

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Denbigh on Tuesday 12th June, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers - Councillors S. Drew, D. Jones, R.E. Jones, R.J.R. Jones, W.G. Thomas and P.O. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, County Clerk and Corporate Director of Resources.

Councillor D. Jones, Chairman welcomed the Cabinet to its first meeting at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

158. 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) External Recruitment: Public Relations Assistant SO1- Chief Executive's Department
- (ii) Deloitte and Touch Report on the Llangollen Boundary Review - Part II
- (iii) Llangollen Pavilion Financial Assistance - Part II
- (iv) A Living Countryside Conference at Caernarfon on 13.07.2001
- (v) Scala Cinema Prestatyn - Report circulated

159. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 29 May 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 May 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

160. LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

The Leader presented the report (previously circulated) for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located.

RESOLVED that the LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved as listed.

161. CONTRACTS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING SCHEMES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY (MENTAL HANDICAP)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report and appendix (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to amendments, as detailed in Appendix 1, to the Contract for Community Living Schemes for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Handicap) (approved on 1 April 1997 by the Social Services Committee) for use by Social Services, as follows:-

- (i) for renewing any existing Community Living contracts when the current contracts have expired and Cabinet approves the contractor to continue supporting the scheme, or
- (ii) for tendering for any new Community Living schemes or when a current contract is due to expire and the scheme is to be put out to tender.

The current contract for Community Living Scheme was four years old and needed revision. The major revisions are detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. All current contracts will need to be considered by Cabinet in the next three months for renewal or retendering and two new schemes should be considered for tender.

Councillor G.M. Kensler queried amendments 5.8 and 16.4.1 in the Appendix. The Corporate Director of Personal Services explained that in regard to amendment 5.8, the providers of the services are expected to have quality assurance procedures in place which includes staff supervision. Any recommendations made by Audit were actively pursued by managers and staff in the Department. The Corporate Director of Personal Services agreed with Councillor Kensler that item 16.4.1 should read "absent from his or her home".

RESOLVED that Members approve the revisions to the Contract for Community Living Schemes for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Disability) as detailed in Appendix 1, with item 16.4.1 in the Appendix further amended to read "If the Service User is absent from his or her home for a period of up to six weeks, then the Contractor can invoice for support to the Service User for that period at the usual rates".

162. SPORTLOT CAPITAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a priority list (circulated at the meeting) of potential capital projects for upgrading sport and leisure facilities to be submitted to the Sports Council for Wales (SCW).

The SCW had announced a new Sportlot capital programme of approximately £15-20m across Wales over the next 2-3 years specifically aimed at refurbishment and upgrading existing community facilities where there were clear sport development benefits. Grants of up to 80% were available for successful projects. Local Authorities have been asked to submit a prioritised list of up to five projects by 20 June 2001.

Councillor E.A. Owens said she was pleased to see the balance contained within the report of both the range of facilities covered and the geographical area.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked how the order of priority for the selected projects had been arrived at and asked for a list of all the projects which had been under consideration. The Head of Countryside and Leisure Services explained that a long list of projects had been considered and those listed had been selected from both geographical area and best suited to the Sportlot criteria. The Head of Countryside and Leisure Services also undertook to provide Councillor Williams with a full list of the projects considered.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the priority list of sport and leisure capital projects as circulated at the meeting for submission to the Sports Council of Wales under the Sportlot Capital Community Investment Programme.

163. FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Leader presented the report and appendix (previously circulated) seeking Members' acceptance of the findings of the consultation exercise on the Denbighshire Scheme to disperse £880,000 provided by the National Assembly for Wales to businesses affected by the foot and mouth outbreak, with some of the £880,000 available for use for administrative purposes. The guidance received from the National Assembly indicated that the finance had to be committed before 30 June 2001 following consultation with the business community. However, the National Assembly for Wales had this week extended the deadline to the end of July 2001.

RESOLVED that Members approved the results of the consultation exercise.

164. APPROVAL OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN - DRAFT REPORT

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the draft Best Value Performance Plan. Councillor Williams stressed how important the report was and said the Authority was to be commended for providing Performance Plans within each Directorate and said he hoped that all Scrutiny Committees would consider the report fully. Councillor Williams also thanked the Best Value officers and Directors for all their work on Best Value. Councillor Williams drew Members' attention to various sections within the report, for example Corporate Governance, Community Services and Principal Roads etc, highlighting targets set and the outcomes achieved.

The Leader said he wished to amend the Foreword to the draft report.

Councillor G.M. Kensler queried whether the Corporate Strategy to reduce crime and disorder would be produced by the Autumn of 2001 (Crime and Disorder 12.4 item on page 13). The Chief Executive said this document would be produced by the Autumn of 2001.

RESOLVED that after amendment to the Foreword, Members approved the Draft Best Value Performance Plan .

165. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following application for approval:-

- (i) Public Relations Assistant SO1 - Chief Executive's Department: Public Relations

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

166. A LIVING COUNTRYSIDE

The Leader presented the report seeking Members' approval for the appropriate Lead Member to attend the one day Conference to be held at Caernarfon on 13 July 2001.

RESOLVED that Members approved Councillor R W Hughes attend the Conference on 13 July 2001.

167. LLANGOLLEN BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Leader submitted the report and asked the Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy to outline the background to the report and its findings.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy reminded Members that the Hale Study had indicated that Llangollen and Llantysilio becoming part of Wrexham would have no significant impact on Denbighshire with perhaps only a small reduction in Council tax in Denbighshire.

Deloitte and Touche were commissioned to study both the figures that Denbighshire and the Hale Study had produced and they have found that Denbighshire's original analysis was substantiated. The transfer of Llangollen and Llantysilio to Wrexham would mean £1.36m funding would have to be found either from existing budgets or by raising Council Tax by an average of £42.00 for Band D properties.

The report had been sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to enable them to review the evidence produced within the Hale's Study.

Councillor E.A. Owens hoped that having the Denbighshire figures validated would help Denbighshire's case. If the Boundary Commission transferred the areas to Wrexham it could mean a considerable rise in Council taxes.

Members agreed with Councillor W.R. Webb's suggestion that the report and a letter be sent to all of Denbighshire's MPs and AMs.

Councillor E.W. Williams said the possible £42.00 per household Band D increase should be highlighted to MPs and AMs.

The Chief Executive said cost of overheads rise as the size of an Authority is decreased but that Wrexham's overheads would not significantly increase if Llangollen and Llantysilio became part of that Authority.

The Leader said a press release on the report would be issued.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) approved the report, and
- (b) agreed a letter and a copy of the report be sent to Denbighshire's MPs and AMs.

168. 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 7 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

169. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(The Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director of Personal Services declared an interest in this item and left the Chamber).

The Chief Executive gave Members a verbal update on the recruitment of the new Chief Executive and said until an appointment was made an Acting Chief Executive would be required for approximately 3-4 months after the end of June. The Chief Executive asked Members to approve Meirion Hughes, the Corporate Director of Personal Services and the current Deputy Chief Executive, be the Acting Chief Executive after the end of June 2001.

RESOLVED that Meirion Hughes, Corporate Director of Personal Services be appointed Acting Chief Executive on the retirement of H Vaughan Thomas, Chief Executive pending the new Chief Executive taking up his/her post.

170. DENBIGHSHIRE WELSH CHURCH ACTS SCHEME: GRANT APPLICATIONS

(Councillor E.W. Williams declared an interest in item 2.5 (i)).

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

Councillor E.W. Williams stressed the importance of the Scheme to local communities and although funds in the Scheme were low he would not wish the funds to be amalgamated with any other funds.

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

171. DENBIGH MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK: OUTSTANDING CLAIM

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval for a payment in full and final settlement of an outstanding claim on a building contract inherited from Glyndwr DC.

Councillor E.A. Owens asked whether the report should be considered by Council as it was a capital item. The County Clerk explained that the original payment had been a capital item.

Councillor W.R. Webb indicated that the previous payment was also referred to as a final payment. It was agreed that the County Clerk would review the terms of the previous payment before this latest payment was made.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the report be considered by Council.

172. SCALA CINEMA, PRESTATYN

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members approval to the revised emergency works at the Scala Cinema, Prestatyn. Councillor Morris explained that the auditorium was in a dangerous state and that the structural engineers reported that the situation changed on a daily basis.

Both Councillors I.M. German and R.W. Hughes agreed with the course of action proposed in the report.

Councillor D.M. Holder queried why cheaper internal scaffolding was not being used. The Head of Consultancy Services informed Members that the building was deteriorating on a daily basis and it was too dangerous to use internal scaffolding.

RESOLVED that Members approved the course of action for the demolition of the auditorium to the Scala.

173. FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EISTEDDFOD

The Leader submitted the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' agreement to funding for the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod (LIME) to cover the cost of a targeted television marketing campaign in the Granada region.

The Corporate Director of Resources reported that he, along with the Head of Economic Regeneration and the Corporate Director of Lifelong Learning, had seen that figures for the advance ticket sales were down on last year. Both the National Assembly of Wales and District Audit agreed that this is within the scope of the financial assistance allocated to Local Authorities.

Councillor D.M. Morris suggested that the Wales Tourist Board could be asked to help fund the campaign. In reply, the Assistant Director of Culture said the Wales Tourist Board had already provided assistance with marketing to the LIME.

Councillor E.W. Williams expressed his concern that if the funding was approved by Members, would there be sufficient funds available to help all Denbighshire business applicants. He stated that his priority were the businesses who had suffered financial losses due to the Foot and Mouth Outbreak.

The Chief Executive said the financial assistance to the LIME would generate visitors to the Llangollen area.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the funding as detailed in the report to allow LIME to undertake a television marketing campaign in the Granada region.

TRAINING

Councillor E.A. Owens congratulated Councillor D.M. Holder on the recently held seminar on the Human Rights Act and urged all Members to attend future sessions of the seminar.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.
