

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Tuesday 1 May 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers - Councillors M.LI. Davies, S. Drew, P. Douglas, M.M. Jones, M.A. German and W.G. Thomas

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk, Director of Resources, Financial Controller.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor W.R. Webb.

1422. 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:-

Circulation of the Special Cabinet minutes of 20.03.2001.

Appointment of Recruitment Consultants for Recruitment of Chief Executive - the CEO to give verbal update.

1423. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 19 April 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Accuracy of Minutes:-

Item 7 Culture and Leisure Conference "A Foundation for the Future" - Councillor E.A. Owens pointed out that if there was high attendance having a substantial effect on the budget, financial help might be forthcoming.

Item 13 Petition - Rhyl Road, Denbigh - Councillor G.M. Kensler referred to the possibility securing funding via the Safer Routes to Schools. Unfortunately such funding had been sought but was not available.

Item 23 Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen - New Classroom Block - Councillor K.E. Wells asked that "To complete the proposed works a shortfall of £38k existed which would be repaid from another source to ensure no breach of the Council's proposed capital allocation procedures." be included as part of the Resolution.

Matters Arising:-

Item 28 Ruthin Gaol - Councillor R.W. Hughes referred to the fact that she had mentioned there were possible revenue implications arising from the scheme, in particular the possible need for additional staffing in next year's budget round to support the project.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 April 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 March 2001 (circulated at the meeting) were submitted.

RESOLVED the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 March 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

1424. RECRUITMENT

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

Scale 2 Full Time Admin Assistant/Telephonist ~ Personal Services: Administration HQ temporary to 31 October 2001.

Councillor G.M. Kensler enquired whether this post was Welsh essential and the Deputy Chief Executive responded it was not since there was sufficient provision existing at Ty Nant.

RESOLVED that the external advertisement of the above post be approved.

1425. CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

4(i) The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members nomination to attend the Welsh Coalfields Conference Pontypridd on 17 May 2001.

RESOLVED that Members agreed that attendance at the Conference was not required.

4(ii) The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' nominations for 1 Member and 1 Officer, namely the Cabinet Member for Personal Services and the Corporate Director: Personal Services to attend the National Social Services Conference 2001 at the Harrogate International Centre on 17-19 October 2001 arranged jointly by the LGA and a Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS).

Councillor A.E. Roberts suggested that as the Corporate Director: Personal Services was due to retire shortly after the Conference, the Senior Officer of Social Services should attend with the Cabinet Lead Member.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked that a report back from the Conference be made to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Members approved the attendance of the Cabinet Member for Personal Services and a Senior Officer from Social Services at the National Social Services Conference 2001.

1426. GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' support for the Denbighshire Agenda 21 Global Warming Conference to be held on 19 May 2001 at Rhyl High School, arranged by the Denbighshire Agenda 21 Forum as part of its programme of raising public awareness of Agenda 21 issues.

Members were asked to inform the Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy if, for example, Group Leaders had not received notice of the Conference.

RESOLVED that Members noted the report and agreed to support the Denbighshire Agenda 21 Global Warming Conference.

1427. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE INSTITUTE OF WELSH AFFAIRS AND THE NUCLEAR FREE FORUM

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to continue to fund membership subscriptions to the Institute of Welsh Affairs and the Nuclear Free Forum. Members have in the past attended Nuclear Free Forum meetings and conferences. The Institute of Welsh Affairs produces literature which assisted in policy formation in local government and this year would

be carrying out work on regeneration in Wales, the Irish lessons on Objective 1 and on the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Councillor R.W. Hughes spoke on the importance of the IWA's work, particularly on policy areas. Councillor G.M. Kensler supported the funding of the subscription and was seconded by Councillor R.W. Hughes.

Councillor G.M. Kensler highlighted the importance of the Nuclear Free Forum, particularly for North Wales. Councillor E.A. Owens asked that a written submission be made to Cabinet from the Members attending the Forum. Councillor E.W. Williams replied that Councillor G. Jones had recently attended a Forum meeting and his written report was with the translator. Councillor E.A. Owens suggested that Councillor G Jones be asked to include in his report the reasons why the County should continue to subscribe to the Forum and that the matter be deferred until the report is received.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) agreed to continue to fund the membership subscription to the Institute of Welsh Affairs , and
- (b) agreed to defer a decision to fund membership to the Nuclear Free Forum until our Councillor representatives on the Forum have been consulted over the value of continuing membership.

1428. FORMER CYNWYD YOUTH CLUB

The Leader submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to declare the former Cynwyd Youth Club surplus to requirements. As the property has fallen into a state of disrepair, to dispose of it the Council must take steps to trace the successors in title to the original owners and establish an Educational Trust to be approved by the Charity Commissioners.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked for information on the Trust scheme when available.

Councillor E.A. Owens asked that the Cost Implications be amended to read "All costs of the disposal will be funded from the proceeds of the sale."

RESOLVED that Members agreed to declare the former Cynwyd Youth Club surplus to requirements, the appropriate steps taken to trace the original owners and to establish a Trust scheme to be approved by the Charity Commissioners, and otherwise to be sold on the open market on terms to be agreed by the Head of Consultancy Services in consultation with the County Clerk, with all costs of the disposal to be funded from the proceeds of the sale.

1429. DELEGATED APPROVAL FOR POLICY AGREEMENTS

Councillor E.A. Owens, the Lead Member for Resources and Councillor E.W. Williams, the Lead Member for Best Value submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a recommendation to Council seeking Council authority for delegation for Cabinet to approve the policy agreements following consideration by Resources Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee.

County Council agreed on 13 February to participate in principle to enter into agreements regarding implementing aspects of the Better Wales policy framework. Members were asked to agree to recommending to Council that delegated power be given to the Lead Member for Finance and the Lead Member for Best Value to sign the agreements to enable the Authority to draw down the money funded from the National Assembly for Wales.

RESOLVED that Members recommend to Council that authority for delegation for Cabinet to approve the policy agreements following consideration by Resources Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee.

1430. APPROVAL OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

Councillor E.W. Williams, the Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a recommendation to Council seeking Council authority for delegation for Cabinet to approve the Best Value Performance Plan following its consideration by the Best Value Scrutiny Committee.

Council was required to publish the Best Value Performance Plan by 30.06.2001 but no Full Council meeting was scheduled for agreeing the plan under the current proposed timetable.

It was suggested that copies of the final draft be circulated to all members and that it, subject to Council approval, be discussed at the Best Value Scrutiny Panel and for the final draft to be approved by Cabinet for publication. It was further recommended that the Cabinet Lead Member for Best Value be delegated responsibility for signing off the final agreed text.

Councillor E.W. Williams said the Business Planning and Best Value Manager had been successful in attaining a new post with Wrexham County Borough Council and wished to thank her for her work and wished her well in her new post.

RESOLVED that Members recommended to Council that the procedure in the report be adopted for approving the Best Value Performance Plan.

At this juncture (10.30 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to consider the following two papers on Foot and Mouth.

1431. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ~ ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

Councillor D.M. Morris, the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' approval to adopt a risk assessment process for the consideration of areas of land and/or footpaths/tracks prior to consideration being given to reopening to public and for authorisation to open identified areas where they met the criteria laid down in the risk assessment, indicating minimal or no risk should they be opened.

Councillor A.E. Roberts said nothing had changed since the last report and he felt it wise to keep the paths closed.

The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services outlined various aspects of the paper and said the guidelines being followed in Wales on risk assessments were more stringent than those guidelines issued by the DETR.

Councillor K.E. Wells agreed with Councillor A.E. Roberts and said that the situation was being monitored by Cabinet on a fortnightly basis and that this should be sufficient for the National Assembly for Wales. If certain parts of the County were to be open, it would be extremely difficult to monitor. Councillor R.W. Hughes agreed that the County's paths should remain closed.

Councillor G.M. Kensler expressed her concern that a false and harmful message that the countryside was closed was being sent.

Councillor E.W. Williams said the Forestry Commission had now opened some of their footpaths. Councillor Williams suggested that the Llangollen and Loggerhead sites in particular should now be opened to the public and that signage be provided to show where the footpaths start and finish.

The Chief Executive said over the last month or so, letters had been received from the WLGA, MAFF, DETR, NAFW regarding the opening of footpaths whilst on the other hand new outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease were being reported outside the County. The Chief Executive mentioned the National Eisteddfod to be held in Denbigh in August and the contractor vehicle traffic which would shortly commence. With regard to the National Assembly for Wales, he said the authority given by them to close paths could be rescinded at any time, whilst advice received from outside bodies is to gradually relax the closure of paths.

The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services said it was imperative signage be provided if some paths were to reopen.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the paths stay closed pending a report to the next Cabinet.

Councillors G.M. Kensler and E.W. Williams asked for their vote for opening the paths be recorded.

1432. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ~ SPECIAL NAFW SUPPORT

The Leader submitted the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' approval to the financial assistance processes and promotional material required in order to give effect to the £880,000 financial assistance which has been provided to the Authority to disperse to businesses affected by the Foot and Mouth Disease. The finance would need to be committed by 30 June 2001. If the proposed application forms were approved, the forms should be despatched by 4 May 2001.

The Director of Resources detailed talks with the WLGA, NAFW and other Local Authorities.

The Head of Economic Regeneration outlined the application form for financial assistance. The forms had been produced following advice given by the National Assembly for Wales.

Councillor E.W. Williams said although bed and breakfast businesses on farms were ineligible, they had been hard hit. He asked if Denbighshire was progressing in a similar way to other North Wales Authorities. The Director of Resources said other Authorities were progressing in a similar way, although the processes were not exactly the same.

The Head of Economic Regeneration said farm businesses were excluded from financial assistance but could be eligible if farmers were able to separate their farm and bed and breakfast accounts.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked that riding establishments be given in the examples on the application form. The Head of Economic Regeneration said the examples given had been suggested by the Assembly and that any business may apply.

Councillor E.A. Owens said all Members should encourage businesses to apply and that staff would be available to help with the completion of the application forms. Councillor K.E. Wells said if a 10% response to a mailshot of 4,500 is received we must have enough staff available to deal with both telephone calls and applications.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked to see costs when figures became available, to ensure the bulk of the money was given to businesses and not to the Authority for administering the scheme.

Councillor R.W. Hughes said extra staff would be required to administer the scheme. Councillor Hughes also asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Director of Resources, Financial Controller and Head of Economic Regeneration and staff involved with this work.

Councillor I.M. German asked where the staff administering the scheme would be based. The Director of Resources said the staff would be based either at Rhyl or Prestatyn.

The County Clerk suggested an amendment to the Recommendation at 7.2, that authority be given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and the Leader. This was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED that Members approved the:-

- (a) application forms which are attached together with the list of affected business sectors and priority areas;
- (b) establishment of a temporary unit in order to evaluate all applications. It is likely that the staff for this will be recruited from external agencies and possibly charged to Bellwin as an approved element of the special grant;
- (c) that authority be given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and the Leader to approve all consequential matters arising from this report including the staffing arrangements for the Foot and Mouth Unit;
- (ch) that criteria for grant allocation be reported to the next Cabinet;
- (d) that the evaluation will be managed by the Director of Resources, Director of the Environment, Financial Controller, Head of Revenues and Head of Economic Regeneration. Their

recommendations should be placed before a panel of the Cabinet to consist of the Leader, the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and the Lead Cabinet Member for Tourism;

- (dd) *that a report from the panel recommending awards shall be placed before a special Cabinet meeting on the 18 June 2001, and*
- (e) *the proposal to promote 2 specific forms of grant namely the Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 direct financial assistance to companies and Hardship Relief under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 . Opportunity will be taken also to draw businesses attention to the opportunities of Rural Rate Relief under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.*

1433. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED *under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

1434. NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD, DENBIGH

(The Chief Executive declared a private or personal interest in the following item but this was not clear and substantial).

The Chief Executive sought Members' views on the continuing of the National Eisteddfod preparations in Denbigh for this year's Eisteddfod despite the general closure of the County's footpaths at present. In addition, there was a need to consider involving the County's PR Unit in helping to publicise that this event was proceeding.

Councillor A.E. Roberts suggested that decisions appertaining to the Eisteddfod were in the end a matter for the Eisteddfod Committee to determine. Councillor R.W. Hughes added that the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod was also continuing.

RESOLVED *that preparations for the Eisteddfod should continue, and that the Eisteddfod Committee be advised accordingly.*

1435. RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Following on the decision from Council the Chief Executive reported that 6 expressions of interest in providing recruitment consultancy services had been received. Four tenderers were of a standard which would justify their being interviewed having regard to their expertise in the field and their indicative tenders, though costs varied considerably.

Councillor E.A. Owens proposed that the four tenderers identified by the Chief Executive be invited to make a presentation.

A mutually convenient date was identified as being 2.00 p.m. on 17 May 2001.

RESOLVED *that four tenderers identified by the Chief Executive be invited to make a presentation to the Special Appointment Committee at 2.00 p.m. on 17 May 2001.*

1436. POST 16: COMMUNITY CONSORTIA (CCET) ELWA

Councillor K.E. Wells submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to Denbighshire's preferred option for membership of a Community Consortia for Education and Training (CCET) to inform ELW_a (Education and Learning Wales) responsibilities for Post-16 education and training in Wales.

Members discussed the three options outlined in the report in particular the Denbighshire preferred option, option 3, to set up a Denbighshire CCET with a place on the executive for Yale, Deeside, Celyn, Llysfasi and Llandrillo Colleges. Members and officers would have oversight of the County's needs and provision whilst taking the best from all college and business based providers.

Councillor G.M. Kensler said she was pleased to support Councillor Wells and agreed with the preferred option 3. She asked what was meant by the lack of further funding to develop 11 learning centres. The Chief Executive said the Assembly had encouraged the development of learning centres under Objective 1 and this had been oversubscribed but Denbigh had been successful.

RESOLVED that Members agreed Denbighshire's preferred option, Option 3 as outlined in the report, for membership of a Community Consortia for Education and Training (CCET) to inform ELWa (Education and Learning Wales) responsibilities for Post-16 education and training in Wales.

1437. YSGOL DINAS BRAN ~ SALE OF THE CATHOLIC FIELD

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to declare the Catholic Field at Ysgol Dinas Bran surplus to requirements and to pursue the sale of the Catholic Field and to further develop the school complex.

Councillor E.W. Williams gave his support for any development in Llangollen but was concerned about the value of the land due to its location.

Councillor E.A. Owens said Members should see some revenue savings when the capital receipts were received.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) agreed that the LEA declare the Catholic Field site surplus;
- (b) agreed give permission to seek planning permission for the redevelopment of the Catholic Field site at Ysgol Dinas Bran, and
- (c) agreed that permission is given to seek planning permission for the redevelopment of the school as detailed in the report.

1438. LAND AT MAES Y WAEN, CARROG

The Leader submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the sale of land at Maes y Waen, Carrog comprising approximately 375 sq m and outlined black on the plan attached to the report.

Councillor I.M. German asked about the sale of allotments. The County Clerk said the sale of the allotment would not affect the overall balance of the allotment land package.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:-

- (a) to declare approximately 375 sq m of land at Maes y Waen, Carrog surplus to requirements and to be sold to Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd Housing Association for the provision of a property with disabled facilities, and
- (b) other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Consultancy Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

1439. RUTHIN GAOL

Councillors D.M. Morris and R.W. Hughes submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to let the contract of £1,794,927 for the main phase of the refurbishment of Ruthin Gaol.

Councillor D.M. Morris said Mr. Phil Ebbrell, the Conservation Architect had received an e-mail from CADW regarding the funding of £110,000 which had been agreed in principle. The letter of confirmation from CADW would follow. Councillor E.A. Owens questioned the "in principle" mentioned

in the e-mail. The Conservation Architect said CADW allocate funding on the basis of works carried out at the end of the contract and costs that had been incurred.

Councillor R.W. Hughes thanked the Conservation Architect for all the hard work he had undertaken on this and other projects in the County.

RESOLVED that the Members approved the contract for the next phase of Ruthin Gaol for the core project (HLF funded work) in the sum of £1,794,927 be awarded to Watkins Jones Ltd of Wrexham.

At this juncture (12.30 p.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

1440. JOB RE-EVALUATION FOLLOWING RESTRUCTURING

The Leader introduced Alan Broomhead, Director Alansco.

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the background to the Job Re-evaluation following the Management Restructuring. The final figure remained to be confirmed although likely indications were a saving of £111,000.

Mr. Broomhead gave Members details from his report. Members raised a number of issues which Mr. Broomhead responded to.

A revised salary structure was proposed and agreed. Individual staff members who sought job re-evaluation will be informed of the outcome of the review.

RESOLVED that Members approved the recommendations contained within Alan Broomhead's report with an implementation date of 1 April 2001.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.
