

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 23rd January 2001 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 J. Butterfield, S. Drew, G. Jones, R.J.R. Jones, K.N. Hawkins and W.G. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Chief Executive, County Clerk, Financial Controller.

964. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) The Leader welcomed Sioned Bowen, Director of Lifelong Learning and Anne Gosse, Assistant Director Culture and Leisure to their first Cabinet meeting. The Leader also extended a welcome to Heidi Roberts and Nia Grisdale, Trainee Solicitors and Amanda Brooks and Alison Walsh, Solicitors to their first meeting.
- (ii) The Deputy Chief Executive announced the tragic death of a brother to Ian Swan, a Social Worker in the Adult Services Care Management Team. Members were asked to stand in sympathy.
- (iii) The Leader said a photograph of the 'Cabinet at Work' will be taken at the Cabinet meeting due to be held on 6 February 2001 in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen.
- (iv) Shortlisting for the post of Head of Personnel will follow the Cabinet meeting due to be held on 6 March 2001 at Rhyl Town Hall.

965. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 21 December 2000 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

Item 894 (Ruthin Park Road Development) Councillor E.W. Williams enquired as to the costs of demolishing the depot. Officers agreed to provide figures in due course.

Item 902 (Requirement to Repay Grant Arising from Breach of Renovation Grant Conditions - 31 Water Street, Denbigh) Councillor G.M. Kensler said she had not received information regarding the item before the meeting and therefore abstained from voting on the item.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 December 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 9 January 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

Item 2 (Boundary Commission) Councillor G.M. Kensler asked if substitutes could attend if a Group Leader were unavailable, this was agreed.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 January 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

966. CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE - THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 IN WALES

The National Assembly for Wales had sent a letter dated 10 January 2001 giving early notice of the Consultative Conference - The Local Government Act 2000 in Wales to be held on 28.02.2001 in Cardiff, in conjunction with WLGA, Syniad and District Audit. The Conference would allow participants to hear the main issues of concern which had arisen during the consultation and to input Denbighshire's views as part of the consultative exercise.

***RESOLVED** that Councillor E.A. Owens and the County Clerk attend the Consultative Conference to be held on 28.02.2001.*

967. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) Scale 1 Clerk - Planning Services, Environment Directorate This post had previously been occupied by agency staff. Councillor E.W. Williams asked that this post be advertised internally initially;
- (ii) Scale 4 Personal Assistant to 2 Heads of Services -Social Services Directorate. This post had been advertised twice internally, but no suitable candidate had been identified;
- (iii) Scale 1 Clerical Assistant - Housing Services, Personal Services Directorate. This post had been advertised internally, but no suitable candidate had been identified;
- (iv) Scale 2 Resident Warden - Housing Services, Personal Services Directorate. This post had been advertised internally, but no suitable candidate had been identified;
- (v) Scale 2 Contact Wardens - Housing Services, Personal Services Directorate - 4 posts. These posts had been advertised internally, but no applications had been received;
- (vi) Scale 3 Part Time Sundry Debtor Assistant - Sundry Debtors Section, Revenues Department. This post had been advertised internally and there are no suitable redeployees, and
- (vii) PO1 Temporary Quality Assurance Post - Social Services Directorate. This post had been advertised internally, but no suitable candidate had been identified.

The Leader said there was a need to address the issue of starting grades within the County Council.

***RESOLVED** that the external advertisements as listed above be approved.*

968. LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

The Leader withdrew the report.

969. AUTHORISATION FOR TRAINEE SOLICITORS TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' authorisation for Ms. N. Gridale and Ms. Heidi Roberts (Trainee Solicitors) to represent Denbighshire County Council in Magistrates Court proceedings, as and when required, for the period between 04.09.2000 and 03.09.2002.

Local Authority officers (under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972) are able to prosecute, defend or appear on their Authority's behalf in the Magistrates Court if authorised to do so by a resolution of the Council.

RESOLVED that Members authorise Ms. Nia Grisdale and Ms. Heidi Roberts be authorised to represent Denbighshire County Council in Magistrates court proceedings, as and when required, for the period between 04.09.2000 and 03.09.2002.

970. WELSH CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to discontinue the annual subscriptions of £750 to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs. The Council had contributed to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs since its inception in 1996. The WCIA organised voluntary work in Wales and overseas and supported international and local citizenship issues in schools and colleges.

Members are also asked for their support in asking the WLGA and the National Assembly for Wales through the auspices of the Partnership Council to determine how funding for the beneficial work of the WCIA might continue and on what basis.

Councillor E.W. Williams indicated the need to have available a full picture of all outside organisations to which the Council subscribed and suggested that such work be commissioned. This was agreed.

RESOLVED that annual contributions in the sum of £750 to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs be discontinued and also agreed to ask the WLGA and the National Assembly for Wales through the auspices of the Partnership Council to determine how funding for the beneficial work of the WCIA might continue and on what basis.

971. CUSTOMER CHARTER FOR PLANNING SERVICES

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the Customer Charter for Planning Services. The Charter Mark accreditation, a Government initiative, was a key objective of the Planning Services Best Value Performance Plan (2000-2001) and the emerging Business Plan (2001-2004). To be awarded the Charter Mark, Planning Services must have a Customer Charter. Cabinet approval would enable Planning Services to demonstrate its commitment to improving the service for the benefit of the customers.

Councillor G.M. Kensler referred to the 'Your Planning Application' Section and asked whether planning application forms etc could be made available in Libraries in towns where there are no One Stop Shops or Planning Offices. Councillor D.M. Morris agreed that planning application forms could be made available in Libraries.

Councillor G.M. Kensler referred to the 'Enforcement, Minerals and Waste Planning - Service Standards - Enforcement notices served on contravenors' And asked whether Local Members could be informed of any contravenors. The Head of Planning Services agreed to make this information available.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Customer Charter (December 2000) be approved, and
- (b) minor changes thereafter be delegated to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Lead Member in the Cabinet.

972. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES: DRAFT PROTOCOL: RESPONSE TO SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to respond to the National Assembly for Wales to broadly welcome the Draft Protocol for intervention in the cases of serious concern, set out in Appendix A to the report.

The Draft Protocol was modelled on the protocol on intervention guidance to Local Authorities on Best Value. Much of the document reflected current practice and the Director of Personal Services' view was that such a protocol should be seen as part of a framework of support that exists between the Social Services Inspectorate within the National Assembly and Local Authority Social Services departments and should be welcomed.

Regarding the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (SSIW) Councillor G.M. Kensler suggested that any letter of intervention from the SSIW should be sent to the Chief Executive, the Director of Personal Services and the Leader of the Council. Councillor E.A. Owens supported this suggestion.

RESOLVED that the National Assembly be advised of Denbighshire County Council's view that the development of such an Intervention Protocol is seen as helpful and constructive, and reflective of current practice; and that the Leader of the Council be included in any correspondence on intervention.

973. SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: PROJECT WORK SERVICE - PROPOSALS FOR A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SERVICES / EDUCATION AND BARNARDO'S

Councillor A.E. Roberts submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for further work in preparation for a partnership between Social Services, Education and Barnardo's with regard to the Project Work Service that will permit much needed development of a service that is valued by both children and their parents.

The 25 Project Workers of Denbighshire's Children with Disabilities Team of Children's Services work with approximately 250 children who have a disability requiring multi agency planning and support. It was proposed that a new service for children with disabilities is established, to be managed by Barnardo's who would invest a sum in excess of £100,000 in to the service locally, in conjunction with the Project Work Service and Education.

Consideration would need to be given to the transfer of staff to Barnardo's under the provision of TUPE and identification of budgets that would transfer with them.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the proposed partnership be welcomed and Officers undertake the further detailed work to develop life in to the proposal, and*
- (b) *that the detailed work outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the report be approved.*

974. 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.

975. CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX FUNDING 2001-2002

This item was deferred pending further information.

RESOLVED that the report be deferred.

976. DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL (NEWVOL) APPLICATION FOR CORE FUNDING 2001-2002

This item was deferred pending further information.

RESOLVED that the report be deferred.

977. DENBIGHSHIRE WELSH CHURCH ACTS SCHEME GRANT APPLICATIONS

(The Leader declared an interest in item 2.5 (vii) and Councillor G.M. Kensler declared an interest in item 2.5 (ii)).

The Leader submitted the report seeking Members' approval for a number of applications for grant aid from the Denbighshire Welsh Church Acts Fund.

***RESOLVED** that Members approve the list of grants as detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the report.*

978. 'ALDI' SITE PHASE II, RHYL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to action taken to let the 'Aldi' site Phase II contract to D J Construction Ltd to ensure maximum spend for the financial year 2000-2001. Denbighshire County Council is required to spend £450k approximately on Objective One Local Regeneration Fund Schemes this financial year. Councillor D.M. Morris said that to have waited for Cabinet approval to this action would have delayed the process by three weeks when in total only eleven weeks were available and to have gone through a tender process would have meant a construction period of only five weeks in this financial year.

***RESOLVED** that the action taken be noted and approved.*

979. ESTATES DATABASE

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the acquisition of software and resourcing to implement the database of information on land holdings. It was proposed to purchase appropriate software and employ temporary staff to install all the information on the Council's landholdings and would be a step towards producing robust Asset Management Plans for the County Council.

***RESOLVED** that the proposed strategy to purchase the software and resourcing to complete the implementation of the County Council's landholding database be approved.*

980. QUOTATIONS SOUGHT IN RESPECT OF INSPECTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON FOOD PREMISES

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' authority to accept other than the lowest quotation received in respect of the above works.

Councillor D.M. Morris said the lowest of the 5 tenders received had been withdrawn. The next lowest tender covered only two of the three parcels of work which were put out to tender.

***RESOLVED** that the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services be authorised to accept other than the lowest tender in this instance.*

981. MOVE OF EDUCATION STAFF FROM COUNTY HALL, MOLD TO OFFICES WITHIN DENBIGH

Councillor W.R. Webb Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the move of the Education staff from Shire Hall to Denbigh, as detailed in the report.

Councillor Webb said the last Cabinet meeting had agreed the lease arrangement for office space at County Hall, Mold would be terminated on 30 March 2001. As a result, 45 staff would need accommodation in Denbigh.

Councillor K.E. Wells stressed the need for all Education staff from Mold to be housed in one location in Denbigh i.e. Caledfryn, even if that meant the loss of the Caledfryn conference room facilities. Councillor

G.M. Kensler said that if the Conference Room in Caledfryn was used for office space for Education, it would be essential to have other conference facilities made available in the town.

Members discussed the savings and costs implications of the move and agreed the need for a further report to Cabinet on the cost implications of the move.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted in principle, subject to a further report to Cabinet on the cost implications of the move.

982. MOVE OF SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF FROM MORFA HALL, RHYL TO RUSSELL HOUSE

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to move Social Services staff from Morfa Hall to Russell House and move Housing staff from Russell House into the adjacent building, Fron Fraith.

Councillor W.R. Webb said the Council had been looking for opportunities to improve present usage of properties with a view to releasing Morfa Hall and adjacent land to Fron Fraith for sale. Thirty members of staff, currently located at Morfa Hall would move to Russell House and Housing staff currently located at Russell House and Caledfryn would move to Fron Fraith.

Members discussed the savings and costs implications of the move and agreed the need for a further report to Cabinet on the cost implications of the move.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted in principle, subject to a further report to Cabinet on the cost implications of the move.

983. LAND IN THE VICINITY OF 'GLASDIR', RUTHIN

This item was withdrawn.

984. FRON FRAITH, RHYL

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to a change of planning use.

Councillor W.R. Webb said as Social Services would be relocating from Fron Fraith, it was anticipated that Housing Services would be taking up occupation of the building which would result in a planning permission for a change of use from Class C2 (Residential Institutions) to Class B1 (Office/Business).

RESOLVED that Officers be authorised to seek planning permission for a change of use on Fron Fraith from Class C2 (Residential Institutions) to Class B1 (Office/Business).

985. EIRIANFA DAY CENTRE, DENBIGH

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the grant of a lease to the Eirianfa Association.

The Association had made bids to the National Lottery's New Opportunities Fund for 'Healthy Living Centres' for a total of £600,000 over a five year period. Objective 1 funding is also being sought.

The annual external routine maintenance was estimated at £500.00 per annum and a sinking fund of £8,000.00 per annum over the duration would be set aside to cover repairs to the structure that would need to be taken over the life of the lease. Officers recommended that owing to the length of the lease and the request for a nominal rent, a full repairing lease be granted to the Eirianfa Association. Officers also recommended that Eirianfa be retained as an Emergency Rest Centre.

RESOLVED that the grant of a 50 year lease to the Association on full repairing terms be approved. A 100% rental discount should be applied to the market rent for the first five years, the discount to be

reviewed on subsequent rent reviews and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

986. FFRITH BEACH FESTIVAL GARDENS, PRESTATYN - MCDONALDS

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to authorise officers to hold further discussions with McDonald's and to enter into an agreement to allow the company to occupy part of the Ffrith Beach site.

Councillor K.E. Wells indicated from discussions with McDonald's that McDonald's are only interested in a front site and would want ownership of the building rather than renting one of the units on the site.

Councillor I.M. German expressed concerns that residents be kept informed and suggested a feasibility study of what Prestatyn as a whole needs in the form of development. Councillor German said a road on the site would be provided if the tennis centre was built in the future. Councillor German said the scale of the plan provided with the report was too small and more detailed plans were required.

Councillor R.W. Hughes said it was critical to have McDonald's on the site before the summer season and any concerns that either local Members or residents had could be made to the Planning Committee at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED that officers be authorised to hold further discussions with McDonald's and to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Council to allow McDonald's to occupy the site on the basis that any consideration should include the provision of an access road to serve the Indoor Bowls Centre.

Councillor I.M. German wished to record her vote against the proposal.

987. FFRITH BEACH FESTIVAL GARDENS, PRESTATYN

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to submit a planning application for a temporary change of use of the amusement arcade and children's play area at the Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens, Prestatyn as temporary storage for the County Council's Archives Department resulting from the recent flooding in Ruthin and the proposed redevelopment of Ruthin Gaol.

RESOLVED that officers' actions in seeking planning permission for a change of use of the amusement arcade and children's play area at Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens for temporary storage be endorsed.

988. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the allocation of grant funding to Voluntary Organisations in 2001-2002 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor E.A. Owens suggested that Discussion with the DVSC based on the Compact should be held annually prior to this item being considered at Cabinet.

The Director of Personal Services said that Denbighshire enjoyed a positive relationship with the voluntary sector and that the voluntary sector are clear on the process they follow to secure funding for core activities. Denbighshire set criteria for applications for funding and officers look at the applications received against the set criteria. The Director also asked Members to disregard the last column on the Appendix which had been included in error.

It was agreed that the timetable in future years would need to build in time for consultation with the Voluntary Sector Compact.

RESOLVED that grant payments be made in line with the proposals outlined in Appendix 1 and that contracts are awarded in line with Appendix 1.

989. SUN CENTRE, RHYL

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism withdrew the item. She expressed concern at the breach of confidentiality which had occurred on this item.

Discussion followed on Part II papers with Councillor I M German suggesting that these papers should only be distributed on the day of the meeting.

The Leader re-emphasised the need for confidentiality on Cabinet items, and indicated the damaging effects on the Authority of breaching the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

The Leader and Cabinet Members wished the Chief Executive a speedy recovery after his recent fall.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon.
