

CABINET

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

PRESENT

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

Observers - Councillors P. Douglas, K. Hawkins, G. Jones, R.J.R. Jones, M. Jones, R.E. Jones, D.A Thomas and W.G Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk and Corporate Directors.

Apologies:- Councillor I.M. German

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The Chief Executive announced with regret that he was giving notice of his desire to take early retirement on the grounds of ill health. He outlined the background to this decision which had been forced on him, and added that his successor would discover a Council with a strong new management structure and a clear political direction for what he felt would be a prosperous future.

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) Foot and Mouth Disease- latest guidance from the National Assembly;
- (ii) Objective 1 European Funding, and
- (iii) Rhyl Sun Centre.

2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

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

Matters arising:-

Appointment of Head of Personnel :- The Chief Executive reported that Mrs. Linda Atkins had been appointed to succeed the present Head of Personnel, Mr. Ken Stephens, who was taking early retirement.

Foot and Mouth Disease:- The Corporate Director Environment reported that new guidelines issued by the National Assembly on partial re-opening of areas of the countryside reflected concerns about the impact of the current crisis on small businesses and tourism. Individual local authorities would conduct their own risk assessment in this regard. Currently there were no outbreaks in Denbighshire and the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services reported that warning signs were posted all through the county alerting the public and he paid tribute to the level of co-operation so far. The control room would remain operational and he was providing daily up-dates for the Leader and Chief Executive.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6th March 2001 be approved as a correct record and agreed by the Leader.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2000-2001

Councillor E. A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) and sought Members' approval to note the current position on the latest projections for the final out-turn as outlined in the appendix to the report and to instruct officers to take all necessary steps to minimise the final deficit. She then answered questions of detail from Members.

***RESOLVED** that Lead Cabinet Members continue to liaise with Heads of Service to ensure the final deficit for 2000/01 is as low as possible and that current pressures do not recur in 2001/02.*

4. COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON LEISURE CENTRE USER FORUMS

Councillor R. W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) and referred Members to the Appendices which outlined the working arrangements and constitution of these new forums.

RESOLVED:-

(a) *to approve the Constitution, Working Arrangements and Membership Arrangements for the new Leisure Centre User Forums at Corwen, Denbigh, Llangollen, Prestatyn, Rhyl and Ruthin Leisure Centres as detailed in the report, and*

(b) *that Member nominations be sought and referred back to Cabinet if over subscribed*

5. RECRUITMENT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval for external advertisement.

Arts Manager, Royal International Pavilion PO 1 - Lifelong Learning Directorate: Culture and Leisure
Clerical Assistant Sc 2 - Resources Directorate: Revenues
Revenues Assistants (Rents) Sc 4 Resources Directorate - Revenues

***RESOLVED** that the external advertisements of the above posts be approved.*

6. FORMER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME REVENUE GRANT

The Leader of the Council submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking agreement for the basis for allocating former SDS Revenue Grants. In particular, with reference to the Cabinet's previously agreed strategy, these funds would encourage new projects but in order not to prejudice established projects by the sudden withdrawal of funding, a tapering arrangement would be introduced for a gradual withdrawal. It was also agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the background to how grants were made.

***RESOLVED** that the arrangements for allocating former SDS Revenue Grants be approved as set out in the report.*

7. DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE CARD AND LEISURE CHARGES 2001-2002

The Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Councillor R. W. Hughes submitted a report (previously circulated) and circulated a revised Appendix 2 and sought Members' approval to the introduction of a new Leisure Card to replace the former Passport to Leisure scheme, and to set new charges for leisure facilities for 2001-2002. She outlined the background to the recommendations contained in the report and the detail as set out in the appendices.

RESOLVED:-

(a) *that a Leisure Card Scheme be introduced in 2001- 2002 to replace the former Passport to Leisure (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report), and*

(b) to approve the Proposed Leisure Charges as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

8. SCALA CINEMA : POSITION STATEMENT

The Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Councillor R.W. Hughes and the Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor D.M. Morris submitted a joint report on the current position with regard to the Scala, and to endorse decisions made to make the building safe and to stabilise the structure. Councillor Hughes referred to the previous decision to close the Scala on public safety grounds in December 2000 and the strategy which had been adopted since. She referred to a public meeting held on 15 February 2001 the notes of which were circulated as Appendix 1 to the report. She said the steps taken so far as outlined in the report had met with a very positive response and she referred to the Terms of Reference and Constitution of the proposed Scala Advisory Group as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report which was submitted for approval. Councillor Morris referred to the survey carried out by W.S. Atkins, Consulting Engineers, St.Asaph. This confirmed that the building was unsafe and was showing daily signs of further deterioration and he called for Members' approval for expenditure as outlined in the report to make the building safe and to stabilise the structure.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) action taken so far in respect of the Scala be endorsed, and

(b) authority be given to incur expenditure of £43,000 from the capital programme to pay for urgent necessary measures to make the Scala building safe and to stabilise the structure.

9. ICT BEST VALUE SERVICE REVUE

The Cabinet Lead Member for Life Long Learning Councillor K. E. Wells submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members' approval of the ICT Best Value Service Review methodology and ICT Action Plan for 2001-2004 noted in the Annex to the report.

It was important that an inspection should take place now so that the Action Plan resulting from the review could commence from 1 April 2001. The ICT Action Plan should significantly improve services in all areas.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note and approve the ICT Service Review methodology and Action Plan to enable the service to be inspected.

10. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK

The Lead Member for Personal Services Councillor A. E. Roberts submitted the report (previously circulated) asking Cabinet to note progress in the work of the Housing Options Working Party and confirm arrangements for establishing a Shadow Board of the Community Ownership Housing Organisation. A background summary was provided for Members and the name Dyffryn Community Housing was recommended as the official title given to the new body. In order to achieve a smooth transition to the new arrangements which would involve partnership with Tenants and the Independent sector, a Shadow Board should be established as soon as possible comprising of 15 members to take forward the work of the Housing Options Working Party. Detailed questions were asked about the balance of membership and the role of the council on the new body. It was explained that the membership of the shadow board would be 5 County Council; 5 Tenants' Associations and 5 Independent Sector. The Council's nominations would be submitted in due course for approval by County Council.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) the Cabinet note the progress of the Housing Options Working Party in developing the consultation process and establishing a Shadow Board of Management for the prospective Community Ownership Housing Organisation "Dyffryn Community Housing", and

(b) *the Council be asked to nominate 5 Members to the Shadow Board.*

11. BETTER HOMES FOR PEOPLE IN WALES

The Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services, Councillor A E Roberts submitted the report (previously circulated) and asked Members to note the National Assembly Consultation Paper : "Better Homes for People in Wales" and to endorse the response of the Council. The Executive Summary and draft response were attached to the report and a detailed discussion ensued on the report and the enclosures.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet endorses the draft response to the consultation paper.*

12. DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, Councillor K. E. Wells, submitted a report together with attached draft School Organisation Plan for Members' comments prior to detailed consideration at Scrutiny Panel and wider detailed consultation, as required under the 1998 Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998. Members were asked to comment in detail and several issues were raised including special education provision which was under constant review, Welsh medium education, post 16 provision and CCETs and the question of looking at this from a Denbighshire perspective.

RESOLVED *That Members comments be noted on the draft School Organisation Plan for subsequent referral to Scrutiny and to the County Council.*

13. PROPOSED RENEWAL AREAS - SOUTH WEST RHYL & DENBIGH

The Lead Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor J. M. Morris submitted a report (previously circulated) on the draft Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for South West Rhyl and Denbigh and asked for Members' approval. The appendix to the report set out the results of a detailed study conducted in accordance with government guidelines into the area's housing, social and economic conditions. Hopefully, completion and approval of the study would lead to Supplementary Credit Approvals to implement a ten year action plan.

RESOLVED *that approval be given to the draft Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for: _*

(a) *South West Rhyl, and*

(b) *Denbigh*

14. INCREASED CEMETERY CHARGES

The Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor D. M. Morris, submitted the report (previously circulated) and referred Members to Appendices 1 and 2 which set out details of increases in cemetery charges and in charges for other services, for which he sought approval. He issued a reminder that the proposed increases followed a previous decision to reduce, by £12,000, the Council's allocation for cemetery services in 2001/2002. During discussion, it was agreed to amend detail in the "non-exclusive rights" category (6 of Appendix 1), by deletion of the first line.

RESOLVED *that the proposed charges and rates as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for implementation from 1 April, 2001. Subject to the above deletion*

15. DISTRICT AUDIT MANAGEMENT LETTER

The District Auditor, Mr. Ceri Stradling, presented a report on his conclusions on the County Council's financial management for the year 1999/2000. In presenting the report, he highlighted those areas of financial and performance management which were either showing progress or which required further work. Members were asked to note that in future there would be no financial statement regarding the

inherited Rhuddlan debt and the impact of the financial recovery plan and the introduction of new political and senior management arrangements were having a positive impact. His staff continued to work with the Council in advising and commenting on value for money, Best Value and asset management. The Council were not alone in the need to further develop performance management corporately and there was perhaps need to work on re-vitalising Best Value and District Audit were planning a seminar for Officers in April.

Generally, the financial standing of the Council was improving with the reduced deficit appearing as an encouraging trend and he looked for positive identification of areas for savings. There were still issues to be resolved in the revenues system e.g. backlog in processing housing benefits, the need to reduce rent, Council Tax and NNDR arrears and to operate adequate controls in all revenues systems. Those areas which he was looking to review included :- progress on the S.11 qualification; a full audit of the case for the PFI; Best Value; Rehabilitation Services for Older People; and the impact of the new political management arrangements. Members asked detailed questions and the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance, Councillor E. A. Owens, on behalf of Cabinet Colleagues and Officers, thanked the District Auditor and his staff for the way in which they worked with the Council. She felt that his presentation was a fair reflection of the Council's current position. Whilst acknowledging that progress had been made, she was confident that the picture would be even better next year. The current overspend would be addressed as soon as the current year end figures were published and a "back to basics" philosophy would have to be adopted. The Leader also added his thanks and agreed that whereas matters had shown marked improvement, there was no room for complacency and he looked to future benefits from the positive impact of the Cabinet Action Plan .

RESOLVED that the District Auditor's presentation be noted and duly acknowledged.

16. 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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

17. APPLICATIONS TO LEASE COMMERCIAL UNITS B AND C, RHYL RAILWAY STATION

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet approval for two applications to lease Units at Rhyl Railway Station and to seek approval for future applications to be determined by the Head of Economic Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Economic Development in accordance with the policy previously agreed for other business properties.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the applications, details of which were provided in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be approved, and
- (b) in future applications be determined by the Head of Economic Regeneration in consultation with Cabinet Members responsible for Economic Development in accordance with the policy previously agreed for other business property.

18. RECOVERY STRATEGY - REVENUES FUNCTION

The Lead Member for Finance, Councillor E. A. Owens, submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval for the proposed recovery strategy for the Revenues section.

Councillor Owen summarised the current situation which had shown an improvement following the introduction of temporary agency staff in an effort to reduce the ever-increasing backlog in processing housing benefit claims, re-claiming debt owed to the Council etc. In view of the need to find a permanent solution, however, both she and the Corporate Director, Resources, favoured the option of appointing permanent staff, improving financial management controls and carrying out rigorous quality assurance

checks - hence the package of measures recommended. Members agreed to the recommendations in the report and it was:-

RESOLVED that the recovery plan as outlined be approved and that delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director - Resources to spend a net amount of £370k in line with the plan to address the issues as reported. This authority to act included the ability to externally recruit additional permanent staff as considered necessary.

19. RENOVATION GRANT AID: 45 / 48 EAST PARADE, RHYL

The Lead Member for the Environment, Councillor D.M. Morris, submitted a report (previously circulated) and sought approval for a grant to be made available for the improvement and conversion of the property formerly known as The Plas Tirion Hotel, Rhyl, to form 22 self-contained flats. The figure currently sought represented a £60k higher sum than was originally approved for this joint project details of which were contained in the report.

RESOLVED that the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services be given the authority to approve an additional grant of £60,000 making a total amount of Renovation Grant approved for this development of £360,000.

20. DENBIGHSHIRE CARE AND REPAIR FUNDING

The Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor D. M. Morris, submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for £20k core funding for the Denbighshire Care and Repair Agency. Care and Repair had been formed in 1996 to assist older and/or disabled people to carry out repairs/ adaptations to enable them to continue to live independently in their own homes. The payment of a grant to core fund the Agency rather than payment of fees for their services was considered a positive way forward to enable Care and Repair to concentrate on their care functions and to assist with forward planning.

RESOLVED that the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services be given the authority to core fund Denbighshire Care and Repair in the sum of £20k funded from Renovation Grant Agency Fees collected by the County Council.

21. RENOVATION GRANTS - TOWN HERITAGE INITIATIVE SCHEMES (THI)

The Cabinet Lead Member for the Environment, Councillor D.M. Morris, submitted a report (previously circulated) which sought approval for a recommendation to the County Council to approve an amendment to the Council's Renovation Grant Aid Policy in order to target and prioritise schemes where THI Grant had been approved. The report detailed the reasons for seeking the change in policy.

RESOLVED that a recommendation be made to the County Council that the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services be given authority to prioritise Renovation Grant applications where the scheme is situated in a Town Heritage Initiative Designated Area.

22. LAND ADJACENT TO PEN Y LLAN, BISHOP'S WOOD ROAD, PRESTATYN

The Cabinet Lead Member, Property, Councillor W. R. Webb submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval to dispose of 275 sq. metres of land to the owner of Pen y Llan, Bishop's Wood Road, Prestatyn. The report detailed reasons for the disposal and the terms and conditions would be the subject of agreement.

RESOLVED That the disposal of the 375 sq. metres be approved on terms and conditions to be agreed with the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in consultation with the County Clerk. The purchaser would pay all the fees incurred, including the County Council's legal fees.

23. PFI: PATHFINDER: CIVIC FACILITIES AT RUTHIN

The Lead Cabinet Member , Property, Councillor W. R. Webb submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided Members with an up-date on the latest position regarding the scheme and the progress achieved in moving towards the final stages . The report detailed the course of action which was now proposed together and an appendix outlined the position in relation to the non-Council organisations and discussions with them regarding the proposals. A full report would be submitted to County Council.

RESOLVED that Members note that it was now possible to proceed to:-

- (a) finalise negotiations with the Bidder and non-Council Organisations;
- (b) prepare and submit the Final Business Case to the District Auditor, and
- (c) submit a report to the Council prior to submission of the Final Business Case to the National Assembly for Wales.

24. TOURISM NON-PROFIT DISTRIBUTING ORGANISATION (NPDO)

The Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Councillor R. W. Hughes submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking to establish a "steer" for the County Council on several key areas in the development of the NPDO. The report, as presented, outlined the background in detail including the preference for a two- phased approach . Appendix 1 contained a list of NPDO Shadow Board Members and in addition there was a need to appoint a Staff Member and two elected Members to complete the membership. Appendix 2 to the report outlined the sites budgets for 2001/2002 and Appendix 3 contained financial details of the NPDO Business Plan. Progress was on schedule and within budget and the officers were congratulated on the work undertaken against tight deadlines. Members were invited to ask questions of detail and it was confirmed that a report would be submitted to full Council when the two elected member representatives would be appointed to serve on the Shadow Board.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to the Council:-

- (a) to approve the establishment of the Tourism NPDO " Clwyd Leisure Limited" (draft title) from 1st April 2001 and the implementation of the first phase of the transfer of responsibility of the initial four facilities; Sun Centre, Nova Centre, North Wales Bowls Centre and the Sky Tower;
- (b) to approve the grant of £350,970 for 2001/2002, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 and agree in principle grant levels of £351,275 in year 2 and £335, 415 in year 3 (Appendix 3) subject to the right to vary the amount depending on performance;
- (c) to agree in principle with continued implementation of the second phase of the transfer of amenities on the coast as outlined in the original report with a target date of April 2001 subject to negotiation between the Council and the NPDO the details of which will be reported back to Cabinet and Full Council;
- (ch) to elect two Members of the County Council to serve on the NPDO Board (Members to submit C.Vs to be considered by Council);
- (d) to agree in principle to support the 100% discretionary rate relief to the NPDO subject to formal application;
- (dd) to approve the grant of leases for a term of 21 years for the Sun Centre, Nova Centre and NWBC and 10 years for the Sky Tower, at a discounted rent of £1.00 per annum for the first five years, the market rent to be shown in the lease, otherwise in terms to be agreed by the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in consultation with the County Clerk;
- (e) to approve that the Council opts to tax in respect of the Sun Centre, the Sky Tower, the Nova and the North Wales Bowls Centre, and

- (f) *to approve the formal transfer of 53 Denbighshire staff to the NPDO on the 1st May 2001 with full TUPE rights.*

25 APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF PERSONNEL

The Chief Executive reported that Linda Atkin had been appointed as Head of Personnel and had accepted the offer of appointment and would commence her duties on a date to be agreed. This appointment was made in the light of the impending retirement of Ken Stephens currently Head of Personnel.

The meeting terminated at 2.30 p.m.

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Section: Curricular

Post Title: P/T Clerical Officer - Denbighshire Childcare Partnership

Salary Grade: Scale 2

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

As this post is 100% funded by the Welsh Assembly I should be grateful if I could have approval to advertise the post externally. I need to make an appointment as soon as possible in order that the postholder can be in post by 1st May, 2001.

A copy of the advert is attached for your information.

Signed: Shored Bowen (Corporate Director)

Dated: 22-03-01

Signed: Kwells (Lead Member)

Dated: 22-03-01

To: Cabinet

Signed: [Signature] (Leader)

Date: 22-03-01

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

Please return this form to

Emma Safhill, Personnel Officer, Directorate of Lifelong Learning, Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Denbigh.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 3 April 2001

SUBJECT: BETTER BUSINESS WALES

1. DECISION SOUGHT

Whether the County Council should apply to become a member of a company limited by guarantee established to deliver the Better Business Wales initiative.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Better Business Wales is a major initiative to enable Welsh businesses to maximise the opportunities provide by e-commerce. It is being supported by BT, HSBC, the National Assembly for Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and EU Objective One funding. It is envisaged that part of the initiative will be delivered through existing local business support services. A company limited by guarantee has been set up to implement the initiative and it is expected that unitary authorities wishing to participate in it should become members of the company. The WLGA will be able to nominate up to three persons to serve as directors representing local authority members of the company.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

The Council and its associated local business support services will be able to benefit from the funds made available to the company to promote e-commerce.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability of the Council would be limited to £1.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Any members becoming Directors of this or similar companies will need to be aware of their responsibilities and potential liabilities under the various Company's Acts. These should be clarified at the initial stages of setting up the company.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The head of ICT and the Business Connect IT Centres in the County (Cyberskills at Denbigh and Interactive in Rhyl) support the Council's participation in the project.

6. IMPLICATION ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Assists with the implementation of the Council's economic development Objective One and anti-poverty strategies.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council should apply to become a member of the company limited by guarantee established to deliver the Better Business Wales initiative.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: DAVID MORRIS

DATE: 3 APRIL 2001

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION - INTERIM FLOOD RESPONSE PROCEDURE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Members to approve the attached interim land drainage flood response procedure for use on a year-round basis, in conjunction with the winter maintenance and 24 hour emergency call-out procedures already operated by Highways and Transportation.

1.2 Members to recognise the importance of having such a service in place and support the allocation of additional funding within subsequent years' revenue budget, to enable continued provision .

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Recent flooding events in Denbighshire, allied to perceived National trends in respect of climate change, leading to an increased likelihood of flooding, make the provision of a dedicated, proactive flood response service a necessity.

Highways and Transportation already manage a winter maintenance service based on prediction/reactive measures, as well as a wholly reactive 24 hour emergency call-out service to cover other highway related incidents. It would, therefore, be logical to extend these services to cover the perceived threat from flooding.

To enable the provision of an effective year-round service in respect of land drainage flooding, it will be necessary to extend the existing (winter only) daily weather forecasting service and introduce a formal stand-by arrangement for appropriate elements of the Contract Services work force. Additional material resources will also be required.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Stand-by costs (fixed -Contract Services) - £20,000 (estimated)

3.2 Response costs (variable - Contract services) - £20,000 - £50,000, based on estimated 'typical' year.

3.3 Material costs (sandbags, pumping equipment etc) - £20,000 (est.)

3.4 Increase in weather forecasting/monitoring costs (PA Weather Centre/Client) - £10,000 (est.)

Total estimated cost of providing increased level of service - £70,000 - £100,000

Of the above costs, 3.1 and 3.4 are wholly additional to existing budget provision. 3.2 and 3.3 have been previously absorbed within Highways and Transportation revenue budget, albeit at a lower level (approx. 50%).

It would be possible, for 2001/2002, to utilise the recognised budget pressure (winter maintenance/emergency fund - £200,000) to provided the required level of cover, although this would initially restrict our ability to 'build' the winter maintenance element of the fund. It will be necessary, in order to allow the contingency fund to fulfil its desired function, to include additional sums within future years' budget pressures bid.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The debriefing of the response to the recent flooding incidents has driven the revised procedures detailed above. The costs in 2001/02 should be containable within the increased budget

provision of £200K for Winter Maintenance/Emergency Response. The position can be reviewed in the Autumn as part of the budget setting exercise.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Flood Working Group

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Community & Environment

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Members to approve the Highways and Transportation Interim Flood Procedure as a formal methodology for responding to land drainage flooding threats.

7.2 Members to recognise the need to allocate additional funds within subsequent years' budget rounds in order for this enhanced level of service to be maintained.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION **INTERIM FLOODING RESPONSE PROCEDURE**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE AND BACKGROUND

This document is not intended to deal with all flood situations that may affect Denbighshire. The threat of flooding from the sea is covered within the Operation Neptune Flood Response Plan. Remaining flood threats to the county stem from risk associated with Main Rivers, Ordinary Watercourses, and non river flooding such as run off from fields or intensive rainfall overwhelming drainage capacity. Main Rivers refers to primary watercourses monitored by the Environment Agency, whilst Ordinary Watercourses are those rivers, streams etc that the Agency do not monitor. Any instances of flooding at one of these sites may be small in scale requiring only a limited response, or could be of such severity as to warrant the operation of the Major Incident Management Plan to manage the response to a Major Incident.

Major flooding events are rare, but recent incidents have highlighted the need for constant vigilance. Many people feel that global warming has increased the frequency and severity of flooding within the country. Another symptom is the spread of incidents beyond previous flood seasons, e.g. late Autumn, Winter and early Spring.

Highways and Transportation personnel will, almost without exception, be the first point of contact in respect of reported flooding incidents. In addition, the existing Winter Maintenance and 24 hour emergency arrangements provide an appropriate model upon which to base a flooding response procedure.

1.2 AIM

The purpose of this document is to provide a single information source for officers responding to flood incidents, excluding flooding from the sea, that identifies the approach to follow for reaction to, and resolution of, flood emergencies.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

To describe the procedures in place which will enable a response to be made to potential flood conditions, either on a site specific or County wide basis.

To identify key personnel and responsibilities associated with reaction/response to flooding incidents.

To provide a full schedule of available resources, both in terms of manpower and material, which may be called upon during response to a flooding incident.

2.0 WEATHER FORECASTING ARRANGEMENTS

Weather forecasting is currently obtained via the winter maintenance forecast system, utilising the contract with P.A Weather Centre. Automatic forecasts are received on a daily basis with the emphasis being on frost/snow prediction.

Currently, precipitation forecasting is available, on demand from the P.A. Duty forecaster. This is obtained by the D.C.C. duty weather forecaster contacting P.A. by telephone and requesting relevant information. It is intended to upgrade from this informal arrangement to a more formal arrangement of automatic precipitation/severe wind forecasts with periodic updates. The various options available are currently being explored with P.A. Weather Centre.

In addition, the Meteorological Office issues National Severe Weather warnings in advance of anticipated severe weather events. This information generally gives a description of the expected condition and a risk factor, on a regional basis. The information is forwarded to the Emergency Planning Section and, in out of hours circumstances, to the 24hr CCTV centre. The information is then disseminated to highway senior staff (daytime) or duty highway supervisor (out of hours). Information regarding river levels (Elwy, Clwyd, Dee) is received by Emergency Planning/CCTV in the same way, direct from Environment Agency. This information usually follows receipt of adverse/severe weather forecasted by P.A/Met. Office and is received via the channels described above.

3.0 PROCEDURE INITIATION

Flooding response procedure will be initiated by the Duty Weather Forecasting Officer, either on the receipt of a formal Adverse Weather Forecast from Met. Office (received via Duty Supervisor from CCTV/Emergency Planning) or as a result of information contained in the daily weather forecast from P.A. obtained via the Icelert system. A rota of weather forecasting officers is attached to this procedure. (Appendix A).

4.0 INITIAL RESPONSE

The following actions will then be taken (dependant upon whether incidents occurs during working day or out of hours):

4.1 During Working Day

- 4.1.1 Forecasting Officer to consult P.A. Weather Centre for more specific details and determine level of risk and likely affected areas. Consult with line management over level of response as follows:

Level 1 - Low/Localised level of flooding risk. Incidents to be managed by Senior Engineer/Supervisors from normal bases i.e. Kinmel Park and Lon Parcwr with overall management by Section Manager/Highway Services Manager from Caledfryn.

Level 2 - Medium/more extensive level of flooding risk. As Level 1 but consideration given to concentration of resources in likely worst affected areas. Consider need to allocate designated officers to specific locations.

Level 3 - High/widespread level of flooding risk. Senior staff to be deployed to some/all (dependant upon extent of problem) specific location centres in accordance with the schedule at 6.0 below. Designated staff will form single point of contact for management of incidents in that location.

Full contact schedule for staff is contained in Appendix B, appended to this procedure.

- 4.1.2 Notify D.S.O. Manager and confirm manning and other resources requirements, taking into account response level. Resource schedule is attached at Appendix C.
- 4.1.3 Collate calls from Customer Services and distribute to managing officers, again in accordance with response level.
- 4.1.4 In Level 3 situation organise additional staff to man the telephones in each depot (Kinmel Park and Lon Parcwr) and receive/collate requests for service/assistance from all sources.
- 4.1.5 Arrange for monitoring of specific listed sites at risk (see list at 5.0).

4.2 Out of Hours

WORKING DRAFT

- 4.2.1. Duty Supervisor, upon receipt of Adverse Weather Report from CCTV/Emergency Planning, will contact Duty Forecasting Officer. P.A. Weather Centre will be consulted by Duty Forecasting Officer for more specific details, and level of risk established (as per 3.1.1 above)
- 4.2.2 Notify D.S.O. Manager and confirm manning and other resources requirements, Taking into account anticipated response level. Resource schedule is attached at Appendix C.
- 4.2.3 Collate calls from C.C.T.V. and distribute to managing officers, again in accordance with response level.
- 4.2.4 In Level 3 situation organise additional staff to man the telephones in each depot (Kinmel Park and Lon Parcwr) and receive/collate requests for service/assistance from all sources.
- 4.2.5 Arrange for monitoring of specific listed sites at risk (see list at 5.0).

5.0 FLOODING STRATEGY/ACTIONS

5.1 General Duties

1. To warn road users of known and potential hazards with signs, road closures and diversion signs.
2. Take proactive and reactive action to protect property (public and private) from flooding from highway (provision of sandbags).
3. Where possible, control and divert flood water away from highways and property, to reduce risk of danger to road users and property owners. Within the limits of practicality and personal safety, maintain the highway in a safe condition.
4. To attempt (when it is safe to do so) to clear blockages, from highway drainage systems.
5. Where practicable, pump standing water from highway locations in the interest of traffic safety, and from other locations in the interests of safeguarding property..
6. To clear up after a flooding event including sweeping, emptying gullies, and clearing any subsequent blockages.

5.2 Local Action Plans

Local action plans will be developed for each of the main sites prone to flooding, whether from main or non-main river actions. The local action plan will contain immediate actions to be taken in the event of an imminent flooding event, as well as medium/long term actions to be pursued in an attempt to mitigate/remove any risk of flooding at a particular location.

Initially, local action plans will be made for the areas where maximum detrimental effect is experienced in term of homes flooded/threatened by floods. It is intended that the schedule will then be extended to include other sites where flooding is more a problem of highway safety than threat to life/property.

The initial schedule of local action plans is as follows:

- 5.2.1 Ruthin - Mwrog Street/Park Place/Borthyn /Mill Street etc.
- 5.2.2 Corwen Town.
- 5.2.3 Denbigh - Lenten Pool.
- 5.2.4 Dyserth - Waterfall Road
- 5.2.5 Llangollen - Hall Street
- 5.2.6 Denbigh - Clwyd Avenue

5.2.7 Glyndyfrydwy

6.0 LIST OF MONITORED SITES

6.1 North Denbighshire

Waterfalls Road, Dyserth
Lenten Pool, Denbigh
Clwyd Avenue, Denbigh
St. Asaph,
Rhyl

6.2 South Denbighshire

Mwrog Street, Ruthin
Hall Street, Llangollen
Corwen Town Centre
Glyndyfrydwy
Nant-y-Garth Pass
Pentredwr, Llangollen

7.0 LOCATION MANAGEMENT

7.1 (To be adopted in the event of incident escalating to Level 3 as defined in 3.1.1 above)

Designated Officers - by locations

Denbigh -Caledfryn

Steve Kent

Ruthin - Lon Parcwr Depot

Richard Jones
Keith Edwards

Rhyl/Prestatyn/ St. Asaph - Kinmel Park Depot

Tim Towers
Ted Painter

Corwen and Surrounding Area

Pete Brunton

Llangollen and Surrounding Area

Ian Hewitt

The above staff will have particular responsibility for the management of incidents in the indicated locations. The following listed staff may also be brought in, if required, to supplement the main rota.

7.2 OTHER STAFF AVAILABLE:

Brian Evans (D.S.O) presently based in Kinmel Park
Peter Hughes (C.O.W)
Simon Morris (Rights of Way Officer north of the County)
Huw Williams (Rights of Way Officer south of the County)
Alan Howatson (D.S.O Team Leader presently based in Kinmel Park)
Richard Shone (Traffic) - Caledfryn

A schedule of contacts for these officers is included within Appendix B.

7.3 ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS

As a general principle, for all levels of response, Engineering Supervisors will be responsible for on-the-ground management of individual incidents within their own normal geographical area of responsibility. A schedule of these areas, indicating towns/villages covered by each, is attached at Appendix D.

In instances where the event is localised, it is possible that re-deployment to more affected areas will be required, particularly in the case of a prolonged event involving overnight duties/24 hr working. Such re-deployment will be determined by the designated officers for the areas in question, in conjunction with the relevant Engineering Supervisors.

8.0 APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Duty Weather Forecasting Officer Rota
- Appendix B - Contact Schedules Managers and Supervisors Rotas
- Appendix C - Contract Services Workforce Contact Schedule
- Appendix D - Supervisors Area Responsibilities
- Appendix E - External Resource Schedule

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: DAVID MORRIS

DATE: 3 April 2001

SUBJECT: FLOOD DEFENCE PROGRAMME 2001/2004

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Approval to proceed with a flood defence programme encompassing the major sites within the County which are prone to repeated and/or severe flooding from non-main river land drainage systems.

Approval to utilise designated Capital funding (allocated by the County Council), supplemented as far as possible by external grants, to firstly carry out the necessary specialist feasibility/design exercises for each location, followed by execution of the appropriate flood defence works.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Members will be aware that the severe weather in October/November 2000 led to flooding being experienced in many locations throughout Denbighshire.

Whilst many of the incidents could be described as 'one-off' events, there are several locations where the flooding incidents were the latest in a sequence of repeat events covering, in some cases, many decades.

In most of the minor locations work has been carried out, under the Bellwin emergency funding scheme, to temporarily reinstate or fully restore the damaged infrastructure. This work will be completed with Capital funding from the County Council, allocated for this purpose for 2001/2002. This work will not, however, address the need to develop formal flood defence schemes at some of the worst affected sites, in order to minimise/remove the likelihood of any future flooding events.

The following locations have been identified as the major specific sites where flood defence should be considered a priority (listed in alphabetical order) :

- Clwyd Avenue Culvert, Denbigh
- Hall Street Culvert, Llangollen
- Lenten Pool Culvert, Denbigh
- Mwrog Street Culvert, Ruthin
- Town Culvert, Corwen
- Waterfalls Road, Dyserth

It is considered that a further (general) category should be included at this stage, to facilitate the provision of flood defence solutions to minor/medium sites, such as the A525 Nant Y Garth Pass.

With the exception of Mwrog Street, Ruthin, little or no formal investigation/feasibility work has been carried out on any of the above schemes and , in most cases, the starting point will be to engage specialist consultants to survey existing systems and determine the feasibility of providing an appropriate flood defence scheme for the location.

Once this process has been started, progress on each of the schemes will be dependent upon a number of factors, such as technical complexity, outcome of consultation, acquisition of land and extent/availability of necessary funding.

For these reasons, it would be necessary , subject to Members' agreement, for progress on all of the schemes to be regularly reported and monitored by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

It should also be noted that there are several sites, those affected by flooding from main rivers (Clwyd, Dee, Elwy etc), that are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. It will be necessary to work in conjunction with the Agency in these locations to ensure that appropriate schemes are identified and implemented.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The relatively unknown nature of the likely flood defence schemes, given the early stage in the process, makes cost prediction very difficult. For the purposes of capital bid and grant submission an overall estimate has been made and a copy of the estimate, based on a 3 year programme, is attached to this report. It should be stressed that the programme is very much indicative and intended to show the spread of overall resources over a 3 year period, rather than indicate expectations in respect of individual schemes.

Grant aid towards such schemes is available, in certain circumstances, from National Assembly for Wales' Land Drainage section, with a maximum contribution of 45%. The NAFW officer in charge of land drainage issues has visited all of the sites in question since the most recent incident of flooding, and we will be working closely with NAFW in order to maximise the amount of grant we can draw in for these schemes. It should be noted that grant is dependent upon, inter alia, a successful economic appraisal (cost-benefit analysis) and it is possible that some schemes will not qualify for grant support as a result.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The Capital Programme for the next three years allows for the above schemes, based on the best available information regarding likely costs net of NAW funding.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Environment Scrutiny Committee

As part of the overall process, a public consultation exercise will be included in respect of each of the major schemes undertaken. This will normally happen after solution options have been identified and evaluated.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Community Safety / Environmental Improvement

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members authorise the Head of Highways, utilising the specifically allocated Capital funding, supplemented by grant aid as appropriate, to prepare and implement a flood defence programme (initially based on a 3 year period) covering the major flooding-prone locations within the County.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION -FLOOD DEFENCE PROGRAMME BID 2001/04

SCHEME DESCRIPTION	FINANCIAL YEAR		
	2001/02 (£)	2002/03 (£)	2003/04 (£0
MAJOR AND MEDIUM FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES	Some or all of the schemes in this category may be eligible for 45% grant aid from the National Assembly of Wales. An application was submitted at the end of January 2001.		
Hall Street, Llangollen	20,000	30,000	450,000
Henllan Brook Culvert	50,000	400,000	550,000
Mwrog Street Culvert	500,000	500,000	
Corwen Town Culvert	25,000	25,000	1,450,000
Clwyd Avenue Culvert, Denbigh	150,000		
Waterfall Road, Dyserth	30,000	970,000	
Various Medium Sized Land Drainage Schemes including Nant-y-Garth Pass)	100,000	200,000	
TOTAL	875,000	2,125,000	2,450,000

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 3 April, 2001

SUBJECT: REGISTRATION SERVICE (BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES) - INCREASE IN SCALE OF FEES - CIVIL WEDDINGS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve an increase in the existing fees in respect of Applications for the approval of premises for use as venues for Civil Marriages and attendance of Registration staff at such Marriages

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Council at its meeting held on 27 June, 2000 agreed an increased scale of fees and also agreed that these fees be reviewed annually. The fees charged for Approval of premises and the attendance of Registration staff at Civil Weddings held at such premises are the greatest source of income.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Not applicable.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Not applicable.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

In line with Corporate Directive to maximise income opportunities.

7 RECOMMENDATION

Outlined below are the existing fees, together with the recommended fees for 2001:-

	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Approval Fee	£550.00	£575.00
Attendance Fees:		
Monday - Friday	£170.00 (£255.00)	£200.00 (£300.00)
Saturday	£200.00 (£300.00)	£225.00 (£350.00)
Sunday/Bank Holiday	£250.00 (£375.00)	£275.00 (£420.00)
*Figures in Brackets denote fees for Double Weddings		

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Rhys Webb - Corporate Property Portfolio Member

DATE: 3 April 20001

SUBJECT: Barnardo's - Henllan Training Centre

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 Approval to charge a rental at 'less than best consideration'.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Barnardo's, a Charitable Child Care Organisation, are seeking to take a lease with Denbighshire County Council for three rooms (approx 140 sq.ft), at Henllan Training Centre, as outlined black on the attached plan (Appendix 1).

2.2 Barnardo's are currently in the process of establishing a working group partnership with Denbighshire County Council's Social Service Department, in particular the Children's Service Unit, for the provision of a child care service. The Organisation will be committing £100,000 towards the project.

2.2 The office accommodation is currently vacant and in a poor state of repair.

2.3 The Open Market Rental is set at £350.00 plus VAT per annum. The tenant will also be responsible to refurbish the said office accommodation (specification to be approved by the Head of Consultancy Services) and the payment of non-domestic rates, if applicable. The Client Department will cover all other outgoings.

2.4 The Organisation have requested a 'nominal rental' due to their charitable status and working relationship with Denbighshire County Council.

2.5 I refer members to the Council's Policy on 'Leasing/Renting Council Property to Non-Commercial Organisation's, approved by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on the 24th November 1998 (Appendix 2). In particular, please note conditions 1.7.4 and 1.7.5:-

2.5.1 Condition 1.7.4 - 'Discount not to exceed 75% of market rent except in 'specific exceptional circumstances'.

2.5.2 Condition 1.7.5 - 'The difference between the rent charged and market rent to be shown as financial contribution to the Body/Organisation concerned by the budget holding Directorate/Division'.

2.6 The Social Services Department have confirmed that the difference between the 'rent charged and the market rent' will shown as a financial contribution by their Directorate.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Please refer to 2. (as above).

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The granting of a rent discount to a charitable body is in accordance with Council Policy

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Valuation

The Senior Valuer refers Members to ‘The General Disposals (Wales) Consent 1998’, which states the Local Authorities can grant leasehold interests at ‘less than best consideration’, for an Organisation with charitable status, without Welsh Assembly approval.

5.2 Legal

The County Clerk has been consulted and awaits instruction.

5.3 Social Services

The Head of Social Services supports the request in line with Council Policy.
Please refer to 2.5.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Provision of a child care service with the establishment of a working group partnership with Denbighshire County Council..

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 *That Members;-*

7.1.1 Approve a discounted rental, to be set at £1 per annum and applied in accordance with the benchmarks as set out in the Council’s Policy on ‘Leasing/Renting Council Property to Non-Commercial Organisations’. The lease will record the Open Market Rent and the discount will be recorded by way of a side letter.

7.1.2 Other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Consultancy Services, in consultation with the County Clerk.

APPENDICES NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor David Morris

DATE: 3 April 2001

SUBJECT: Street Lighting Maintenance Contract - Extension

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek approval to extend the existing 4 year contract for a further 12 months in accordance with the terms of the contract.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Members resolved at the Technical Services Committee meeting on 28 November 1996 (Agenda item 730) that the 'Street Lighting and Illuminated Street Furniture, Maintenance and Minor Works Contract 1997/2001' would contain provision for the 4 year contract to be extended by one year subject to mutual agreement and satisfactory performance.

2.2 The contract was awarded to Celtic Infrastructure Services (now Hyder Infrastructure Services) of Cardiff on 1 July 1997 and the 4 year period expires on 30 June 2001.

2.3 The company has performed satisfactorily during the period of the contract. A measure of the contractor's performance can be demonstrated by the Audit Commission's latest report on Welsh councils which indicates that the authority's performance in relation to the percentage of street lights not working is well within the top quartile.

2.4 A heavy workload has prevented the preparation of tender documentation for a new contract

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 To ensure Best Value it is considered appropriate to await the results of the Highway Maintenance Services Review which takes place over the next 12 months (intended to publish the review in March 2002) before seeking tenders for a new contract.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 The extending of this contract will allow the benefits of the Best Value Review to inform the retendering process in 12 months time. The financial impact on 2001/02 of the extension would be a cost increase based on a price index while recent experience of retendering exercises has not always produced favourable results.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Internal review of Contractors performance which was found to be satisfactory/good.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 The satisfactory performance has ensured that lighting has been operational particularly in areas subject to safety concerns.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the contractor be offered an extension to the contract until 30 June 2002.

7.2 That the Head of Highways and Transportation be given delegated power to extend and let such contracts in consultation with the Cabinet Member Environment.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR A.E. ROBERTS

DATE: 3rd, April, 2001

SUBJECT: CHARGING FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES 2001/2002

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- ♦ To seek approval for the Maximum Charge for Local Authority Residential Accommodation 2001/2002.
- ♦ That Members approve an inflation factor increase of 2.5%.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- ♦ This Authority has set clear expectations that charges should be kept to a realistic level, and the proposed charges are only intended to reflect inflation.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- ♦ It is necessary to take account of the budget expectation of increased income year on year. There is also the requirement to maintain the link between the charges made and the cost of the service provided.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed increase in charges is in line with the assumptions built into the Directorate budget for 2001/02.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- ♦ None.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- ♦ That Members approve the 2.5% increase in charges, as set out below, with effect from April 2001.

	Current Charges per week 2000/2001	Proposed Charges per week 2001/2002
Short Term Care	£220	£226
Permanent Care	£298	£306

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR A.E. ROBERTS

DATE: 3rd, April, 2001

SUBJECT: CHARGING FOR NON - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES 2001/2002

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- ♦ To seek approval to increase charges by inflation
- ♦ That Members approve the revised table of charges as set out in Appendix 1

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

This Authority has set clear expectations that charges should be kept to a realistic level. The proposed charges are only intended to reflect inflation, and are still far below the true cost of the service.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

It is necessary to take account of the budget expectation of increased income year on year. There is also the requirement to maintain a link between the charges made and the increased cost of the service provided.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed increase in charges is in line with the assumptions built into the Directorate budget for 2001/02.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Discussion has taken place with representatives of client groups via a consultation group.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The Directorate's Charging Policy contributes to the Authority's Anti-Poverty Strategy.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the 2.5% increase in charges as set out in Appendix 1.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES For Those Clients with Capital Below £16k		
SERVICE	CURRENT CHARGE	PROPOSED CHARGE FROM APRIL 2001
Domiciliary Services		
Home Care	£5.85 per hour	£6.00 per hour
Night Care	£7.70 per night	£7.90 per night
Day Care	£4.30 per day £2.15 per 4 hrs	£4.40 per day £2.20 per 4 hrs
Project Work	£4.90 per hour	£6.00* per hour
* Higher increase is due to the operation of the 3rd and final phase of a 3 year plan to equalise project work charge with that for Home Care as agreed at previous Committee Meeting.		
Maximum Charge	£43.25 or £59.45	£44.35 or £60.95

CHARGES FOR SERVICES For Those Clients with Capital over £16k		
	CURRENT CHARGE	PROPOSED CHARGE FROM APRIL 2001
Domiciliary Services		
Home Care	£7.00 per hour	£7.20 per hour
Night Care	£33.30 per night	£34.15 per night
Day Care	£21.50 per day £10.75 per 4 hrs	£22.00 per day £11.00 per 4 hours
Project Work	£6.00 per hour	£7.20* per hour
* Higher increase is due to the operation of the 3rd and final phase of a 3 year plan to equalise project work charge with that for Home Care as agreed at previous Committee Meeting.*		
Maximum Charge	Full cost of care package	Full cost of care package

Meals on Wheels & Frozen Meals

All Clients	£2.00 per meal	£2.05 per meal
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REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: LEAD MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

DATE: 3RD APRIL 2001

SUBJECT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CHILDCARE - CONSORTIUM BIDS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Agree that Denbighshire County Council Directorate for Lifelong Learning become the lead body for consortium bids to the New Opportunities Fund (Out of School Hours Childcare).

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Denbighshire Childcare Partnership have requested that Denbighshire County Council Directorate for Lifelong Learning become the lead body for consortium bids to the New Opportunities Fund which provides funding for Out of School Hours Childcare.

The aim of Denbighshire Childcare Partnership is to provide good quality, affordable, accessible childcare places. Consortium bids provide a cohesive, strategic approach to developing new childcare places throughout the County.

At present bids are going through the single route application process, for which projects may be funded up to a maximum of £50,000. NOF are inviting consortia to bid for the funds for which there is no limit other than the total allocation. The advantages of consortium bidding are laid out in the Appendix.

The New Opportunities Fund Out of School Hours Childcare programme continues until 2003. Of the £13 million allocated to Wales, only £2million has so far been allocated to specific projects, leaving £11million to be spent before 2003. The New Opportunities Fund has given Denbighshire Childcare Partnership the following indicative figures of how this money could be allocated:

A) Share of NOF money for Denbighshire assuming none allocated £507,546

B) Funding allocated in Denbighshire by
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership £150,837

Denbighshire's share minus amount already allocated (A-B) £356,709

No. of places this will create @ £500 per place 713

No. of places this will create @ £550 per place 649

No. of places this will create @ £690 per place 517

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

None Applicable - 5% of the total of the bid can be claimed to support administration of the scheme. We therefore envisage a 0.2 Scale 6 of a Finance Officer - £5,000 to be covered by this process. Other costs from existing resources.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

None Applicable

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Denbighshire Childcare Partnership
Early Years Officer Group
Corporate Director of Lifelong Learning
Head of Education Services.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- Education Strategic Plan, Business & Performance Management Plan
- Area Partnerships
- Economic Development
- Social Services
- Best Value

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree for Denbighshire County Council Education Department to become the lead body of consortium bids for New Opportunities Fund Out of School Hours Childcare.