletcher-Williams and C.H. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Financial Controller, Assistant Chief Executive [Strategy]. Also present was Miss Cathy Jones, a pupil at Brynhyfryd School on work experience in the County Council Public Relations Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 The Leader referred to the death of Gethin Cunnah, a member of the Revenue Services Department, tragically killed in a car accident at Gronant and asked Members to stand in tribute.
- 2 Councillor I.M. German referred to the death of Rosemary Walker, a former member of the Social Services Department. The Leader asked Members to stand in tribute.
- 3 Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning / ICT reported the National Assembly for Wales had that morning agreed to the allocation of £2m to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn, Denbigh to enable the school to become a Centre of Excellence. The partnership between the Headteacher, staff, governors and parents had been very successful.

The Leader thanked Councillor Wells for the information and thanked Members and officers who have been working alongside Jane Davidson Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the partnership.

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) Item deferred from the last meeting - Llys Marchan;
- (ii) Appointment of 2 Revenue Officer posts, and
- (iii) Addendum to Best Value reports.

2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 14 November 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted. The Leader apologised for the lateness of the Cabinet minutes which was due to the flood situation.

Matters Arising:-

- (i) Item 4 [Flooding Incidents in Denbighshire] - the Corporate Director for the Environment to report;

- (ii) Item 3 [Budget] Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Eisteddfod/Welsh Language referred to recent press reports on pensions and what effect this would have on budgets. Cllr E A Owens offered to discuss this with Councillor G M Kensler, and
- (iii) Councillor E W Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value / Performance queried the nomination positions as recorded in Item 7 'Outcome of the County Clare Visit'. In reply it was stated that the County Clare delegation should comprise 2 Labour Members and 2 Independent Members and therefore the minute was accurate as written.

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

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2000-2001

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, submitted a report [previously circulated] seeking Cabinet approval for further action to keep the County Council recovery plan on target. Councillor E A Owens referred to the report's Appendix produced in a different format on this occasion with 3 new lists itemised. Councillor E.A. Owens referred to the 4 column format and in particular to the third column [items showing a penalty] where the cost would form a first charge on Directorate budgets in the new financial year. The fourth column shows the current state of savings achieved.

Councillor E.A. Owens requested Members to take particular notice of the footnote to the Appendix with regard to the recent flooding incidents. It is hoped that most of the costs in excess of the Bellwin threshold of £209k may be recovered from the National Assembly.

Councillor E.W. Williams commented that all Cabinet Members should have seen the synopsis sent to the Scrutiny Committees and would wish to see a concise account of the guidance given by Scrutiny Committees. Councillor E.A. Owens said that she and the Financial Controller have been working closely with the Scrutiny Chairs. The County Clerk reported that they will meet with Scrutiny Chairs next week and any recommendations made will be reported to the next Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED 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 findings to the Cabinet on a regular basis.

4. CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor R.W. Hughes, the Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Leisure presented a report on a National Youth Service Conference organised by the Wales Youth Agency. The Conference dealt with the re-emerging youth service and the National Assembly's new youth policy initiative. Councillor R.W. Hughes emphasised her concern at the budget position in Denbighshire for Youth Services.

Councillor G.M. Kensler thanked Councillor R.W. Hughes for the report and said that a recent Newsnight programme had emphasised that teachers and youth workers should be available to listen to young people.

5. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) External advertisement for a Scale 1 / 2 Clerk/Typist in the County Clerk's Department
- (ii) External advertisement for 2 Scale 6 Revenues Officer posts in the Revenues Section [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.

6. LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

The Leader presented the report [previously circulated] for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located.

Councillor E.W. Williams queried the Prestatyn Ysgol Bodnant Infants CP school vacancies as the number of LEA Governors was set at 3 but there were no vacancies. The County Clerk said that these 'vacancies' had been included at this time as the new term of office commences in January 2001.

Councillor E.W. Williams nominated Mr. Dewi Jones, Ty'n Llanfair, Pentrecelyn as the second nominee for Ruthin Ysgol Brynhyfryd. The County Clerk said if nominations are not received for all vacancies the County Council through the Cabinet as the appointing body can fill such vacancies. It was agreed that Cabinet take the nomination.

RESOLVED that the LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved as listed, with the addition of Mr Dewi Jones, Ty'n Llanfair, Pentrecelyn as a nominee for Ruthin Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

7. DENBIGHSHIRE LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented a report [previously circulated] on the Denbighshire Landscape Strategy as a draft for further consultation early next year over a 6 week period. The document forms part of the Council's current Statement of Priorities and is also a Countryside Services Strategy. A public open meeting will be held during the consultation period to promote awareness of the draft Strategy.

Councillor D.M. Morris congratulated the Countryside Services Department on the production of the document.

Councillor G.M. Kensler enquired about the location of the proposed public open meeting. The Head of Countryside Services reported that the meeting will be held on 24 January 2001 at Loggerheads Park at 7.00 p.m., the meeting to cover the whole of Denbighshire.

RESOLVED to approve the Draft Denbighshire Landscape Strategy for further consultations.

8. CHILDREN'S PROMISE CHARITY APPEAL

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Cabinet approval for support for a further year to the Children's Promise Charity Appeal. Contributions from employees and Members are made via the payroll deduction service at a cost to the Authority of £100, raising a total of £5895 last year.

The Chief Executive informed Members that a number of applications for donations to worthy causes are received during the year.

RESOLVED to continue support for the Children's Promise Charity Appeal for a further year.

9. TRANSPORTATION STUDY FOR DENBIGH AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY FOR RHYL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented both reports [previously circulated] seeking Cabinet approval for the setting up of steering groups but noting that the policy will be formulated in due course. Councillor D.M. Morris said the reports would be sent to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The reports of the transportation studies for Denbigh and Rhyl have been circulated to Cabinet Members.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance emphasised the absence of funding to meet the cost implications for both reports.

After discussion, the Leader said no further steering groups would be formed until the Scrutiny Committee had considered the reports and that such groups would need to reflect the Area Partnerships the Council was intending to create.

RESOLVED that Members approve the Preferred Strategy outlined in the Transportation Studies for Denbigh and Rhyl and refer both reports to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

10. REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO MISUSE DRUGS AND / OR ALCOHOL

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report and Appendix [previously circulated] seeking Cabinet approval for the Guidance on Eligibility for Rehabilitation Programmes for People who Misuse Drugs and / or Alcohol. Guidance on eligibility and priority for services is required as the Social Services Department provides services for people who misuse drugs and / or alcohol under the NHS Act 1977 and are also required under the Community Care legislation to ensure fair access to services and that services are targeted effectively.

Consultation has been carried out with Social Services staff, the Denbighshire Drug and Alcohol Local Action Team, CAIS, the Young Person's Substance Misuse Service and the Consultant Psychiatrist.

The report will be presented to full Council.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Guidance on Eligibility for Rehabilitation Programmes for People who Misuse Drugs and / or Alcohol.

11. HOUSING OPTIONS

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented a report [previously circulated] on Housing Options based on the recommendations of the Housing Options Working Party, with the report on the Agenda of Council on 28.11.2000.

Members had attended a Seminar in September 2000 which discussed the options for the future of Housing Stock.

The Lead Consultants' Options Appraisal report [previously circulated] and advice from other Consultants had agreed four amended Recommendations.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance requested that reports be prepared at 2 monthly intervals for discussion at Cabinet showing the progress made on Housing Options.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) Members accept the recommendations of the Housing Options Working Party, and

(b) a 2 monthly progress report on Housing Options be produced for Cabinet.

12. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND STAFFING

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted a report [previously circulated] seeking Cabinet approval for a series of recommendations as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED that Members approve the recommendations as outlined in the report.

13. FLOODING INCIDENTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

The Corporate Director for the Environment gave an update on the recent floods experienced within the County.

Horseshoe Pass Landslip:-

Pentredwr road was being cleared that day. A Geotechnical consultant has been appointed and a contractor has carried out emergency works to make the slip safe. Specialist contractors drilling boreholes - will be on site for 2-3 weeks. Hope to have a temporary bridge by Christmas, but a permanent solution was likely to take 6 months before completion.

Ruthin Floods/Mwrog Street:-

Consultants were appointed the day after the first flood (30/11/00) to design and supervise repair of the breach in the culvert. Design to be pre-cast concrete box units to allow quicker installation and installation in flowing water (within limits). DCC monitoring culvert. The Environment Agency looking at ways to improve prediction of water levels. Now looking for meeting with the EA and NAFW to discuss a long term solution.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance requested that preventative action be taken to stop people using the old road to Pentredwr village.

The Leader reported that the Environmental Agency are holding a meeting on 27.11.2000 in Ruthin and officers from the Authority will be in attendance. The meeting is for all Denbighshire residents.

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND 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 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

15. PURCHASING ORGANISATION

The Leader submitted a report on the Purchasing Organisation seeking Cabinet's approval to withdraw the Council's notice to quit from the Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Consortium with effect from 31 March 2001 and to give notice to quit as from 31 March 2002 in order to protect the Council's position.

The Financial Controller detailed the current improved position and explained the costs involved in being part of the organisation. He explained that if a significant number of partners i.e. 2 or more or Wirral Purchasing pull out of the organisation at this stage, the organisation would collapse.

Councillor W.R. Webb, the County Council's Board Member on the Organisation said the way the organisation was run was unacceptable. Each Authority has one member with Wirral Purchasing having 4 members on the Board. Councillor Webb expressed his concerns that 2 Authorities may pull out of the organisation.

The Financial Controller said if any of the Authorities pull out of the organisation the rescue plan for the organisation would need to be revised.

Councillor W.R. Webb said the next meeting of the organisation will be held on 4 December 2000 and asked the Financial Controller to attend the board meetings.

The Financial Controller said he attends Board meetings and is represented by a colleague at the lead officer group meetings.

***RESOLVED** that Members, having considered the progress report, withdraw the notice to quit the consortium as of 31 March 2001 and recommend to Council to give notice to quit as from 31 March 2002.*

16. PROPERTY / LAND DISPOSALS

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report [previously circulated] updating Members on the progress made on capital receipts gained arising from the sale or potential sale of Council owned property and land as listed in the report.

***RESOLVED** that Members note the information contained in the report.*

17. PAVILION THEATRE AND SUN CENTRE SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval to undertake urgent works to the Pavilion Theatre / Sun Centre Pumping Station.

Councillor D.M. Morris also reported that the swimming pool at Corwen closed earlier this week and required remedial works to be put in hand or the swimming pool would remain closed.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance said these are both non statutory items and the decision should be deferred until the complete picture is available. Approving this expenditure will endanger the Council's recovery plan and the Council is able to fund relief work rather than fund the complete remedial works.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value stated that Corwen swimming pool is a statutory provision for children in rural areas to learn to swim. Corwen Leisure Centre has shown a profit and the closure of the facility will increase pressures on the Leisure Services budget.

The Chief Executive stated that the leisure facilities are discretionary. The full review of the capital budget for the next financial year has not yet been completed. Any requests for funding of this nature need to be balanced against the capital programme.

***RESOLVED** to defer a decision at this stage as Members agreed that both items needed to be included in the capital programme discussion.*

At this juncture (11.30 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

18. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S PRESENTATION ON BEST VALUE

The District Auditor submitted his report [circulated at the meeting] to Members on the Council's BVPP and was followed Nigel Griffiths of District Audit presenting the main points of the BVPP detailing the strengths and the areas for improvement.

Nigel Griffiths detailed the Performance Management findings and outlined recommendations to implement a corporate performance management system to establish clear corporate objectives, standards and priorities, setting service level targets compatible with budgets and supportive of corporate objectives, incorporating clear monitoring and reporting procedures, all with the involvement of Members. He went on to detail the Challenge, Compare, Consult and Compete findings and recommendations followed by the Development and Management of the Review Programme and then the Internal and External Challenge.

The District Auditor has requested comments on the report by 12.12.2000. He stressed that Best Value is a continuous process and that their recommendations should enable the Council to move forward as good progress has been achieved in a short space of time.

In response the Chief Executive welcomed the District Auditor's presentation and stressed that Best Value in Denbighshire has to be governed as a priority by the Council's recovery plan. The WLGA had expressed concerns about the volume of work generated by Best Value and the First Minister had that week announced his intention to streamline the process, but Best Value was a valuable tool and one

which needed to be taken seriously, albeit that Denbighshire had not so far devoted as much resource to the initiatives as compared with other Authorities in Wales.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked how many different figures are produced by the Authority for various organisations. The Financial Controller explained that moves are in hand to standardise information to enable it to be produced once only.

The Leader thanked the District Audit team for their report and presentation.

19. LLYS MARCHAN

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted a report on Llys Marchan seeking Members' approval to consult with the community in Ruthin, residents and staff on securing the future of Llys Marchan and also to enter into a new partnership agreement [subject to financial conditions being met], with the North Wales Health Authority, the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.

RESOLVED that Members accept the recommendations to:-

- (a) *consult with the local community in Ruthin, residents and staff on securing the future of Llys Marchan, and*
- (b) *enter into a new partnership agreement subject to financial conditions being met, with the North Wales Health Authority, the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.*

AT THIS POINT THE MEETING RESUMED IN OPEN SESSION

20. DISTRICT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

Councillor E.W. Williams presented a report [previously circulated] seeking Members approval of the proposed Action Plan to address the recommendations made in the Statutory Report of the District Audit on the Council's BVPP 2000-2001.

The District Auditor has given an opinion on 4 areas of the BVPP 2000-2001 and 48 recommendations for improvement and the Council's Action Plan seeks to address the improvements recommended by the District Auditor.

The Leader thanked Councillor E.W. Williams and Mrs. Ll. Jehu, Best Value Officer for their work on Best Value.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Members approve the proposed Action Plan, and*
- (b) *when 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.*

21. BEST VALUE PROGRESS REPORT - YEAR 1 SERVICE REVIEWS

Councillor E.W. Williams presented the report [previously circulated] together with an Addendum circulated at the meeting as notified by the Leader, seeking Members approval for the programme of Year 1 Service Reviews for publication in the 2001-2002 Performance Plan.

The Chief Executive commented on the services to be reviewed and stressed the need for the choice of service reviews to be guided both by the Mission Statement adopted by the Council and the Recovery Plan. He suggested that the list put forward should be regarded as a provisional one, with a further

report prepared for the next Cabinet to take on board as well as the issues arising from the District Auditor's presentation.

RESOLVED that with the addition of "Fast-track" reviews for Special education Needs and Elderly Persons homes Members approve the programme provisionally for the publication of Year 1 Best Value Service Reviews, but that a subsequent report to the Cabinet be submitted reflecting discussions with Management Team and providing further details on costs and resources of delivering the programme.

The meeting concluded at 1.05 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER

COUNCILLOR E A OWENS

DATE

5TH DECEMBER, 2000

SUBJECT

COUNCIL TAX BASE

1.0 Decision sought

Establish the Council's tax base for financial year 2001/2002.

2.0 Reason for seeking decision

2.1 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 - (S.I. 1992/612 as amended by S.I. 1992/1742 & 1992/2943) require the County Council to calculate the tax base for each and every community within its billing area for the 2001/2002 financial year.

2.2 The Council Tax base is a measure of the tax-raising capacity of an area and is calculated having regard to the following issues:-

(a) the number of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band expressed at the Band 'D' equivalent (e.g. a property in band 'H' is, for tax liability purposes, equivalent to double band 'D').

Less: the sum of

(b) the number of chargeable dwellings estimated to be

(i) exempt by virtue of the Exempt Dwellings Order

(ii) in receipt of a disabled reduction under the Disabilities Regulations

(iii) in receipt of a single person discount

(iv) in receipt of a status discount

(v) prescribed/non prescribed dwellings

2.3 In accordance with the principles set out in 2.2 above, the Council Tax base for the 2001/2002 financial year is as follows:-

<u>Community Area</u>	<u>Tax Base</u> <u>2001/2002</u>	<u>(Comparative Figures)</u> <u>Tax Base - 2000/2001</u>
Aberwheeler	133	133
Betws G G	121	120
Bodelwyddan	669	665
Bodfari	134	134
Bryneglwys	133	133
Cefn Meiriadog	170	167
Clocaenog	86	85
Corwen	795	792
Cyffylliog	173	168
Cynwyd	200	200
Denbigh	2891	2875
Derwen	190	190
Dyserth	930	930
Efenechtyd	246	246
Gwyddelwern	185	185
Henllan	291	291
Llanarmon yn Ial	463	459
Llanbedr D C	404	404
Llandelga	231	231
Llandrillo	225	223
Llandyrnog	362	362
Llanelidan	128	126
Llanfair D C	448	446
Llanferres	323	323
Llangollen	1301	1292
Llangynhafal	269	266
Llanrhaeadr Y C	425	424
Llantysilio	192	188
Llanynys	280	280
Nantglyn	121	121
Prestatyn	6553	6534
Rhuddlan	1552	1547
Rhyl	8071	8044
Ruthin	1941	1933
St. Asaph	1203	1197
Trefnant	560	556
Tremeirchion	476	472
TOTAL	32875	32742

3.0 Cost implications

There are none.

4.0 Financial Controller statement

The Council is legally obliged to establish a tax base by the 31st December.

5.0 Consultation carried out

Not applicable.

6.0 Implications on other Policy areas including corporate.

There are no implications.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :-

- 4.1 (a) the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2001/2002 be approved, and
- (b) pursuant to Councillor Owen's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 - S.I. 1992/612, S.I. 1992/1742 and S.I. 1992/2943, the amount calculated by the Council Council as the tax base for each community area for the year 2001/2002 shall be :-

<u>Community Area</u>	<u>Tax Base</u> <u>2001/2002</u>
Aberwheeler	133
Betws G G	121
Bodelwyddan	669
Bodfari	134
Bryneglwys	133
Cefn Meiriadog	170
Clocaenog	86
Corwen	795
Cyffylliog	173
Cynwyd	200
Denbigh	2891
Derwen	190
Dyserth	930
Efenechtyd	246
Gwyddelwern	185
Henllan	291
Llanarmon yn Ial	463
Llanbedr D C	404
Llandelga	231
Llandrillo	225
Llandyrnog	362

Llanelidan	128
Llanfair D C	448
Llanferres	323
Llangollen	1301
Llangynhafal	269
Llanrhaeadr Y C	425
Llantysilio	192
Llanynys	280
Nantglyn	121
Prestatyn	6553
Rhuddlan	1552
Rhyl	8071
Ruthin	1941
St. Asaph	1203
Trefnant	560
Tremeirchion	476

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

CABINET MEMBER

LEADER

DATE:

5 DECEMBER 2000

SUBJECT:

LLYSFASI COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To decide (a.) whether to appoint a replacement County Council representative to fill current vacancy following the resignation of Councillor E. C. Edwards from the Llysfasi College Governing Body, and (b.) depending on the decision in (a.) whom to appoint.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Principal of Llysfasi has been informed of Councillor E. C. Edwards' resignation from this Approved Duty. Members are therefore asked to consider whether to appoint a replacement and if so whom.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Approved Duty

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

N/A

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

N/A

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

N/A

7. RECOMMENDATION

(a.) that a replacement County Council representative be appointed to serve on Llysfasi College Board of Governors;

(b.) that nominations be duly invited and an appointment made.

URGENT ITEM

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

Directorate: CHIEF EXECUTIVES Section: COUNTY CLERK'S

Post Title: CLERK/TYPIST Salary Grade: SCALE 1/2

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

The post is located within the Typing Services Unit which is responsible for the printing and despatch to Members of all County Council reports and agendas.

Two vacancies had recently arisen within the unit and one post has been frozen as part of the Budget Savings for the Department.

The remaining post had been advertised internally and no applications were received and Cabinet is being requested today to advertise that post externally. In view of the fact that no applications were received for the previous post which was advertised internally, Cabinet is requested to approve the external advertisement of this further vacancy in the Typing Services Unit.

Signed: [Signature] (Director) County Clerk Dated: 21/11/00

Signed: [Signature] Lead Cabinet Member Dated: 21/11/00
(Chair of Service Committee)

To: Chief Executive

Signed: [Signature] Date: 22/11/00 Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

To: Cabinet

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

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

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

Directorate: LIFELONG LEARNING Section: COUNTRYSIDE AND LEISURE
Post Title: DISABILITY SPORT CYMRU OFFICER Salary Grade: SC 6

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

- Parttime (20hrs) post to develop disabled sports activity in the County.
- Post 100% funded by Sportlot grant (3 yr contract); proposal agreed by P&ED Scrutiny Panel.
- Sports Council require full competitive selection process; post advertised internally but must also be advertised externally.
- Joint selection process with Conwy agreed to share recruitment costs; exploring possibility of full time post.

Signed: Tony Hughes HEAD OF SERVICE (Director) Dated: 27/11/00
 Signed: Chairman J. Hughes LEAD CABINET MEMBER (Chair of Service Committee) Dated: 27/11/00
 To: Chief Executive

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

To: Emergency Powers Committee
 Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Committee) Date: _____
 Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Eryl Williams

DATE: Cabinet meeting 5 December 2000

SUBJECT: Best Value: Programme and Resource Implications

1 Decision Sought

1. To approve the first two years of the 5 year programme for Best Value Service Reviews
2. To approve recharge of resource allocations for the achievement of the proposed programme.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

This Report arises from the decision made by Cabinet on 23 November 2000 that in preparing the programme for Best Value Service Reviews Cabinet are mindful of:

- the importance of delivering financial savings in a Service to the Recovery Plan
- the importance of a Service to the achievement of the Council's Mission and Statement of Priorities

This Report reflects the Action Plan proposed in response to the District Audit Report on the 2000 Performance Plan, which was approved by Cabinet on 23 November 2000.

3 Cost Implications

All proposals are to be met with resources currently available - Appendix refers.
The proposed Best Value programme has been drawn up to support the achievement of the Recovery Plan.

4 Financial Controller Statement

A large proportion of the overspends in 1999/2000 (Appendix 1 refers), was validated during budget setting process for the current year.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Following Cabinet approval in principle of the proposed Action Plan, consultation has been carried out with Corporate Directors. The establishment of a consultation support section has been discussed with Management Team, Best Value Department/Directorate representatives and ISSG.

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 Cabinet approve the proposed first 2 years of a 5 Year Programme
2. That Cabinet approve the proposed strategy for improving co-ordination of Best Value Reviews and making better use of resources already available through the strengthening of the corporate Performance Management & Best Value Unit.

APPENDIX 1 - PROPOSED 5 YEAR PROGRAMME OF BEST VALUE REVIEWS

Service Area	Recovery Plan Implications			Strategic basis
	Budget 1999/2000	Actual 1999/2000	Variance	
	£	£	£	
Publication March 2000				
Home Care	1,044,235	1,089,285	45,050	All these services have been identified as being significantly overspent/under-resourced and requiring immediate attention in order to meet the Recovery Plan
Fostering	295,990	450,211	154,221	
Elderly Persons' Homes	1,400,413	1,386,523	-13,890	
Special Education Needs	573,116	1,580,902	1,007,786	
Personnel	491,690	488,765	-2,925	
ICT	1,070,490	1,075,827	5,337	
Design Services	Data not available			
Agricultural Estates (in partnership with Flintshire County Council)	Data not available			
Publication March 2002				
Transport Operations (cross cutting)	1,959,118	2,438,047	478,929	Supports Recovery Plan - overspends and other weaknesses highlighted in Internal Audit report 15 Jun 2000
Crosscutting				Both service areas have expenditure levels which exceed the Wales average SSA
• Countryside services	• 325,012	• 360,546	• 35,534	
• Culture & Heritage	• 578,023	• 587,170	• 9,147	
• Tourism & Leisure	• 1,829,512	• 2,506,991	• 677,479	
Refuse	Data not available			
Remaining Children and Families services	2,119,370	2,890,175	770,805	Statutory demand led service which currently overspends

<p>Cross cutting review of direct customer contact/advice services comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receptions • One Stop Shops • Welfare Rights • front line Housing Rents & Housing Benefits • Housing Receptions • Social Services Receptions • Technical Services Customer Care • Technical Services Receptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20,116 • 67,563 • 106,588 • no data • no data • no data • no data • no data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23,221 • 67,374 • 93,983 • no data • no data • no data • no data • no data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,105 • -(189) • -(12,605) • no data • no data • no data • no data • no data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initial work indicates potential savings through eliminating current duplications of service - Recovery Plan • addresses key aims of “high quality services”, “equ opportunities” and “a fully bilingual policy” • addresses requirements of improving accessibility services and meeting Central Government Electron Working targets (better, simpler government)
<i>Figures supplied by Senior Management Accountant following discussions with devolved Finance Officers</i>				
Publication March 2003, March 2004 and March 2005				
Services “packaged” according to corporate priorities, including the Recovery Plan				

APPENDIX 1: CHALLENGE

- A draft Best Value Toolkit has been produced outlining a corporate approach to the Challenge process and training in use of the Toolkit is being provided to Officers.
- The role of Cabinet and Scrutiny Panel Members in the Best Value process has been agreed and training for Members is currently taking place.
- A pool of independent experts from the private, public and voluntary sectors is being drawn together by the Chief Executive to support external Challenge exercises.
- The new post of Assistant Policy Officer will monitor and evaluate compliance with the Toolkit to ensure the quality of the Challenge reviews before publication.

APPENDIX 2: COMPARE

- The proposed work programme for the new post of Assistant Policy Officer includes the development of a central Performance Indicator database and development and support of other information systems linked to Best Value and the Business Plan.
- Arrangements are in hand for the establishment of a Performance Indicator Working Group to carry out the tasks outlined in the Action Plan.

It is envisaged that this strengthening of support for performance management systems will enable Best Value Review Teams to be provided with much of the required comparative data at the start of the project, shortening the length of time allocated to carrying out Reviews and making more efficient use of performance information resources.

APPENDIX 3: CONSULTATION

Proposal: To establish a Consultation Support section within the Performance Management & Best Value Unit to undertake corporate consultation exercises and other exercises if/when required.

Aims:

- Ensure commonality of standards (e.g. presentation, methodology)
- Ensure compliance with Corporate policies (e.g. Equal Opportunities, Welsh Language)
- Ensure maximum efficiency of investment in ITC to support consultation exercises
- Improve co-ordination and time tabling of consultation exercises
- Improve support and feedback to consultees

Requirements identified following consultation:

- Purchase of appropriate ITC software and hardware (with training)
- Recruitment of a Scale 2 Administrative Assistant. Post advertised as part-time, with a willingness to work additional hours should the need occur. Post limited to a 2 year contract to allow scope for change as circumstances change. As the proposed administrative assistant post is both part time and limited to a two year contract it is unlikely that there will be many internal candidates and so it would be advantageous to advertise the post internally and externally at the same time.

Resource requirements:

- ITC and staff resource requirements met within current Best Value Consultation budget of £18,000:

Grade 2 administrative assistant post @ half time: supporting corporate consultation requirements and development of the Denbighshire 500 Citizens Panel	£6,300 (including on-costs)
ITC for 3 users, stand alone	
PC Hardware	
compaq Deskpro EN PIII 600 MHz, 10Gb Hard Disk, 64 MB RAM, Windows 95	2,118
Compaq 32x Speed Internal IDE CD-ROM	123
Project 15" Monitor	345
Project memory Upgrade Module 64MB SDRAM DIMM	222
Software	
Data Entry Builder 3 Users	1,481
SPSS Base 3 Users	1,985
TOTAL	12,574
Plus training in use of software - cost depends on whether it is held in Denbighshire or staff travel.	

- Additional costs incurred through carrying out consultation exercises for individual services met on a recharge basis by those services (Adman staff and consumable costs only).
- Additional costs incurred through carrying out consultation exercises for external bodies met through contractual arrangements (full cost, including management fee, depreciation etc.). *

* Expressions of interest have been received from the Health Alliance, the Community Legal Partnership and other external bodies.

APPENDIX 4 - COMPETE

County Council has already approved a Best Value Competition Strategy and a Best Value Review Process whereby competition is considered after issues of Challenge, Compare and Consult have been addressed.

The proposed programme for Reviews, reviewing strategically linked concurrently, will enable Cabinet to consider possibilities for “packaging” services when inviting expressions of interest from other sectors or seeking to establish partnerships.

Strengthening the role of the Performance Management and Best Value Unit will ensure that invitations for expressions of interest, selection of approved Tenderers, awarding of contracts and negotiation of partnership agreements are co-ordinated. This will lead to economies of scale as well as ensuring that corporate standards are adhered to.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Rhiannon Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism

DATE: 5 December 2000

SUBJECT: MAES GWILYM OPEN SPACE, RHYL

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To agree proposals to develop the Maes Gwilym area in east Rhyl as a new open space for local people and wildlife.

2. Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 As part of a planning agreement in the early 1990's, the former Rhuddlan Borough Council agreed to a Deed of Dedication with the landowner to transfer this 6.1ha (15 acre) site to the Council as a new public open space. The agreement included a cash sum paid to the Council to carry out works to develop the site as an open space. Whilst some of the works were carried out (new fencing along the railway boundary), the project was not fully implemented.

2.2 In January 1997 the County Council accepted this scheme as a commitment and agreed to take the project forward (Min 890 (10)). Officers subsequently sought to reach agreement with the landowner on the scheme, which involves the creation of an informal recreation area (to be managed by Public Protection and Regulatory Services) and a wildlife area (to be managed by Countryside Services). The agreement of the landowner was secured last year, who now expects the Council to proceed to implement this long delayed scheme. Members should note that if the open space proposals are not implemented the landowner could reclaim the land and the original cash contribution under the terms of the Deed of Dedication.

2.3 Outline proposals for the site were presented to the former Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel where it was agreed to carry out consultations with local people before finalising how the Council should proceed. The consultations were undertaken earlier this year and were co-ordinated by the Community Agency. The results of the consultation exercise have not as yet been made available by the Community Agency, but it is known that there is considerable local support for the wildlife area proposals. It is understood however that some concerns were raised about the play equipment and access arrangements which form part of the proposed informal recreation area. Implementation of the proposals for the informal recreation area will be co-ordinated by Public Protection and Regulatory Services, and these issues will have to be addressed in due course.

2.4 Countryside Services are responsible for implementing the wildlife proposals, and they are ready to proceed during the current planting/work season. The proposals to be implemented as part of the wildlife area are shown on the plan appended to this report. The consultation process earlier this year helped generate local commitment to the project, and many people have expressed an interest in becoming directly involved in action to conserve and enhance their

environment. It is therefore proposed to carry out some of the work in conjunction with volunteers from the local community (e.g. tree planting.)

3. Cost Implications

3.1 Given the background to this long-standing project there is a need to develop the open space proposals as soon as possible. The scheme is a commitment inherited from a former authority, and this is reflected in the Capital Programme for the current year which allocates £16k for development of the site. Members should note that the proposed play area is to be financed by a developer contribution. If Cabinet agree the scheme, implementation of the proposals for the Wildlife Area will start as soon as possible.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 The Capital Programme for the current year contains provision for £16k of costs in connection with this scheme.

5. Consultation Carried Out

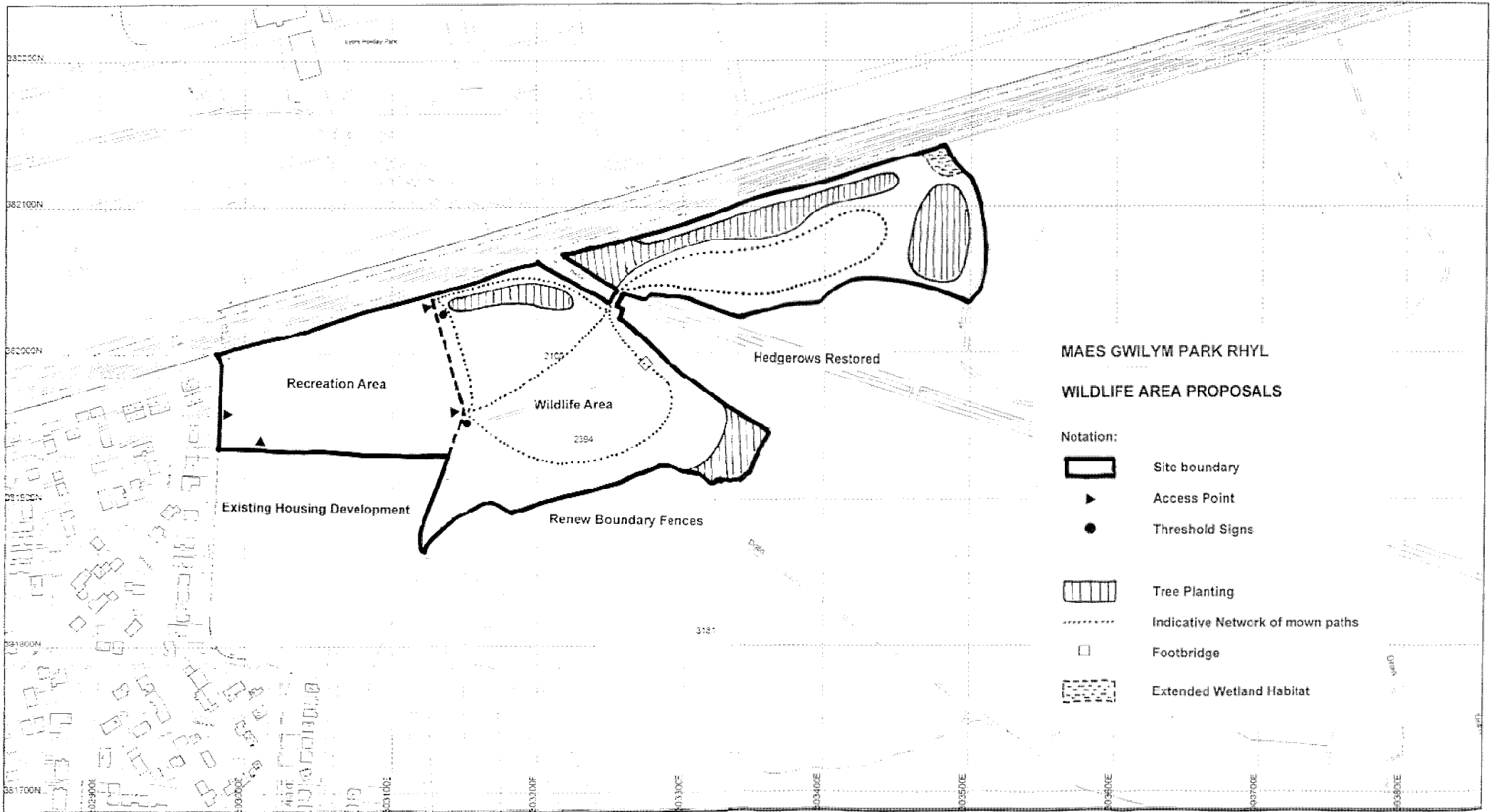
5.1 Former Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel considered and endorsed draft open space proposals for consultation purposes. Local members and adjoining Ward members also consulted at this time. Public consultation exercise carried out earlier this year in conjunction with the Community Agency. Awaiting detailed results of consultations from the Community Agency, but it is clear that the results showed a high degree of support for the wildlife area proposals which are the subject of this report. Concerns were apparently raised by some local people about the proposed play area/equipment and access arrangements for the proposed recreation area. Public Protection and Regulatory Services will address these matters in due course.

6. Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 The main impacts relate to Local Agenda 21 and improving local quality of life. The proposed Wildlife Area is consistent with the Council's Countryside Strategy.

7. Recommendation








7.1 To agree proposals to develop a Wildlife Area as part of a new open space at Maes Gwilym, Rhyl



MAES GWILYM PARK RHYL

WILDLIFE AREA PROPOSALS

Notation:

-  Site boundary
-  Access Point
-  Threshold Signs
-  Tree Planting
-  Indicative Network of mown paths
-  Footbridge
-  Extended Wetland Habitat



Not to Scale

November 2000

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