CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday 22 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.

1 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.

2 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.

3[I] 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.

3[II] 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.

3[III] 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 3[i], 3[ii] and 3[iii] above.

4 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:

- [i] the Housing Revenue Accounts, Capital and Revenue be adopted as shown in the report
- [ii] that rents for Council dwellings be increased by 5.0% with effect from 02.04.2001
- [iii] 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 <u>MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF CANOLFAN GLYNDWR [YSGOL BRYNHYFRYD COMMUNITY ARTS THEATRE]</u>

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 Brynhyfryd.

10 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

11 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:

- [i] the damaged material be restored by Harwell Drying Services and for the costs to be paid by the Council's insurers
- [ii] the replacement from the original firm of the flood damaged exhibition with the £8k costs paid for by the Council's insurers.

12 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.

13 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:

- [i] that 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.
- [ii] that the Head of Highways and Transportation be given delegated authority for the extension of contracts in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

14 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.

16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded form 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.

17 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.

18 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.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 6 MARCH 2001

SUBJECT: LGA CONFERENCE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To determine if Members will:

- [a] attend the LGA Conference in July 2001 at Harrogate
- [b] to note agreement with the WLGA Reception arrangements at the LGA Conference

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The WLGA has written encouraging Member Authorities to attend the LGA Conference in Harrogate on "Election Matters" on the 4-6 July 2001.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost is £430.00 per delegate plus accommodation and travel costs

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The only funding available is the 2001-2002 Members' Budget for Conferences.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

N/A

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The theme of "Election Matters" relates to the Modernising Agenda and specifically Community Governance Corporate Agenda.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members indicate their decision.

Our Ref/Ein Cyf: Your Ref/Eich Cyf: Date/Dyddiad:

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am: Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:

Email/Ebost:

CE/CE/01.05.01

13 February 2001 Christopher Edmunds (029) 2046 8617 christopher.edmunds@wlga.org

All Welsh Local Authority Chief Executives cc: All Welsh Local Authority Leaders/Chairmen (For information)

Dear Chief Executive

WLGA Reception at LGA Conference 2001

I refer to LGA Circular 41/01 dated 16th January 2001, concerning the LGA Conference in Harrogate at the beginning of July.

In line with a recent decision taken by the WLGA Co-ordinating Committee, I write to encourage member authorities to attend this high profile Conference and to highlight the decision of the Association to host a reception within the Conference programme on the evening of Wednesday 4th July 2001.

The provisional arrangements for the WLGA reception are that it will be held in the **Old Swan Hotel** at **8.15pm** and will comprise a hot buffet two course meal with wine and musical entertainment with a distinctly Welsh flavour. As such it will mirror the format of the well received reception at last year's LGA Conference.

Formal invitations to the reception will be forwarded a few weeks before Conference. In the meantime, it would be useful if you could let me have a preliminary indication of how many places would be taken up by Conference delegates and their partners from your Council, as soon as possible, so that figures for catering can be assessed.

The guest list will also include selected senior members and officers of the LGA and organisations/bodies who have particular links with Welsh local government.

The Presiding Officer looks forward to welcoming guests to this reception, which will focus attention on the WLGA and provide an opportunity for Welsh delegates to come together during the LGA Conference.

Yours sincerely

Santa Maria

Christopher Edmunds
Principal Administrator

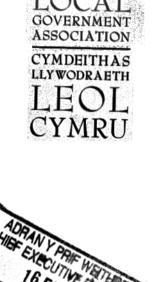
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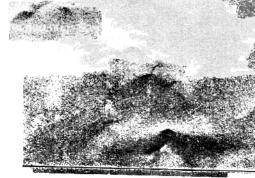
Local Government House Drake Walk CARDIFF CF10 4LG Tel: 029 2046 8600 Fax: 029 2046 8601

Ty Llywodraeth Leols Rhodfa Drake CAERDYDD CF10 4LG Ffon: 029 2046 8600 Ifacs: 029 2046 8601

The WLGA welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

Mae CLILC yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg





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

Directorate: Environment Section: Food Safety

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

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT (This part <u>must</u> be completed for <u>all</u> posts)

- The post concerned is in relation to a function which is very specialist in nature, and which requires a specific qualification. The post will not be suitable to any persons within the County who may be considered for re-deployment.
- The post is a key position in the Council's Food Safety Team and an urgent replacement is necessary as the Councils inspection targets are unlikely to be achieved due to previous staff turnover in the sections

• It is recommended that the post be ac	dvertised on a national basis simu	ultaneously with an
internal advertisement because of the	need to appoint without delays	being encountered which
would affect the Council's statutory of Signed: Signed: To: Chief Executive	(Director) (Chair of Service Committee) (KEAD MEMBER - ENV)	Dated: 22 FEB 200
Signed:	Date: 2 12 Fulor woon	Approved Refused
Comments/Reasons		
To: Cabinet		
Signed:	(on behalf of the Committee)	Date:
		Approved Refused



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

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

Directorate: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S Section: COUNTY CLERKS
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Comments/Reasons
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REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: The Leader

DATE: 6 March 2001

SUBJECT: Corporate Objectives

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To agree the Corporate Objectives of Denbighshire County Council for 2001/2002

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

There is a need to agree a clear direction for the Council for the coming year, as well developing corporate objectives which identify the current priorities. Cabinet are reminded that an Awayday was held in January 2001 to commence this process. The attached Appendix is a reflection of the views expressed in that meeting and subsequent discussions.

This will allow the Chief Executive and the Corporate Directors to develop these objectives in conjunction with the Lead Members for the respective directorates. Corporate Objectives will be further analysed into Directorate Objectives and Service Objectives. This approach will address the current District Audit observation that there is insufficient linkage between corporate priorities and the delivery of services

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no cost implications

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

N/A

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Discussions have been held with the Corporate Directors, members of the Management Team and the Chief Executive to develop the objectives.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The Corporate Objectives will provide the guidance for the priorities in other areas and will form the basis for the development of Service Plans

7 RECOMMENDATION

The Corporate Objectives as outlined in the enclosed Appendix are approved.

Denbighshire County Council

Statement of Priorities for 2001/2002

The Cabinet of Denbighshire County Council commits itself to providing a clear vision for corporate direction, in light of continued budget recovery, developing both members and staff to meet future demands and to deliver continued improvements in services for the people of Denbighshire.

Priorities will be achieved by the following objectives:

Objective Number	Description
C1	Continued delivery of the Financial Recovery Plan so that revenue and capital debts are cleared by the end of the period
C2	Development of a modern and accountable local government to ensure that the Modernising Agenda is achieved
C3	Develop services so as to meet the needs of the people of Denbighshire
C4	Develop the organisation (members and staff) in a way that will meet the future requirements of the Council

These objectives can be further analysed as follows:

Objective Number	Description
C1	Continued delivery of the Financial Recovery Plan so that revenue and capital debts are cleared by the end of the period
C1.1	All services to remain within budget set for 2001/2002
C1.2	Development of a management information system
C1.3	Implement strategies to maximise income opportunities
C1.4	Develop asset management programme to support capital plan
C1.5	Review Standing Orders, Financial Procedures and Authority Levels to ensure they meet the needs of the changing organisation

Objective Number	Description
C2	Development of a modern and accountable local government to ensure that the Modernising Agenda is achieved
C2.1	Finalise the Council's new constitution
C2.2	Develop the Standards Committee
C2.3	Improve the role of Scrutiny Committees
C2.4	Clarify role of Audit Panel
C2.5	Continued implementation of Best Value meeting statutory requirements and in a manner that addresses the needs of Denbighshire
C2.6	Develop e-Government strategy across all services
C2.7	Develop Community Planning
C2.8	Agree with the National Assembly for Wales Policy Agreements that meet the priorities of Denbighshire

Objective Number	Description
C3	Develop services so as to meet the needs of the people of Denbighshire
C3.1	Develop customer focused Service Plans which provide service improvements and interact / link at a corporate level
C3.2	Ensure that the Service Plans meet the needs of the people of Denbighshire whether in full time education or younger children in work unemployed retired with special requirements
C3.3	Ensure that Service Plans and other activities support the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the County

Objective Number	Description
C4	Develop the organisation (members and staff) in a way that will meet the future requirements of the Council
C4.1	Identify future staff training and development requirements
C4.2	Clarify the role of Resources and Corporate departments in assisting the Authority in meeting its objectives
C4.3	Expand on the relationships between cabinet / Corporate Directors and Corporate Directors / Heads of Service to allow the combination of flexibility and control required to meet objectives.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR ANN OWENS, LEAD MEMBER FOR

CONTRACT SERVICES

DATE: 6 MARCH 2001

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE CCTV SERVICES - FUNDING

1 Decision Sought

1.1. To approve a 2001/02 revenue budget and a "one off" capital allocation for the County Council's CCTV service.

2 Reason For Seeking Decision

- **2.1.** In 1994 Rhuddlan Borough Council introduced in Rhyl CCTV cameras and the associated 24 hours, seven days a week surveillance/monitoring of the service.
- **2.2**. Since 1994, the service in the town has been periodically extended.
- **2.3.** In 2000/01 Denbighshire County Council introduced the service into Prestatyn such that now there are 52 cameras serving both towns and parts of their surrounds, excluding the cameras in the underground car park, Rhyl.
- **2.4.** Although as stated above the number of cameras has periodically increased therefore, also, the need for additional surveillance and staff, the associated and essential annual revenue budget to support the service has not been proportionately adequately increased.
- **2.5**. The Council CCTV service is to be transferred to Contract Services with effect from the 1st April, 2001. Accordingly over the past few months the Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) has been considering and investigating the needs of the service for the future.
- **2.6.** The Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) investigations have included visits to neighbouring authorities who operate successful CCTV systems and services together with discussions with the relevant lead officers within those authorities.
- 2.7. Having considered in detail a draft revenue budget for the service for 2001/02 (Appendix 1) I make the recommendation as set out in item 7 of this report.

3 Cost Implications

3.1. Past years gross revenue budget for this service has been approximately £157k (net budget £138k). However, as mentioned in 2.4 above this figure has not been increased adequately year on year as additional cameras have been provided to ensure a satisfactory 24 hours, 7 days per week service.

- **3.2.** Based on the knowledge and experience of other authorities systems and the now determined needs of the Denbighshire system, this figure needs to be increased in 2001/02 by £50K.
- 3.3. In addition, certain immediate works are required to upgrade the cameras initially provided and shortly thereafter and to also carry out certain essential works. It is considered that these works can be classified as being of a capital nature and, accordingly, a "one off" sum of £30K is required to ensure that the support equipment is properly enhanced and thereafter adequately operational.
- **3.4.** There are currently some elements of income for the provision of the service and these figures have been taken into account in determining the amount that the budget needs to be increased by this year. However, the Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) intends to both market the service much more intensely to the business communities of Rhyl and Prestatyn and also, where appropriate, in association with potential new major/retail developments within the towns to take every opportunity of increasing income for the service.
- 3.5. The Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) experience in discussions with other local authorities officers has revealed that on average, the revenue costs of those authorities services is reflected in an annual revenue cost per annum of £5,000 per camera. The recommendation in this report does not reach that figure for the Denbighshire 52 camera system but it is still considered that the figure will provide for a considerably enhanced service hitherto.

4 Financial Controller Statements

4.1. This is an addition to the agreed budget proposals for 2001/2 for both Revenue and Capital.

5 Consultation Carried Out

5.1. The Director of Environment has been consulted on the content of this report and has expressed his support and agreement to its content.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1. None - but the Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) intends to report regularly on the operation of the service to the Contracts Management Board.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1. That the gross revenue budget for the Councils' CCTV service for 2001/02 be approved at £207k (net budget £188k) with a "one off" capital allocation of £30K.

Appendix 1

Estimated Costs for the CCTV Operation 2001/2002

Capital	£
Rolling Upgrade	2,500
Labour	2,000
Fibre Card	9,000
Pan/ Tilt System	2,000
VCR's and equipment maintenance	11,000
Monitor renewal/ repair	1,000
Microwave maintenance	2,500
,	30,000
Revenue	£
Admin, Management and Support	15,000
Employees	164,000
Other staff costs	1,000
Cleaning of cameras	5,200
Microwave licence	2,500
Office equipment maintenance	2,000
Office Equipment purchase	1,050
Electricity	1,000
Telephones	1,000
Rental	1,000
Central establishment,IT, Payroll etc	8,250
Contingency	5,000
Gross Budget	207,000
Income	19,000
Net Budget	188,000

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Member for Finance

DATE: 6 March 2001

SUBJECT: Setting up of a Joint Working Party to Review Capital Planning

and Project Management Procedures

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To agree Council Member representation on the joint working party that will review existing Capital Planning and Project Management Procedures

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

In view of the anticipated increased level of expenditure on the capital programme, it is essential to be able to demonstrate improved controls and reporting. It is also necessary to establish a methodology that will allow the capital programme to be constructed in a manner that maximises the available financial resources. The group will also need to identify a procedure to ensure the capital plan matches Denbighshire's agreed priorities.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

It is not anticipated that there will be any cost implications as a result of the setting up of this group.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Improvement Capital Planning and Project Management Procedures will allow better control of approved capital projects. It will also allow funds to be diverted more effectively and quickly if necessary.

It is allso expected that the revised procedures will include improved reporting routines

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

A meeting open to all Heads of Service has already been held to introduce the requirement for improved controls. Their views of the nature of those controls are currently being sought. The joint working party will incorporate those views into the revised procedures and consult further on the possible options

Internal Audit will need to approve the amended procedures

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The Joint Working Party will establish procedures which will support the priorities of the Council

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that four Members be appointed to the joint working party

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr E W Williams

DATE: 6 March 2001

SUBJECT: Best Value: Corporate approach to the "4 C's"

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Approval of the proposed Corporate Statements on the four elements of Best Value: Challenge, Compare, Consult and Compete

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

In its response to the District Audit's Statutory and Detailed Report on Denbighshire County Council's Best Value Performance Plan 2000/2001, Members undertook to agree a formal approach to the four elements of Best Value.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

All costs for carrying out Best Value reviews are met within current resources

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Best Value is one of the tools employed to assist with the delivery of the Council's Recovery Action Plan.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The proposed statement was discussed and approved by Management Team 11 January 2001

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

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

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approve the statement presented in the attached appendix.

OPENING STATEMENT

Denbighshire County Council has been elected by the people of Denbighshire to provide services in accordance with the democratically expressed wishes of the people. This mandate will be reflected in consequent decisions made by the County Council, and in the way it exercises its responsibilities under primary and secondary legislation, including the discharge of its Best Value obligation.

CHALLENGE

Under Best Value, Denbighshire County Council has a duty to challenge its service provision. Questions that need to be asked include:

- Why is a services provided at all?
- What would happen if it was not provided?
- What are the objectives that this service aims to achieve?
- Could these objectives be better achieved by some other service or some other means of providing the service?
- Does the service meet Denbighshire County Council's statutory obligations under legislation relating to sustainable development, health and safety, equal opportunities and race relations?

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a Best Value Challenge Strategy to consider the underlying rationale for provision of services and ways in which they can be provided.

The objectives of the strategy are:

- To ensure that the activities of the Authority are relevant to the current Mission Statement, Objectives and legal requirements of the Authority.
- To ensure that the activities and practices of the Authority have not been overtaken by new circumstances or technologies.
- To ensure that information gained from consultation on the needs and priorities of local people are taken into account when challenging service provision.
- To ensure that information gained on alternative means of meeting needs through the assessment of competitiveness of other service providers is taken into account when challenging service provision.
- To ensure that information gained on alternative means of meeting needs through the assessment of comparisons with other providers is taken into account when challenging service provision.
- To ensure that future provision and the likely changing demands of customers, and changes in the various alternative ways and providers through which services might be provided are taken into account when challenging service provision.
- 7 To ensure that close involvement with the priorities of the local community including residents, business, the voluntary sector and other interests, are central to the challenge process.

COMPARE

Informed comparison is the basis of performance management, and is also critical to an effective Best Value Review. Under Best Value, Denbighshire County Council has a duty to consider three main types of performance indicators

 Best Value Performance Indicators set by the National Assembly for Wales and by UK government Departments

- Audit Commission Performance Indicators
- Local indicators, set by Denbighshire County Council in consultation with service users and others.

Denbighshire County Council also has a duty to set targets in relation to best value indicators, which reflect their position in relation to other authorities.

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a Best Value Compare Strategy to ensure that it has access to good quality performance information in order to ensure that the Objectives of the County Council match those of local people, to measure the extent to which Objectives are being achieved and to set targets for future improvements.

The objectives of this strategy are:

- to ensure that Members and Officers have access to good quality performance information in order to,
- 2 judge comparisons of costs against outputs and outcomes,
- 3 judge comparisons of performance over time,
- 4 consider the relationship of outcomes and outputs to inputs,
- 5 compare current and prospective performance against that of other public sector bodies and those in the private and voluntary sectors, in order to
- 6 measure performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and set targets for improvement.

CONSULT

Denbighshire County Council views consultation as a process of dialogue that leads to a decision. It can be a powerful tool for improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of services and for ensuring that policy makers stay in touch with citizens. Under Best Value, Denbighshire County Council has a duty to consult about each of its services at least once every five years, and about overall priorities more frequently.

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a Best Value Consultation Strategy to ensure that, through a process of dialogue, the people of Denbighshire have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about how the County Council performs its duties, and to ensure that the priorities of Denbighshire County Council are shared by the people of Denbighshire.

The objectives of this strategy are:

- 1 To listen to the views of Denbighshire residents and stakeholders and where possible make service improvements.
- 2 To use consultation results to inform decisions.
- 3 To ensure that all the people of Denbighshire are encouraged and have an equal opportunity to participate in the consultation process account will be taken of people's language preference and personal needs and circumstances.
- To provide a framework and methods to support the Best Value process and Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Consultation Strategy.
- 5 To facilitate joint working with other public agencies who provide services within Denbighshire.

To analyse and feedback the results and outcomes of consultation exercises to consultees and the public.

COMPETITION

Denbighshire County Council believes that competition has an important role to play in securing best value. Denbighshire County Council will ensure that the use of fair competition is one of the options for service procurement considered in all best value reviews and that it is approached with an open mind.

Denbighshire County Council has adopted a Best Value Competition Strategy to ensure that consideration is given to different forms of provision and providers across the whole range of council services in order to secure best value for local people and to achieve Denbighshire County Council's Mission. In doing so the Council will seek opportunities for co-operation and for establishing partnerships with institutions, other public bodies, voluntary organisations and the private sector.

The objectives of this strategy are:

- To ensure the provision of high quality services and value for money for the people of Denbighshire through selection of the most appropriate provider, and in doing so:
- To ensure consideration is given to the contribution providers make to the economic, social and cultural environment of Denbighshire,
- To ensure consideration is given to equality of opportunity for people using services and people providing them,
- 4 To ensure consideration is given to the views and interests of people using the service.
- 5 To ensure consideration is given to the long-term sustainability and stability of the service.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS

DATE: 6 March 2001

SUBJECT: LIVERPOOL BAY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION BY DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To adopt the Liverpool Bay Shoreline Management Plan and to agree to participate in its implementation and monitoring.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Shoreline Management Plan has been prepared by Consulting Engineers on behalf of Coastal Authorities and other national bodies bordering Liverpool Bay between Great Orme's Head and Formby Point. The Plan provides a basis for a sustainable coastal defence policy and sets objectives for the future management of the shoreline.

The Plan considers Denbighshire's coastline in two parts:

River Clwyd to Barkby Beach - Policy (long and short term):- to maintain the line of the existing defences.

The Dunes - Policy (long and short term):- non-intervention, except to protect the hinterland from flooding.

Council, at their meeting in September 1999, accepted the draft Plan subject to minor amendment. Council were advised that their amendments would be included in the Plan to be formally adopted.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Monitoring of the beach levels has been carried out to pick up trends in beach movement. It is proposed to continue with the monitoring at an estimated annual cost of £10,000.

It is anticipated that the monitoring will be fully funded by the National Assembly as in the past.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

No financial implications if National Assembly funding continues.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

In August 1999 the publication of the draft Shoreline Management Plan was advertised in the local press and comments sought as part of a public consultation exercise: no comments were received. Council was advised of the public consultation at their meeting in September 1999.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The Plan refers to the availability of land suitable for development along the Denbighshire coastline.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Liverpool Bay Shoreline Management Plan and agree to participate in its implementation and monitoring.