

**CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen on Tuesday 5 December 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT**

Councillors E C Edwards (Leader), D M Holder, R W Hughes, G M Kensler, D M Morris, A E Roberts, W R Webb, K E Wells

Observers - Councillors F D Jones, A J Tobin, A E Fletcher-Williams

**ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Financial Controller, Assistant Chief Executive [Strategy].

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors I M German, E A Owens and E W Williams

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1 The Leader referred to the death of Martin Williams, brother of Karen Ferguson, Chief Executive's Department and to the death of Linda Mallilieu, wife of Derek Mallilieu of the Bowls Centre at Rhyl and asked Members to stand in tribute.
- 2 The Leader welcomed Alan Evans, Director of Resources to his first Cabinet meeting.

**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] Part II Update on Llangollen
- [ii] Part II Update on Flooding Incidents in Denbighshire
- [iii] Part II Update on Wirral Partnership

**2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 23 November 2000 [previously circulated] were submitted.

**Matters Arising:**

- [i] Item 4 [National Youth Service Conference] - Councillor G M Kensler asked that for clarification purposes, after 'Newsnight programme' in the second paragraph, second line, add 'on child abuse'.
- [ii] Item 9 [Transportation Study for Denbigh and Transportation Study for Rhyl] - Councillor R W Hughes asked that Councillor A E Owens reference to the absence of funding be included in the Resolution, to read: Members acknowledged the absence of capital funding arising out of the recommendations for these studies.
- [iii] Item 15 [Purchasing Organisation] - The County Clerk asked that 'Purchasing' be deleted in the second paragraph, second word and third paragraph, last word. Both the references are to Wirral as a Local Authority and not Wirral Purchasing.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 November 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### 3 ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The County Clerk submitted his report [circulated at the meeting] on the feedback on the budget process from the Environment Scrutiny Committee. The Environment Scrutiny Committee Members had discussed the proposed new pressures and cuts and had agreed to adjust some of the new pressures. All observations made would be forwarded to the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and included in the budget preparation discussions.

**RESOLVED** that Members accept the report.

### 4 COUNCIL TAX BASE

The Financial Controller submitted the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance's report on the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2001-2002.

**RESOLVED** that:

[i] Members approve the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2001-2002, and

[ii] 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

## 5 LLYSFASI GOVERNING BODY

The Leader submitted a report on the Llysfasi Governing Body [previously circulated] seeking a decision from Members on the appointment of a replacement County Council representative to fill a vacancy on the Llysfasi College Governing Body following the resignation of Councillor E C Edwards and depending on that decision, whom to appoint.

The Leader stated his resignation was two-fold, firstly owing to personal reasons and secondly that the role of the representative on the Llysfasi Governing Body would be more appropriate for the Lead Member for Education given the creation of Community Consortia for Education and Training.

### **RESOLVED** that:

- [i] *Members approve a replacement County Council representative to serve on the Llysfasi Board of Governors, and*
- [ii] *Councillor K E Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT be appointed as the County Council's representative on the Llysfasi Board of Governors*

## 6 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 a Scale 6 Part Time Disability Sport Cymru Officer in the Countryside and Leisure Department. This post to be shared with Conwy County Borough Council and is 100% grant funded.

With regard to the County Clerk's request, Councillor W R Webb asked if the possibility of internal appointments had been fully explored. The County Clerk informed Members that Personnel have no suitable staff on the redeployment list at this time. The Chief Executive added that with the recent staff moves in the Technical Services and Planning Departments this list may have been exhausted.

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

## 7 BEST VALUE

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the Best Value: Programme and Resource Implications [previously circulated] and a Summary of Best Value Survey Report for Denbighshire County Council [circulated at the meeting].

Members were asked to approve the first two years of the 5 year programme for Best Value Service Reviews and to approve the recharge of resource allocations for the achievement of the proposed programme.

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the results of the recent questionnaire sent to 44,000 residents of which 4,312 residents had responded. The survey indicated levels of satisfaction with Council services in Denbighshire. Information on the results will be given back to the public in the form of a press release. A Citizen's Panel of 500 Denbighshire residents had been formed.

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to proposed response to bring the organisation of Best Value review programme more in line with the requirements of the Recovery Plan and to strengthen central resources for the administration of Best Value within the Chief Executive's Department in order to improve overall Authority's performance in the delivery of Best Value.

With regard to the recovery plan, linkages between expenditure and the need to secure savings was identified as one of the main organisational principles of the 5 year Review Programme. Highlighted also was the need to review information/reception/service points together so as to provide a more uniform and coherent service provision.

Councillors R W Hughes and G M Kensler both identified the need to ensure that the public understand the terms used in any surveys.

Councillor A E Roberts noted that 35% of the residents who completed the questionnaire had asked to join the Citizen's Panel. The Chief Executive said that more than 500 residents had indicated their wish to join the Panel but numbers would be limited by the need to form a representative Panel. The Best Value Officer said that consideration of gender, age and location had to be taken into account to ensure all sections of the population were properly represented.

The Leader thanked the Best Value team for their work on the report and summary of the survey.

**RESOLVED that:**

- [i] *Members approve the proposed first 2 years of the 5 Year Programme, and*
- [ii] *Members 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 and Best Value Unit.*

## 8 MAES GWILYM OPEN SPACE, RHYL

Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted a report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval to the development of the Maes Gwilym area in east Rhyl as a new open space for local people and wildlife.

The Maes Gwilym area is part of an on-going project, the land having been given on a Deed of Dedication to the Council in the 1990s with a cash sum paid to the Council to carry out works to develop the site as an open space. The Capital Programme for the current year contains provision for £16k of costs in connection with the scheme, with the proposed play area financed by a developer contribution.

**RESOLVED** that Members agree the proposals to develop a wildlife area as part of a new open space at Maes Gwilym, Rhyl.

## **9 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 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **10 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL HOMES**

Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report on the Management Arrangements for Local Authority Residential Homes [previously circulated] seeking Members' endorsement for the terms of reference for the options appraisal in respect of the future management arrangements for the Council's residential homes for older people and for its recommendation to be forwarded to Council for its consideration for approval.

Leonie Cowen and Associates of London had presented an analysis of issues which impact on the Council's ability to deliver in-house residential services for older people and the options open to the Council. Despite earlier reservations, Councillor W R Webb appreciated the need for a review.

**RESOLVED** that Members, having regard to securing the homes' future viability as a source of good quality, local residential care, and that all other options were explored and appraised and brought back to the Council for consideration, agreed the Terms of Reference to be adopted on the progression of the preparatory work on options appraisal for recommendation to Council.

## **11 LAND AT TY'N LLIDIART INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CORWEN**

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report on land at Ty'n Lliart Industrial Estate, Corwen [circulated previously] seeking Members' agreement to defer consideration of a request from Corwen Forestry to purchase the small vacant site which adjoins their premises at Ty'n Lliart.

Councillor W R Webb said Corwen Forestry have made a request to purchase a small vacant site adjoining their premises. However, owing to Unitary Development Plan considerations, further land for industrial use on the other side of the former railway line may be included, therefore access to the site will be required, hence the deferment of consideration of the sale of the land.

**RESOLVED** that Members defer the sale of the said piece of land at Ty'n Lliart Industrial Estate until it is known if the land is required for an access to further industrial land.

## **12 FLAT NOS 1, 3, 5, 7 AND 9 WEST STREET, RHYL**

Councillor W R Webb, the Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval to dispose of five County Council owned flats at West Street, Rhyl to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association who have funding to demolish and redevelop the site and adjoining land to provide social housing for families.

Councillor G M Kensler noted that Councillor Joan Butterfield had expressed the need for more open space in this part of Rhyl if demolition of the flats took place. The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services assured Councillor Kensler that the views of local Members had been taken into account.

**RESOLVED** that Members agree the sale of flat numbers 1, 3, 4, 7 and 9 West Street, Rhyl to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association for demolition and redevelopment to provide social family housing on terms to be agreed with the Acting Director of Technical Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

### 13 MOUNTFIELDS, DENBIGH

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report seeking Members' approval to lease approximately 0.01 ha [0.02 acre] of land to Vodafone for the purpose of erecting a mast at Mountfields, Denbigh.

Councillor Webb said the site would be leased for a period of up to 20 years, with all costs paid for by Vodafone.

Councillor G M Kensler referred to the adverse health implications concerning mobile phone transmitters and exposure to electromagnetic fields. Members agreed that given the lack of current evidence, it would be prudent to include conditions within the lease which would cover Members' concerns should such risks be proven to exist.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed to lease to Vodafone the Mountfields site, Denbigh for a period of up to 20 years on terms and conditions [including a condition regarding health risks] to be agreed with the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

### 14 LAND ADJACENT TO NO 6 BANASTRE AVENUE, PRESTATYN

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report seeking Members' approval to the disposal of land adjacent to No 6 Banastre Avenue, Prestatyn [previously circulated].

The owners of No 6 Banastre Avenue have made a request to purchase a strip of land adjacent to their property for use as a driveway and garden. The land has boundaries with both No 6 and No 4 Banastre Avenue and in 1996 both properties were given the opportunity to purchase the land. It was considered appropriate to offer the land to both properties once again.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed to dispose of the land adjacent to No 6 Banastre Avenue, Prestatyn with the land to be revalued and offered for sale to both No 4 and No 6 Banastre Avenue on terms to be agreed with the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

### 15 LAND AT ARTILLERY ROW, BODELWYDDAN

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval to dispose of a plot of land at Artillery Row, Bodelwyddan to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. Clwyd Alyn Housing Association proposed to build a special needs wheelchair bungalow for existing local County Council tenants on the land as part of the Denbighshire Housing Grant Programme for 2000-2001.

Councillor R W Hughes suggested to Members that the costs of diverting the sewer which crosses the site should be borne by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.

**RESOLVED** that Members approve the sale of 558m<sup>2</sup> of land at Artillery Row, Bodelwyddan to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association with the costs of diverting the sewer being borne by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.

## 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.

The Leader thanked the Property Services team for their work on property / land disposals.

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

## 17 PURCHASING ORGANISATION

The Financial Controller gave a verbal update following the meeting of the Organisation on 4 December 2000. He stated that he had pointed out Denbighshire's concerns over the trading position and the need to turn the situation round. Denbighshire's decision to withdraw its notice to quit the consortium with effect from 31 March 2001 was made known to the meeting, as was the decision to give further notice to quit from 31 March 2002 to protect the Council's position.

Conwy CBC and Wirral BC gave notice of a similar decision whilst Wrexham stated that they had not revisited their earlier notice to quit and would therefore be leaving the consortium at the end of the financial year, however they would like to continue to trade in the short term. Flintshire had not given notice previously.

The County Secretary of Flintshire promised a report to the next meeting to detail the impact on the organisation's recovery plan and the recommended terms for Wrexham to continue trading next financial year.

Councillor W R Webb asked what amount Wrexham County Borough Council would pay to quit the consortium at this time. The Financial Controller said that Wrexham County Borough Council would pay a one fifth share of the financial loss and a one fifth share of any downsizing costs.

Councillor D M Holder asked whether Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Consortium was a limited company. The Financial Controller explained that Wirral Purchasing was not a limited company but a Local Authority joint organisation.

The Financial Controller reminded Members that 31 March 2001 was the last date for giving notice to quit from the Consortium.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the report.

## 18 FLOODING INCIDENTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on the flooding incidents in Denbighshire. A response was required on both the Horseshoe Pass and the Mwrog Street culvert, Ruthin and on the Bellwin formula. There were also costs of repair at Loggerheads, to the Council's housing stock and work required at Corwen.

The Financial Controller said a meeting would be held with Wrexham and Flintshire and the National Assembly regarding capital costs, land drainage costs and future flood prevention costs.

The Head of Highways reported that work had commenced on Mwrog Street and design works on the culvert were now complete with a further section of the culvert to be replaced. Orders for work to start had been placed with the contractors. Work had also commenced on a flooding contingency plan for the County and the National Assembly for Wales would be asked for support.

In response to a question, the Chief Executive said that the meeting with the Environment Agency at Ruthin had been useful. However the media have given much coverage to the Mwrog Street culvert at Ruthin to the exclusion of other areas. It was reported that Sue Essex AM is charged with looking at a wider picture of the flooding within Wales.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the report.

## **19 LLANGOLLEN BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The County Clerk gave a verbal update on the Llangollen Boundary Review. Application for leave for Judicial Review had been rejected.

The County Clerk said the case would be put forward to the Boundary Commission for Wales who had not before tackled anything of this complexity and had therefore engaged consultants to assist.

The Chief Executive responded to detailed questions and outlined the Council's strategy. In line with previous policy, should the initial response from the Boundary Commission for Wales be unfavourable, the National Assembly for Wales would be requested to undertake a wider boundary review to take account of adjustment of boundaries elsewhere.

The County Clerk said the Boundary Commission report would be produced by October 2001 and the National Assembly view was unlikely to be available until October 2002. Following further detailed discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that Members note the report.

The meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr E A Owens  
DATE: 21 December 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 Life Long Learning, 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.

**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	91	0	691	(0)
Planning & Development						
- Leisure		40	18		58	
- Resorts & Attractions		50	33		83	
- Other		18			18	
sub total	0	108	51	0	159	(-8)
Technical Services						
- Redundancies	171				0	
- Design etc				-40	-40	
- Property & Community			161		161	
- Highways					0	
- Housing					0	
sub total	171	0	161	-40	121	(-162)
Social Services						
- Redundancies	73				0	
- Children s		774			774	
- Adult - provider			376		376	
- Adult - purchaser				-174	-174	
- Strategic Planning				-296	-296	
sub total	73	774	376	-470	680	(+66)
Chief Executive						
- Policy & Secretariat		21			21	
- Legal & Admin		60			60	
- Other				-20	-20	
sub total	0	81	0	-20	61	(+5)
Finance						
sub total		45			45	(+5)
Total position for Services	244	1608	679	-530	1757	(-94)
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	1908	679	-530	2057	(94)

**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.

**DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, CULTURE & INFORMATION**

**Updated Budget Position as at 30th November 2000**

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>DETAIL OF PRESSURE/SAVINGS</b>	<b>COST/ (SAVINGS) £K</b>	<b>DETAILS OF REMEDIAL ACTION</b>
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	-	
<b>School Funds Held Centrally</b> SEN	Current cost of Special Educational statutory needs in excess of budget provision.	500	A complete review of this service is in progress. (NB. Includes additional pressure of £50K since September)
School/College Transport	Additional cost of Education Transport following retendering of contracts	100	Significant savings cannot be achieved without a review of the current policy which will not impact on the current year
Advisory	Increased cost of joint curriculum support and advisory services	70	Review of Advisory Service & Curricular Support Service being undertaken. CSS is subject to a joint Best Value review with Flintshire, Wrexham and Conwy.

Client Services	Compliance with HSE Prohibition Notice in respect of replacement cookers following accident at one of the County's High Schools	18	
		(12)	Salary savings in respect of delayed filling of post
	Insufficient budget to meet significant increase in repair & maintenance costs for kitchen equipment - projected figure to March 2001	30	
		(15)	Good housekeeping savings

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.

## APPENDIX 1

	BUDGET AVAILABLE 2000/01 £	PROJECTED OUTTURN 2000/01 £	VARIANCE 2000/01 (- = overspend) £
<b>LEISURE MANAGEMENT &amp; SUPPORT</b>	130,778	139,648	-8,870
<b>SPORTS DEVELOPMENT</b>	70,022	70,022	0
<b>RECREATION &amp; EVENTS</b>	42,286	42,286	0
<b>RUTHIN CRAFT CENTRE</b>	57,236	57,236	0
<b>ROYAL INTERNATIONAL PAVILION</b>	177,788	136,407	41,381
<b>LLANGOLLEN INT EISTEDDFOD</b>	16,191	17,688	-1,497
<b>CORWEN LEISURE CENTRE</b>	77,440	109,271	-31,831
<b>RHYL LEISURE CENTRE</b>	70,354	108,461	-38,107
<b>PRESTATYN LEISURE CENTRE</b>	94,703	100,592	-5,889
<b>ST. ASAPH LEISURE CENTRE</b>	52,818	57,670	-4,852
<b>DENBIGH LEISURE CENTRE</b>	67,869	60,589	7,280
<b>RUTHIN LEISURE CENTRE</b>	53,288	44,429	8,859
<b>LLANGOLLEN LEISURE CENTRE</b>	42,769	62,700	-19,931
<b>COMMUNITY BUILDINGS</b>	129,926	131,242	-1,316
<b>COMMUNITY LEISURE</b>	<b>1,083,468</b>	<b>1,138,241</b>	<b>-54,773</b>
<b>MARKETING &amp; PUBLICITY</b>	63,141	63,141	0
<b>RESORTS &amp; AMENITIES</b>	17,212	28,887	-11,675
<b>LEISURE FACILITIES</b>	41,042	110,658	-69,616
<b>BOWLS CENTRE</b>	11,584	11,608	-24
<b>SUN CENTRE</b>	93,899	94,000	-101
<b>NOVA CENTRE</b>	190,957	192,561	-1,604
<b>RESORTS &amp; ATTRACTIONS</b>	<b>417,835</b>	<b>500,855</b>	<b>-83,020</b>
<b>SCALA CINEMA</b>	14,649	15,952	-1,303 **
<b>SCALA CINEMA</b>	<b>14,649</b>	<b>15,952</b>	<b>-1,303</b>
<b>THEATRES</b>	409,647	409,647	0
<b>THEATRES</b>	<b>409,647</b>	<b>409,647</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COUNTRYSIDE</b>	321,010	323,000	-1,990
<b>COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE</b>	<b>321,010</b>	<b>323,000</b>	<b>-1,990</b>
<b>PLANNING SERVICES</b>	706,250	724,250	-18,000
<b>PLANNING SERVICES</b>	<b>706,250</b>	<b>724,250</b>	<b>-18,000</b>
	<b>2,952,859</b>	<b>3,111,945</b>	<b>-159,086</b>

Denbighshire County Council

Social Services Directorate

**Details of Pressure/Saving**

**Cost/Saving**

**Details of Remedial Action**

£'000

Childrens & Families Services

Underachieved cuts  
Out Of County Placements  
Fostering

128  
366  
280

Reduction in Out Of County Placements

**774**

Adult Services - Provider

Underachieved cuts including  
Residential & Homecare

323

Plans for terms and conditions have so far not been achieved and this service continues to be a budget pressure. measures have been agreed by cabinet

Residential income reducing  
S117 After Care  
Staff Savings  
Savings

150  
25  
-92  
-30

Residential Staff/Social Worker posts not filled  
Income generation

**376**

Adult Services - Purchasing

Learning Disabilities  
Quality Initiatives  
Staff Savings  
Services to Older People

107  
-55  
-101  
-125

Budget not utilised  
Social Work/ Care Management Posts not filled  
Residential / Nursing Homes

**-174**

**Strategic Planning**

Galro - Increase in number of cases  
Administration/Operational savings

49  
-345

Vacancies within Strategic Planning not filled  
+profitable year for cefndy Enterprises

**-296**

**Total**

**680**

# TECHNICAL SERVICES

## REVENUE BUDGET 2000/2001

<u>Service</u>	<u>Detail of Pressure/Saving</u>	<u>Cost/Saving</u> £k    £k	<u>Details of Remedial Action</u>
<b><u>Design &amp; Construction</u></b>			
Underachieved Cuts	Budget transfer from Schools	50	
Savings	Reduce property maintenance Rate savings	-50 <u>-40</u>	Maintenance reduction in line with available budget One off saving re appeals on office premises
			<b><u>-40</u></b>
<b><u>Property &amp; Community</u></b>			
Unidentified Cuts	Budget shortfall	253	
Underachieved Cuts	Full year effect of cuts not realised	19	
Pressures	Car Parks Waste Disposal Valuation Services	40 63 5	Unachieved income re seasonal expectations Increased waste through CA and landfill sites Difficulty in achieving income target
Savings	Office Accommodation Refuse Collection Support Costs Coast Protection Ground Maintenance CCTV Sanddrift Administration	-80 -62 -35 -11 -11 -3 -2 <u>-15</u>	Appeals by rating valuer on office premises Additional income £38k & savings £24k (bin bags £22k) Reduction in support staff at Caledfryn. Reining back of expenditure budget Reining back of expenditure budget Reining back of expenditure budget Reining back of expenditure budget Savings on equipment & I.T. budgets
			<b><u>161</u></b>
<b><u>Highways &amp; Transportation</u></b>			
Underachieved Cuts	Full year effect of cuts not realised	11	
Pressures	Winter Maintenance Bridges & Structures	25 20	Drainage and flooding problems prior October 2000 Increase in emergency maintenance
Savings	Reduce maintenance Leasing Support Costs	-25 -11 <u>-20</u>	Reining back of expenditure budget Reduction in equipment leasing charges Reduction in support staff at Caledfryn
			<b><u>0</u></b>
<b>PROJECTED TECHNICAL SERVICES OUTTURN 2000/2001</b>			<b><u>121</u></b>

Due to the "unidentified cuts" in the Property & Community budget it is difficult to identify which services are overspent, however it is reasonable to allocate the £161k as follows:

	£k
Waste Disposal	100
Car Parks	40
Street Cleansing	16
Valuation Services	5
	<b><u>161</u></b>

## REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

**CABINET MEMBER:** Cllr Ann Owens - Lead Member for Finance

**DATE:** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT:** National Assembly for Wales Cabinet Consultation Paper  
Simplifying the System: Local Government Finance in V

### **1 Decision Sought**

To support the draft WLGA response to the National Assembly for Wales Cabinet Consultation Paper - Simplifying the System: Local Government Finance in Wales

### **2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

The Assembly Cabinet consultation paper Simplifying the System: Local Government Finance in Wales was published in September. The deadline for responses is 31 December. The Welsh Local Government Association held a seminar on this topic on Tuesday 5 December at which its draft response was outlined. The Assembly Cabinet proposals cover the following topics:

- **Revenue**  
Standard Spending Assessments represent a generally supported method of distributing grants although other methods such as plans could be used.
- **Capital Finance**  
Abolition of central government permission to borrow.  
Safeguards protecting Council Tax payers from excessive borrowing must be retained through the application of Professional Regulation and Internal and External Audit.  
The application of capital receipts to finance capital spending needs reviewing
- **Taxes, fees and charges**  
Introduction of statutory revaluation cycles for Council Tax and Businesses.  
Introduction of Supplementary Business Rates to provide additional funding for local projects agreed by Councils and business.  
Rate relief for small businesses.  
Development of corporate charging policies.  
Powers to charge for discretionary services provided under statutory powers.

The main points of the WLGA draft response to the proposals prepared prior to the seminar are attached as an Appendix to this report for information and approval by Cabinet. The draft response will be discussed at the WLGA consultative committee meeting on 15 December.

### **3 Cost Implications**

None.

#### **4 Financial Controller Statement**

The proposed simplifications and WLGA response are supported.

#### **5 Consultation Carried Out**

None

#### **6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

None at present.

#### **7 Recommendation**

That support be given to the draft WLGA response particularly with regard to the following:

- The new system of capital controls should be as simple as possible.
- There is no case for legislative control over capital receipts within the HRA.
- The Assembly should hold a revaluation for council tax using its existing powers.
- The Association welcomes the proposal to reduce the bills of small businesses.
- Local Government should have greater ability to raise resources locally.

**The Association's response**  
**Ian Miller**  
**Head of Finance, WLGA**

We can set the agenda

- We don't have to accept all the (largely DETR-driven) agenda in the consultation paper
- Major opportunity to press for what suits the needs of Wales
- We should be ready to tackle the major questions that the consultation paper ignores

Key issues for local government?

- Ability to raise resources locally
- Effect of public expenditure definitions
- Hypothecation
- Removing the controls over capital borrowing/expenditure
- Timing of Assembly's and authorities' budget decisions
- Transparency of Assembly's funding decisions

Ability to raise resources locally

- Control of business rates
- New local taxes
- Review of fees and charges
- Changes to council tax system

Business rates

- Whatever level of control is given to councils, we have to recognise businesses' concerns on consultation and financial impact
- Very modest: 5% produces c£30m
- Cost vs benefit
- Assembly should have power to raise 5% limit
- If councils can't have full control, Assembly should have greater control than now (remove the RPI link)

Fees and charges

- £355m in 2000-01 (cf £670m from council tax)
- Regulations under section 150, Local Govt & Housing Act 1989 - discretionary service
- Review of fees and charges set or controlled by Assembly

Council Tax

- Assembly has wide powers now:
- It can order a revaluation
- It can change valuation bands and ratio between them
- It can alter value of discount (25%)
- Revaluation:
- Fixed cycle (as business rates)?
- Lists to last for no more than x years?
- Complete discretion for Assembly?

Public expenditure definitions

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor A Owens

**DATE:** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT:** Housing Benefits..progress and action report

### **1 Decision Sought**

- a) To approve additional moneys (referred to in Section 3 below). Full information on costs, including those which are currently being negotiated with the software suppliers, will be provided at the meeting. The additional expenditure is required in order that the ongoing level of outstanding work is cleared by 31 March 2001.
- b) To seek a continuation of the current arrangement whereby Russell House (Revenues office) is closed for a period of 3 days a week until the outstanding workload is completed, projected as being the 31 March 2001.

### **2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

Since the introduction of the 3 day a week closure the outstanding work has reduced by 34%. It is now clear however that the work will not be reduced to reasonable levels (i.e. Compliance with the 14 day response time to claims) by the 31/12/00 given the following factors:

- a) Increased volume of work now being received on a regular weekly basis arising from the issue of bills, final notices and benefit determinations which in part has increased due to the reduction in the backlog.
- b) The Council Tax debt recovery process is now in operation which in itself is increasing the number of benefit enquiries from potential claimants who are in difficulty with their council tax payments.

- c) The loss of three experienced revenues/benefits staff in the last 2 weeks. It will take time for this resource to be replaced to the same standard given the learning curve that new staff will have to work through.
- d) There are still issues relating to the computer system arising from data conversion and from gaining the knowledge of the overall functionality which need to be resolved to ensure that the appropriate productivity is achieved. Additionally the archiving of data and decommissioning of the old computer system is equally causing significant pressures which in turn prevents the Authority from terminating its maintenance contract which if not addressed by 31 March 2001 will involve additional charges.

Arising from the above issues then the current resources are inadequate to resolve the outstanding workload by the 31 March 2001 and therefore additional resources are requested and are detailed in section 3 below.

### **3 Cost Implications**

The action plan highlights a number of areas where additional costs will be incurred:

- a) Procurement of additional consultancy days from Academy (suppliers of the new software system) to remedy and clarify issues regarding the system at a cost of £11000.
- b) Retain the four temporary staff for a period of 3 months ending 31 March 2001 at a cost of £16000.
- c) Secure additional processing capacity by appointing an agency to deal with approximately 3000 claims/documents. Enquiries are now being made to identify the costs involved.
- d) The cost of decommissioning the old computer Bull DPS 7 by engaging Bull Information Systems Ltd. A figure for this contract is imminent.
- e) There are a number of Information Technology tasks that the Revenues staff are not able to perform over the next month and given that annual billing of Council Tax will take place in March 2001 a request for assistance from Corporate IT has been made and the cost implications are now being quantified.

Members will be fully briefed of the additional costs at the Cabinet meeting on 21 December 2000.

#### **4. Financial Controller's Statement**

There is no provision within the current budget to finance the additional costs referred to above and which in part are not yet quantified. However in view of the potential consequences in incurring additional costs in not providing a timely revenues service it is felt that on balance that it will prove cost effective to fund the additional consultancy and agency costs.

#### **5 Consultation Carried Out**

A forum known as the Revenues Liaison Group has been established with participation from local residents/tenants groups, local housing associations, voluntary organisations such as benefit advice shop, Citizens Advice Bureau, Shelter, Town Councillor, Cabinet Member. A meeting of this forum was held on the 12 December 2000 at which the progress made to date was detailed in addition to which it was confirmed that a report would be submitted to Cabinet setting out proposals with the objective of building upon the progress achieved to date in resolving the current workload. The forum were pleased with the progress made to date and to the reallocation of resource in the form of a Liaison Officer to assist with enquiries but felt that such measures whilst welcomed should be supported by a full review of the Revenues service to ensure that a consistent and quality service is delivered in the future.

#### **6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

Anti Poverty policy is impacted given the inability to process benefit claims within the statutory 14 days.

#### **7 Recommendation**

- a) That the additional expenditure, which will be outlined in detail at the Cabinet meeting, be approved.
- b) The Revenues Office at Russell House be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to all personal callers and telephone enquiries. Offices therefore will be open Monday and Friday only from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. This will continue until 31 March 2001.

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

Directorate: LIFELONG LEARNING Section: COUNTRYSIDE AND LEISURE

Post Title: EVENTS ASSISTANT (ROYAL INTERNATIONAL PAVILION) Salary Grade: MAN 3

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

- Full time Events Assistant post vacated earlier this year. Post essential to assist with setting up/breaking down for events at the Pavilion.
- To make savings and enhance flexibility the post has been reduced to part-time.
- Post advertised internally as a part-time position; no applications received.
- Request permission to advertise externally.

Signed: Tommy Hughes ACTING HEAD OF SERVICE (Director)

Dated: 6/12/00

Signed: Sharon W. Hughes LEAD CABINET MEMBER (Chair of Service Committee)

Dated: 6/12/00

To: Chief Executive

Signed: [Signature] Date: 11/12/00

Approved  Refused

Comments/Reasons

To: Emergency Powers Committee

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Committee) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved  Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

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

Directorate: Environment

Section: Environmental Health  
Health & Safety Enforcement

Post Title: Environmental Health Officer (Health & Safety) Salary Grade: PO1

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

- The post concerned is in relation to a function which is very specialist  
There are no internal members of staff who meet the specified standards of competence required for this post.
- The post is a very important one as it affects the management of the day to day operation of the County Health & Safety Enforcement Programme.  
It is considered that the post should be advertised on a national basis because of the need to appoint without delays being encountered which would affect the Councils statutory duties.

Signed: [Signature] (Director) Head Dated: 11/12/00

Signed: [Signature] (Chair of Service Committee) CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT Dated: 11/12/00

To: Chief Executive

Signed: [Signature] Date: 12/12/00 Approved  Refused

Comments/Reasons  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To: Cabinet

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Committee) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved  Refused

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET - 21st December, 2000

LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Report by the County Clerk

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.

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**GWYDDELWERN C.P.**

Local Member: Councillor G. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Mrs Elizabeth Anwen Lewis, Encil y Coed, Gwyddelwern, Corwen 31.8.04

Mr Elwyn Owen Roberts, Hendre Isa, Bryn S.M., Corwen 18.12.00

NOMINATION

Mr G. Robert Edwards, Ty Brith, Panty'r Capel, Corwen.

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**LLANGOLLEN, BRYN COLLEN C.P.**

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

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 2

Cllr A.J. Tobin

18.12.00

Mr John Tate, Thornleigh, Abbey Road, Llangollen

Resigned

Mrs Nesta Owen Heald, Pennant, Maesmawr Road, Llangollen

31.8.04

**NOMINATION**

Cllr R.J.R. Jones.

Mr Chris Parrot, Grange Lodge, Grange Road, Llangollen.

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**LLANFAIR D.C. (C)**

Local Member: Councillor G. Jones

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 2

Mr William Fred Middleton, 2 Bryn Ffynnon Hall, Llanfair D.C.

18.12.00

Mrs Sheila Audrey Palmer, Bron-y-Graig, Pwllglas, Ruthin

18.12.00

**NOMINATION**

Mr Paul Crowther, 5 Bron y Clwyd, Llanfair D.C., Ruthin.

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**DENBIGH PLAS BRONDYFFRYN**

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

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 2

Cllr G. Kensler

18.12.00

Mrs Jill Grange Griffiths, Greenfield, Henllan Road, Trefnant

16.11.03

Mrs Lucy Ethel Lake, The Courts, Park Street, Denbigh

18.12.00

**NOMINATION**

Cllr G. Kensler

Mrs Lucy Ethel Lake, The Courts, Park Street, Denbigh.

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County Clerk

## REPORT TO CABINET

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

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

**DATE:** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT:** LEISURE TRUST FEASIBILITY STUDY

### 1. Decision Sought

1.1 In response to the Working Group's recommendations to Cabinet to agree to commissioning a feasibility study to look at a further phase of externalisation via a Trust/Non-Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO) and to enable Contract Standing Orders 6(e) to be invoked to the appointment of Lawrence Graham Consultants.

### 2. Reason For Seeking Decision

2.1 There has been a persistent problem of underfunding in Leisure which has given rise to significant excess spending over budget. Even after allowing for additional validation of budget this year and projected savings arising next year from implementation of the agreed Coastal Tourism Facilities and Attractions Trust, there is still a significant shortfall in budget. The current projected overspend in Community Leisure is £30k this year. This is likely to be compounded next year by further cuts and the need to absorb other pressures on the budget. The budget shortfall for next year is likely to be over £100k in Community Leisure.

2.2 The former Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel spent some time deliberating the budget position in Leisure. A range of options to address the problem were considered, including across the board cuts, closure(s) of facilities/services, and further externalisation of facilities. The Panel concluded that across the board cuts were unrealistic given the scale of the problem and the need to avoid emasculating the entire service. They also rejected the option of closure(s) of facilities, and externalisation by means of a private contractor. Externalisation via a Trust/NPDO was seen as the only realistic option.

2.3 Externalisation is a complex area of work which requires a detailed feasibility study and full consultation with all interested parties before a final decision to proceed can be taken. The Scrutiny Panel therefore recommended to Council earlier this year that such a study be commissioned to look at all leisure facilities (7 Leisure Centres, Royal International Pavilion, Ruthin Craft Centre, and various Community Buildings). Council did not accept the recommendations, but decided to establish a member group to review once again which facilities should be included in any feasibility study. It was subsequently agreed to establish a special Cabinet Working Group to give further consideration to this issue.

2.4 The Working Group met last month and were advised by a cross-directorate team of officers. They reviewed all the facilities and concluded that at this stage we should proceed with a study to look at possible externalisation of the seven leisure centres only. This is seen as a coherent grouping of like facilities which has the potential to produce the savings required to bring leisure spending in line with budgets within the Financial Recovery Plan period, and the Groups approach was one which did not seek to advocate externalisation for the sake of it. Some members expressed concerns about the diminution of Council control of such facilities which would follow from externalisation, but the Working Group concluded that it was vital for further feasibility work to be undertaken on this option so that Council could make an informed decision on how to proceed in respect of Leisure's budget difficulties.

### **3. Cost Implications**

**3.1** Further externalisation of Leisure facilities is a key part of the Services' contribution to the Council's Financial Recovery Plan. If implemented, it provides the opportunity to stabilise Leisures' finances and to bring spending in line with budget. The level of savings achieved could be around £120k. It should be noted however that given the complexity of this process and the long lead time for implementation it is unlikely that full year savings would be achieved before 2002-03, although it is hoped that part year savings would accrue in 2001-02.

**3.2** Members will know that following a competitive selection process Lawrence Graham were appointed as the Council's consultants for externalisation of the coastal tourism facilities and attractions. They have built up considerable knowledge of the Council and its leisure facilities, and there are advantages to extending their current contract to undertake the feasibility work on the Leisure centres. The estimated cost of the study is around £25k, but it would be necessary to invoke the provision for single tenders Contract Standing Orders to appoint Lawrence Graham. The County Clerk has confirmed that this is acceptable under Contract Standing Order 6(e). Members should know that if it is decided to proceed to implement such a Trust the likely additional cost of the consultants will be around £75k based on the experience of setting up the Coastal Tourism Facilities Trust. The cost of this work has been included in Leisure's list of budget pressures and burdens for 2001-02. It is anticipated that the Feasibility Study would take around 3 months to complete if it is decided to proceed. If it is eventually agreed to transfer management of the facilities to a trust, it is anticipated that this will take around a further 6-9 months to implement.

### **4. Financial Controller Statement**

**4.1** The initial costs of the proposal will be considered as part of the budget setting process.

### **5. Consultation Carried Out**

**5.1** The former Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel spent some time deliberating on this issue before deciding to recommend to Council that a feasibility study be commissioned to look at a further phase of externalisation in Leisure Services. At the same time that council considered this matter a series of meetings were held with staff and union representatives to explain the situation. The headteachers and governors of all schools with dual use Leisure facilities were also informed, as was the Sports Council for Wales. The cross-directorate team of officers involved has included representatives from Finance, personnel, legal and property in addition to Leisure Services.

**5.2** Cabinet should note that a central element of the proposed feasibility study will be consultation with key interested groups, including staff, schools, leisure centre users, Town Councils, etc.

### **6. Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

**6.1** Principal implications relate to the Council's Financial Recovery Plan.

### **7. Recommendation**

**7.1** That Cabinet agree the following Working Group recommendations:

**(i) A feasibility study be commissioned to examine the possible transfer of the Council's Leisure Centres to a Trust/NPDO.**

**(ii) That under the Council's Contract Standing Orders 6(e) Lawrence Graham be appointed as the consultants to carry out this study.**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER :** Councillor Rhiannon Hughes

**DATE :** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT :** The Royal International Pavillon Llangollen ~  
Feasibility Study: The Long Term Future

**1.0 DECISION SOUGHT**

To endorse the recommendation of the Officer Working Group established to consider the above study.

**2.0 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

**2.1** The Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen Feasibility Study was initiated in 1999 by the County Council's Planning and Economic Development Department and funded from grant aid and contributions for the Llangollen International Music Festival and the Llangollen Town Council. From Ove Arup and Partners were commissioned to produce the feasibility study which investigated the possible future development of the site to incorporate all of the requirements of Denbighshire County Council, the Llangollen International Music Festival with the approval of the Local Community, following a change in the use and in order to sustain the commercial viability of the Building and Site as a whole, and add to the general economic development of the area.

**2.2** The impetus for conducting such a study in the case of the County Council was primarily with regard to:

- A) the significant maintenance liability incumbent upon the County Council.
- b) the fact that current facilities fall well short of providing an appropriate infrastructure for large/medium events and an all year round venue.
- c) the Lease arrangement between the County Council and the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod (L.I.M.E.) and the inherent financial liability incurred to L.I.M.E. annually is significant and will become an increasing burden upon the Authority.

In relation to this latter point it should be noted that whilst the County Council is the owner of the Pavilion, it is a tenant with L.I.M.E. owned land and under the term of the present agreement with L.I.M.E. there are a number of strict conditions relating to the use of the Pavilion and the site whilst the financial implications of maintaining and sustaining both the building and the site are largely the responsibility of the County Council.

**2.3** The Consultants produced the feasibility study at the end of June 2000 and in August 2000 an officer working group was established by the County Council to consider a County Council response to the Study.

**2.4** The Officer Working Group, whilst welcoming the Study as providing a great deal of background detail and much useful information, expressed a number of reservations regarding the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Study viz:

- a) there are a number of assertions particularly in relation to the market analysis without supporting evidence. The consultants also claim that development in accordance with the suggestions would generate 117 full time jobs during construction and 180 full time jobs on completion. There is little in the way of evidence as to how such figures have been calculated.
- b) with regard to possible all year round events there is a blurring in the distinction between what might be laudable and what in reality would be financially and socially viable, especially as the Study appears to suggest doubling the current revenue costs.
- c) Sources of external funding such as Objective One are suggested but the viability of accessing such funding is not developed or tested. For example whilst many of the proposed functions/facilities would appear to be eligible for Objective One funding, the scale of the funding should be related to outputs which would be the subject of rigorous testing.
- d) There is little evidence that the study has considered the development of the Royal International Pavilion in the context of a Llangollen Strategy. It is the opinion of the Officers Working Group that the R.I.P. Feasibility Study should not be considered in isolation to such a strategy proposals such as the imminent Marina/Canal Basin development, the 1998 Ove Arup Study of "River Dee Footbridges, Llangollen" and the suggestion that a link from Victoria Promenade and the R.I.P. Site would integrate the Town and the Pavilion Site.

### **3.0 COST IMPLICATIONS**

The cost implications of developing the Feasibility Study would be significant although it is suggested that such of the development could attract external funding. It should also be noted that current costs of maintaining the R.I.P. both in terms of revenue and buildings maintenance costs are currently high and significant building repairs and maintenance costs are anticipated for the future.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

No cost implications.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

None.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

Potential implication for all policy areas.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the Cabinet authorise the establishment of a Corporate 'Llangollen Strategy Group consisting of appropriate Members and Officers to be lead by one (or more) members of the Corporate Directors Management Team.

## REPORT TO CABINET

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

**DATE:** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT:** RHYL SPORT AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

### 1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek in principle support for this initiative and to approve proposals to take the project forward.

### 2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The partnership formed to develop and take this project forward has been working on the scheme for some time. The document attached as an Appendix to this report provides an outline of the project and has been agreed by the partnership. Other partners will be seeking the formal support of their own organisations over the next few weeks.

### 3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 From the attached document, Cabinet will note that this is a large capital project which will also involve revenue costs. The aim, however, is to develop a scheme which will be substantially funded from a range of external sources. The next step is to carry out more detailed work to firm up the proposals, estimate capital and revenue costs, and to examine funding opportunities. This will then allow the Council and other partners to fully appreciate all the implications before deciding how to proceed.

3.2 The estimated cost of progressing the scheme to feasibility stage is around £18,000. It is hoped that 50% of this cost will be financed via the Objective 1 programme. Partners will however have to match fund any grants. Rhyl College have provisionally pledged £3,000, and a bid will be made for a similar amount of capital funds from the Council's capital programme for next year. It is hoped that the outstanding funding will be forthcoming from other partners.

### 4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 The initial costs of the proposal will be considered as part of the budget setting process.

### 5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 The partnership comprises the following organisations: Denbighshire County Council, Rhyl Town Council, Llandrillo College, Rhyl Football Club, Rhyl High School, Blessed Edward Jones School, and West Rhyl Community Strategy. In addition, the Sports Council for Wales, Rhyl Community Agency, and local MP and AM have all be actively involved. Denbighshire officers have included representatives from leisure, education, policy unit, economic development and planning. All Rhyl County Councillors have been informed of the project.

5.2 Cabinet will note that a key element of the proposed feasibility study will be to engage with the local community to help shape the project and to generate local ownership.

### 6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 This project is about enhancing local quality of life. The principal impacts relate to social inclusion, health promotion, community regeneration, crime prevention and Local Agenda 21. The project will also be included in the emerging County Sport and Recreation Strategy.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 To give in principle support to the Rhyl Sport and Education Partnership Project and, subject to funding, to agree to undertake further work to examine the feasibility of this project.**

## RHYL SPORT AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

### PROJECT OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Rhyl suffers from high levels of social and economic deprivation, particularly in the West and South-West Wards. Education, sport and recreation are well recognised vehicles which can assist in tackling the deep seated problems of social and economic exclusion, and play a key part in securing community regeneration. This underpins the Rhyl Sport and Education Partnership Project, which seeks to devise and implement an integrated package of measures developed by a broad-based local partnership.
2. Not only does Rhyl exhibit unacceptably high levels of deprivation, it also has a shortage of good quality sport and recreation facilities to meet the current demands and needs of education and the wider community. The project will therefore encompass both 'hard' and 'soft' measures to create new and improved multi-use sport and recreation facilities and to tackle social exclusion through community involvement, enhanced participation, and training.
3. The project is currently in embryonic form, but the partnership considers that the concept has great potential. Much detail is yet to be developed, not least because of the need to engage the local community at the formative stages of the project. Shaping of the project in this way is a key element of successful community regeneration, and will help generate local ownership of the initiative.

#### THE PARTNERSHIP

4. The project has been developed by a partnership of local organisations with an interest in sport and educational development in the Rhyl area. The partnership has broadened over the life of the project and currently comprises the following organisations, although it is likely that the list of partners will expand as the project takes shape:
  - Denbighshire County Council
  - Rhyl Town Council
  - Llandrillo College
  - Rhyl Football Club
  - Rhyl High School
  - Blessed Edward Jones School
  - West Rhyl Community Strategy

The local MP and AM are also actively involved with the partnership. The partnership now reflects a broad base of local interests but it is recognised that wider consultation and involvement will be essential as the plans develop so that key groups and the local community are fully involved in the project.

#### PROJECT VISION AND OBJECTIVES

5. Set out below is the Partnership's vision for the project, together with a series of more specific objectives which the project will seek to achieve.

##### Vision

**To upgrade and develop sustainable sport and recreation facilities and opportunities in Rhyl as a vehicle for community regeneration, tackling social exclusion, and to enhance educational opportunities.**

##### Objectives

- Provide accessible new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities for the local community, High Schools and Rhyl College.
  - Enhance local education and training opportunities in sport and leisure.
  - Ensure a future for higher level football in Rhyl.
  - Increase participation in sport, particularly amongst target groups such as disaffected young people and women, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities.
  - Enhance opportunities for sporting excellence.
  - Promote healthier lifestyles, particularly for disadvantaged groups.
  - Enhance community safety.
  - Secure environmental improvements.
  - Enhance community pride, confidence and well-being.
6. In developing proposals and measures to achieve the vision and objectives, it will be necessary to ensure that they complement and enhance existing and emerging initiatives such as Healthy Living Centres and Social Exclusion in Sport projects.

### **DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT**

7. Accessibility for the community, schools and college, together with the need to capitalise on existing infrastructure and management arrangements dictates that the physical elements of the project should be concentrated in the Rhyl High School/Leisure Centre, Botanical Gardens/Coronation Playing Fields and Belle Vue area. In addition, most of this land is in local authority ownership.
8. The initial development concept for the project is set out below:
- New multi-purpose indoor facility at the High School/Leisure Centre with a regional emphasis on indoor athletics.
  - New outdoor multi-use games/training area at Coronation Playing Fields.
  - Upgrading of existing grass pitches at Coronation Playing Fields incorporating drainage and other improvements.
  - Refurbishment and upgrading of changing facilities at the High School/Leisure Centre.
  - Improved access to the High School/Leisure Centre, provision of additional parking, and upgrading of existing parking facilities on the site.
  - Upgrading of Belle Vue football ground to meet FAW standards, including a new stand and club and other support facilities for visitors and users.
  - New access and parking facilities for Botanical Gardens/Coronation Playing Fields, possibly involving relocation of the Council Depot/Nurseries.
  - Enhanced and safer access to the facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, especially from the deprived wards.
  - Traffic calming and other appropriate measures on Grange Road to facilitate safe crossing for pedestrians between the High School/Leisure Centre and Botanical Gardens/Coronation Playing Fields/Belle Vue area.
  - Improved facilities for public transport access e.g. bus lay-bys.
  - Environment improvements along Grange Road, notably in the Belle Vue and Council Depot area.
9. **Planning Appraisal** - Most of the development proposals which make up the physical element of the project will require planning permission. Although many details will have to be discussed and agreed with the planning authority, the overall proposals are fully consistent with the current and emerging planning policies for the area. The policies recognise the need to address the shortage of sport and recreation facilities in Rhyl.

### **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACTS**

10. The proposed site for the project is close to Blessed Edward Jones and Rhyl High School, Rhyl College, and the areas of Rhyl with the highest levels of deprivation. This position and the scope of

the project mean that there is significant potential for education and training opportunities for a wide range of young people - both through "traditional" courses and more innovative provision aimed at young people who are at risk of disaffection.

11. Improving the health of the population is a key national objective. Physical activity, regular exercise and fitness are all components of a healthy lifestyle which the project has the potential to influence for the better. This will benefit Rhyl's deprived communities in particular.
12. There is also the opportunity for encouraging greater participation in sports amongst groups of people where participation rates are generally low, such as the unwaged and semi and unskilled workers. Meeting sports development objectives will be an important component of the scheme. The indoor athletics facility will be the only one in the region and will attract promising and established athletes from across North Wales and beyond. Providing for such a range of clients will be challenging but there will be benefits from such an integrated approach particularly in raising aspirations.

### **COSTS AND FUNDING**

13. The Rhyl Sport and Education Partnership is an ambitious project which will bring significant benefits but will also involve substantial costs. Total capital costs could be in excess of £5m. Revenue costs cannot be estimated until the project is firmed up. With a project of this magnitude it will be necessary to put together a funding package which involves a variety of partners and funding agencies.
14. Elements of the project are eligible for Objective 1 funding. Those measures aimed at tackling social exclusion in Rhyl's deprived wards are eligible as part of the Community Regeneration measures contained in the Programme, but it is noted that such funds will be limited. However, the project also fits Objective 1 measures designed to improve the learning system. The project has already been incorporated in Denbighshire's Objective 1 Local Action Plan and any applications for funding would target both sets of measures. In addition to Objective 1, there are a number of other sources of funding which can be used to match EU grants. These include Lottery (Sportlot, New Opportunities Fund), Local Regeneration Fund, Communities First Programme, Foundation for Sports and the Arts, European and national football authorities, and the private sector.

### **NEXT STEPS**

15. To date the project has been developed by representatives of the partnership, but has not been fully tested against community aspirations. There is a need to secure community involvement and commitment to the project not only to help the partnership shape the final proposals, but also to generate a sense of community ownership in this ambitious project. This will be an important determinant of the projects success.
16. The next step must therefore be to commission more detailed work to study community aspirations and wishes in some depth, advise on the final shape of the project and likely capital and revenue costs, look at funding and other barriers to implementation (e.g. land acquisition), and to forecast benefits and outputs arising from the project. It is estimated that the cost of this feasibility work would be around £18,000. With a project of this scale such a study would be an essential prerequisite to any subsequent bids for funding. Although the study would be eligible for grant via the Objective 1 Programme, the partnership will have to provide match funds.[November 2000]

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER :** Lead Member for Education

**DATE :** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT :** Rationalisation of School Places

**1.0 DECISION SOUGHT**

1. Agreement to establish a Member/Officer Task and Finish Group to agree and establish criteria to be applied in consideration of matters relating to rationalisation of school places, and capital expenditure on school buildings.

**2.0 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

2. Prior to the publication of the School Organisation Plan and the Draft Asset Management Plan for Schools during last year, decisions on the rationalisation of school places and on the allocation of capital for school premises improvement and extension tended to be and was based largely on pupil numbers and trends often without reference to size/condition etc. of other similar schools located nearby.

Whilst the production of the two documents mentioned above have provided a more informed basis for such consideration, it is recommended that an agreed and established criteria should be adopted for such consideration in future to include reference to the aforementioned documents. Such criteria would not only include actual and projected pupil numbers at any given school but also the extent and quality of provision at similar schools located nearby, the quality of education provided, school transport issues, catchment areas, the relationship with High Schools in terms of feeder schools etc. Such criteria should assist in ensuring informed decisions when considering school closures, the provision of new schools and proposed capital expenditure on existing schools.

The requirement for such informed decision making is vital in view of the significant schools maintenance and development costs which needs to be addressed by the Authority.

**3.0 COST IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**4.0 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The establishment of appropriate criteria should lead to more effective and efficient deployment of resources.

**5.0 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

None.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

None at present.

## **7.0**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet approve establish a Member/Officer Task and Finish Group to draw up criteria for determining the rationalisation of school places, and the allocation of capital expenditure on school buildings.

# **PART I**

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor David Morris

**DATE:** 21 December 2000

**SUBJECT:** **Ruthin Park Road Development**

### **1.0 Decision Sought**

1.1 To determine a strategy for developing land adjacent to Park Road.

### **2.0 Reason For Seeking Decision**

2.1 In August, Cabinet approved the submission of proposals for the redevelopment of County Council owned land between the Gaol complex and Park Road, Ruthin, for outline planning permission subject to the conclusion of an initial consultation process.

2.2 Members were advised of the results of a questionnaire sent to residents of Park Road; local interest groups; and the Town Council. In addition, the views of local ward members were canvassed.

2.3 On Wednesday 02 November 2000, a meeting of these groups was held at Ruthin Council Chamber. The meeting was chaired by the Head of Design and Construction Services, with representation from the Acting Director of Education, Culture & Information.

2.4 It was apparent that the views formed at this meeting were at odds with the results of the questionnaire received. In summary, it was concluded that:-

- additional parking was required along Park Road;
- additional residential off street parking which could also be used for visitors to the Gaol was required.
- existing off street parking off Clwyd Street should be better promoted;
- the traffic management proposals at the Clwyd Street/Mwrog Street/Park Road should be deferred until after the outcome of the Council's UDP and the 'fixing' of the Glasdir route - potentially less traffic flows if this route goes ahead;
- the existing depot should be cleared to provide off street parking as soon as possible;
- the park should not be developed but retained as is;
- the private garage should be retained in its current position or relocated off site completely.
- The Ruthin Chamber of Trades' representative expressed that the new commercial/retail development should not extend beyond lower Clwyd Street.

2.5 The Mayor of Ruthin Town Council was present and reiterated the Town Council's view which agreed with the general views formed from the questionnaires.

- Additional parking along Park Road
- Traffic management proposals for Mwrog Street/Clwyd Street/ Park Road
- Some redevelopment of the land adjacent to the Gaol complex
- Improvement of the timber footbridge from the park to the Gaol (Pont-y-Plant).

2.6 Over the next 12 months or so, there is the distinct possibility of major improvements to the town of Ruthin.

The Gaol project  
 The Council Offices, PFI  
 The fixing of the Glasdir route

Traffic flows around the town may well be changed as a result of these proposals and Cabinet may, therefore, wish to reconsider development opportunities for the sites in question at a later date. Nevertheless, perhaps the development of Park Road Depot should be pursued if the aspirations of the residents and the Council can be met.

### 3.0 **Cost Implications**

3.1 Outline Planning Permission could trigger external funding e.g. WDA grant aid to develop the Depot site.

### 4.0 **Financial Controller Statement**

There are no immediate financial implications for the Council.

### 5.0 **Consultation Carried Out**

5.1 Questionnaires circulated which in conclusion favoured some development on this site.

5.2 Public meeting with affected residents / interest groups which indicated the participants were not in favour of any development other than the provision of car parking in the Depot site.

### 6.0 **Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

6.1 Redevelopment of redundant land.

### 7.0 **Recommendation**

7.1 That Cabinet approve an application for outline planning consent for the development of the Park Road depot site which would satisfy the residents' desire of providing off street parking, whilst also allowing some development.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**Agenda Item No: 13**

**CABINET MEMBER: Cllr David Morris, Lead Member For the Environment**

**DATE: 21 December 2000**

**SUBJECT: CLOSING ORDER - YR HEN YSGOL (THE OLD SCHOOL),  
OCHR Y BRYN, HENLLAN**

**1 Decision Sought**

1.1 To revoking the Closing Order on the above property

**2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

2.1 A Closing Order in respect of a house was issued under the Housing Act 1936 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, on the 6th July 1956.

2.2 The property was once the village school which was later used as a dwelling house as was found to be unfit and unsuitable for this purpose

2.3 The property has since been renovated, and following a recent inspection has been found to be fit for human habitation.

**3 Cost Implications**

3.1 None

**4 Financial Controller Statement**

4.1 None

**5 Consultation Carried Out**

5.1 N/A

**6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

6.1 None

**7 Recommendation**

7.1 The closing order in respect of Yr Hen Ysgol Henllan be revoked.