

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 22nd February 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader), I.M. German, D.M. Holder, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts, W.R. Webb, K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers - Councillors S. Drew and M.A. German.

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Chief Executive, County Clerk, Corporate Director: Resources.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor R.W. Hughes and G.M. Kensler.

1115. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader gave notice of the following item 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:-

- 1 SPORTLOT: Capital Grants: Invitation for Nominations for Regional and National Decision Making Panels.

The County Clerk submitted the paper (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' support for the endorsement of officer nomination.

RESOLVED that Members endorse officer nomination.

1116. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 6 February 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:-

Item 11.2 (Visit to Vasternoorland, Sweden) Councillor E.W. Williams queried the purpose of the visit. The Leader explained the visit was to discuss cultural and training developments.

Item 20 (Sun Centre, Rhyl) Councillor I.M. German requested that Members be informed immediately of any escalation of costs.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 February 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

1117. REVENUE BUDGET 2001-2002

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) and updated Members on the detailed changes and figures on the report to Council of 16.01.2001. These figures would be incorporated in the report presently being despatched to all Members.

Councillor E.A. Owens detailed a number of areas that would benefit from the increased final settlement figure which was 5.9% rather than the 5.7% initially expected.

Councillor Owens identified £5.4m pressures as still remaining and which would need to be addressed. Minor adjustments had been made to the updated figures and would be communicated to Council.

1118. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2001-2002

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated). A further paper was being referred to Council, indicating an increase of £1,000 bringing the total of capital resources to £7.905m. The capital plan also included assumptions of capital receipts of £2m for 2001-2002 and £1m in subsequent years. Projects funded from capital receipts would not proceed until it was certain that the funding was in place. Councillor Owens indicated the need for a stricter regime in managing the capital programme both in terms of approving capital expenditure and monitoring implementation. Clarification from the National Assembly for Wales was required on the capital element for flood damage.

Councillor E.W. Williams questioned the capital funding for educational building repairs and sought assurances that such monies were included in the total. Councillor Owens said clarification on that would be given at Council.

1119. COUNCIL TAX FOR 2001-2002

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance raised concerns that the level of National Assembly for Wales financial support for flood defence work was still unclear. There would be a need to make proper contingency provision for flood prevention schemes since it was unacceptable to leave individuals in a state of uncertainty.

In addition, Councillor Owens identified the ongoing need for efficiency cuts programme to meet District Audit requirements to clear the Council's overspend by 31.03.2002.

Concern was expressed about the schools delegated budget being too small as identified by District Audit and her proposals addressed this.

In conclusion Councillor E.A. Owens recommended an overall Council Tax increase of 5.7% which would equate to £665.55 for Band D properties. This percentage increase compared favourably with the Police Precept increase of 5.4%.

Members raised a number of questions including the need for final figures on the cost of restructuring.

Members were appreciative of the hard work of Members and Officers in putting together the budget proposals.

RESOLVED that Cabinet commend to Council the Revenue, Capital and Council Tax proposals indicated 1117, 1118 and 1119 above.

1120. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT, CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2000-2001, 2001-2002

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report and annexes (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to set the HRA budget for 2001-2002 and to increase Council rents.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that:-

- (a) the Housing Revenue Accounts, Capital and Revenue be adopted as shown in the report;
- (b) that rents for Council dwellings be increased by 5.0% with effect from 02.04.2001, and
- (c) that rents for Council garages be increased by 10p per week with effect from 02.04.2001 and that the garages at Trefnant be charged £2.70, the same as in the rest of the Authority.

1121. RECRUITMENT

The Leader of the Council submitted two reports (previously circulated) seeking approval for external advertisement:-

Museum Attendant Plas Newydd (Seasonal) Lifelong Learning Directorate: Culture & Leisure Scale 1
Receptionist/Telephonist - Chief Executive's: County Clerk's Department Scale 2

***RESOLVED** that the external advertisement of the Museum Attendant Plas Newydd (Seasonal) Scale 1 and Receptionist/Telephonist Scale 2 be approved.*

1122. PRESTATYN TOWN CENTRE TASK GROUP

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to appoint one elected member and one officer to serve as the County Council's representatives on the Prestatyn Town Centre Task Group recently established by Prestatyn Town Council.

Two nominations for Member representation were received, namely Councillor S. Drew and Councillor N. Hugh-Jones and on being put to the vote it was:-

***RESOLVED** that Councillor N. Hugh-Jones be the Member representative and the Director of Resources be the Officer representative on the Prestatyn Town Centre Task Group.*

1123. JOINT COUNCIL FOR WALES

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to agree a change in the Authority's representation on the Joint Council for Wales in that Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources replace Councillor A.E. Roberts.

***RESOLVED** that Councillor I.M. German replace Councillor A.E. Roberts as one of the Authority's representatives on the Joint Council for Wales. Denbighshire's representatives would therefore be Councillor I.M. German and G. Williams.*

1124. BRITISH RESORTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES 2001-2003

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to nominate one Elected Member and one Officer to serve on the British Resorts Policy Committee and Officers Advisory Committee respectively for the period 2001-2003. The current representatives are Councillor W.G. Thomas and the Chief Executive.

Members were asked to nominate an officer to replace the Chief Executive on the Officers Advisory Committee.

***RESOLVED** that Councillor W.G. Thomas and the Corporate Director: Environment serve on the British Resorts Policy Committee and Officers Advisory Committee for the period 2001-2003.*

1125. MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF CANOLFAN GLYNDWR (YSGOL BRYNHFRYD COMMUNITY ARTS THEATRE)

Councillor K.E. Wells, the Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to increase the Membership of the Management Committee of Canolfan Glyndwr from 9 to 11.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved the increase in the membership of the Committee from 9 to 11 and that the additional members be a representative from Ruthin Town Council and The Bursar of Ysgol Brynhfryd.*

1126. SECTION 278 AGREEMENTS HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to enter into Agreements with developers under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 where such agreements are required following the grant of planning permission.

(Note: Typographical error - The Head of Legal and Administration should read County Clerk).

RESOLVED that Members authorise:-

- (a) *the Head of Highways and Transportation to negotiate terms for a Section 278 Agreement/ Bond with developers where he is of the view the highway works required as a consequence to a grant of planning permission by the County Council fall within the ambit of Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980;*
- (b) *the County Clerk be authorised to affix the seal of the County Council to Section 278 Agreements negotiated by the Head of Highways and Transportation, and*
- (c) *the County Clerk be authorised to recover the costs/contribution to the highway works and the cost of any highway supervision works assessed by the Head of Highways and Transportation together with the proper legal costs of entering into the Section 278 Agreement from the developer who carries out the works.*

1127. FLOOD DAMAGED RECORDS MANAGEMENT MATERIAL

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to allow Harwell Drying Services to begin treating flood damaged documentation stored at the Depot, Park Road, Ruthin as covered by the Authority's insurance arrangements.

The County Archivist and Heritage Officer also sought Members' agreement to the replacement from the original firm of a flood damaged exhibition. This would cost £8k and was covered by insurance.

RESOLVED that Members approved:-

- (a) *the damaged material be restored by Harwell Drying Services and for the costs to be paid by the Council's insurers, and*
- (b) *the replacement from the original firm of the flood damaged exhibition with the £8k costs paid for by the Council's insurers.*

1128. SPEED CAMERA HYPOTHECATION PARTNERSHIP

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement in principle to forming a partnership with the North Wales Police, the North Wales Health Authority, the National Assembly, the Magistrates Clerk's Office and the Crown Prosecution Service to enable the hypothecation of speed camera enforcement fines in North Wales.

RESOLVED that the Council support in principle the formation of a speed camera hypothecation partnership with North Wales Police.

1129. TRAFFIC SIGNALS MAINTENANCE - EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the extension of the traffic signals maintenance contract which is due for renewal in September 2001.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Cabinet agreed to the extension of the traffic lights contract with TSC for a two year period from 1 October 2001 to 30 September 2003, and*
- (b) *the Head of Highways and Transportation be given delegated authority for the extension of contracts in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.*

1130. TRANSPORT GRANT 2001-2002 - ACCEPTED EXPENDITURE

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the proposed programme of work, as detailed in the report, with the additional schemes and staff funded entirely using National Assembly funding.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved the report and that the proposed programme of work be endorsed.*

At this juncture (11.10 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

1131. 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.*

1132. LLANGOLLEN BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Leader of the Council submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales detailing the Council's case for Llangollen remaining in Denbighshire. The Council's case for Llangollen and Llantysilio remaining in Denbighshire was presented to Members for comment.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved unanimously the draft response for forwarding to the Boundary Commission and for recommendation to Council.*

1133. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of a 'top up' grant of up to £8,000 in respect of a Disabled Facilities Grant towards the cost of carrying out essential adaptation works in respect of a disabled person.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed that the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services be given the authority to approve an additional discretionary top up grant of up to £8,000, making a total of £13,000 discretionary top up.*

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.
