

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 28 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 M.Ll. Davies, R.J.R. Jones and P.O. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

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

The Leader welcomed Mrs. Jackie Jones, Mayor of Ruthin and Linda Atkin, Head of Personnel Services to the meeting.

232. 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) 16 Sandy Lane, Prestatyn - Part II Item;
- (ii) Mwrog Street, Ruthin - Flood Relief Scheme - Part II Item;
- (iii) Second page of Appendix to Item 15, and
- (iv) Item of Correspondence - Chief Executive

233. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 12 June 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising:

Item 10 - Llangollen Boundary Review Following a request by The Leader, the Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy gave a brief update on the situation. Following the last Cabinet meeting MPs, AMs and Edwina Hart would be requested to attend a meeting to move the issue forward. The Boundary Commission timetable for the final recommendation was likely to be extended to the New Year.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 June 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

234. INVITATION

The Chief Executive asked Members to consider an invitation to the Leader, Chair and Members to attend a launch by Sue Essex of a consultation paper on the landfill directive on the 4th July between 3-4 p.m. in South Wales. The Chief Executive asked Members' approval to bring this and similar invitations to the attention of the National Assembly of Wales, saying that this was one of a series of events where the launch could on occasion be held in North Wales or by means of video conferencing.

RESOLVED the Chief Executive write to the National Assembly as above.

235. REPRESENTATION ON THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking nominations for three Members to represent Denbighshire County Council on the Court of the University of Wales for the remainder of the current term of office (01.04.1999 - 31.03.2002). Resulting from a change in the Statutes of the Court of the University of Wales the number of representatives has been reduced to three. The Members currently representing Denbighshire are:

Councillor M.Ll. Davies
Councillor N. Hugh-Jones
Councillor R.W. Hughes
Councillor T.M. Parry
Councillor W.G. Thomas

Councillor W.R. Webb suggested that 1 Independent, 1 Labour and 1 Cabinet Member be the Authority's representatives on the Court of the University of Wales.

Councillor E.W. Williams requested that Councillor M.Ll. Davies continue on the Court as he was one of the existing membership.

RESOLVED that Members agreed 1 Independent, 1 Labour and 1 Cabinet Member be Denbighshire's representatives on the University Court until 31 March 2002.

236. LGA RURAL CONFERENCE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2001

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking to appoint delegates to attend the LGA Rural Conference "Rural Councils Responding to Challenges" to be held at Buxton on 12 September 2001. The Council's current representatives on the LGA Rural Commission are Councillors E.C. Edwards and E.W. Williams.

Councillor E.W. Williams stated that he did not wish to attend.

Councillor G.M. Kensler suggested that no Member attend the Conference.

RESOLVED that Council appoint Councillor E.C. Edwards to attend the Local Government Association Rural Commission Conference on 12 September 2001.

237. RECRUITMENT

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:-

2 Sc 1/2 ClerkTypists - Chief Executive: County Clerk's Department
P/T Sc 1 Telephonist/Receptionist 18.5 hours per week - Personal Services, Cefndy CRC, Rhyl
P/T SW1-3 Social Worker 3 days per week - Personal Services Learning Disabilities Team, Rhyl
F/T SW2-3 1 Year Contract Social Worker - Personal Services Learning Disabilities Team, Rhyl
SW1-3 Social Worker Purchasing - Personal Services Care Management, Ruthin
Sc 6 Childcare Information Officer - Lifelong Learning Library & Information Services
JNC2 Social Inclusion Worker - Lifelong Learning Social Inclusion Unit (Maternity Leave Cover)

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

238. A COALFIELD TASK FORCE FOR WALES

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' support for a call by the Coalfield Communities Campaign, for the National Assembly for Wales to establish a Coalfields Task Force for Wales to work up practical proposals for action to speed up regeneration.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the Coalfields Communities Campaign proposal and that the Leader be authorised to write accordingly to the First Minister.

239. INTERREG III

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to arrangements for developing new Interreg III partnerships with eastern Ireland. The National Assembly for Wales has confirmed Denbighshire's inclusion in the Interreg III Programme linking parts of Wales with eastern Ireland with grants of 75% for approved projects during the period 2001 to 2006.

The Head of Economic Regeneration had corresponded with eligible County Councils in Carlow and Kildare, Ireland who had indicated a willingness to become involved in Interreg III projects with Denbighshire. He stressed the importance of having close working relations with Ireland.

RESOLVED that the Leader be instructed with the Head of Economic Regeneration to develop further connections with County Carlow and County Kildare, Ireland and report back.

240. OBJECTIVE ONE ROLLING PROGRAMME

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the recommendations of the Members' Objective One Panel regarding project application submissions to the Rolling Programme of the West Wales and Valleys Objective One Programme. Authority was required for applications concerned with the development of Council land and the issue of resources within existing budgets.

The Head of Economic Regeneration reported with the last 2 projects in the first round now approved, Denbighshire was the only Authority in Wales with a 100% record in obtaining successful applications.

Councillor G.M. Kensler enquired which Members were on the Objective One Panel. The County Clerk listed the full membership of the Objective One Panel, and informed Members that the Objective One Panel minutes would in future be included in the Council Minute book.

Councillor W.R. Webb asked the Head of Economic Regeneration to thank his staff for all their hard work on Objective One and to congratulate them on their success with the first round. Both Councillor E.A. Owens and R.W. Hughes asked that their thanks be given to the Economic Regeneration Department.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- (i) approved the list of projects as detailed in the report for submission to the Rolling Programme, and
- (ii) agreed the additional project applications developed as detailed in the report since the Members' Panel.

241. 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.

242. REVENUE BUDGET POSITION 2000-2001

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) which noted the provisional final outturn for the 2000-2001 financial year detailed in the Appendix attached to the report. Work still remained to be completed on the yield from the Council tax, the levels of benefit subsidies due together with the levels of provision to be made for irrecoverable debts. Councillor Owens outlined to Members the details contained in the Appendix.

Councillor G.M. Kensler congratulated the Environment Directorate on the cuts achieved but queried the whether service delivery was being affected to meet the cuts. Councillor E.A. Owens said there was a difference between keeping to the budget and delivery of a service.

Councillor E.W. Williams queried the Bellwin figures and the deterioration seen on the County's roads. Councillor Owens said that Bellwin monies only allowed Denbighshire to secure funding to restore the roads to their original condition.

The Chief Executive said Denbighshire was now within the plan agreed with District Audit. Service levels must be set within budgets and bringing the overall budget back into balance would help the service levels.

RESOLVED that Members noted the provisional outturn position for the last financial year.

243. REVENUE BUDGET POSITION 2001-2002

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' considerations as to what actions in light of the figures provided were necessary to ensure the budget for the current financial year was not overspent. Councillor Owens outlined to Members the details contained in the Appendix, that the expenditure figures for April and May had been used to project the expenditure for the remainder of the year. For example, new procedures for special needs pupils support would be in place from September 2001, the closure of Rhuddlan Library for one year had led only to a partial reduction in saving.

Councillor Owens said all the Directorates and services were being reviewed, and a good start to the year had been made. Councillor Owens said review actions were required to bring budgets on line they would be built into the process. Current pressures if not addressed would eliminate the contingency reserve. Non-Cabinet Lead Members were welcome to attend the review meetings as observers.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked whether additional monies would be put into Rhuddlan Library and also whether the Public Conveniences Working Group had convened and when would a report be presented to Cabinet. Councillor Owens said that Rhuddlan Library would be closed for 1 year only. The Director of the Environment said the Public Conveniences Working Group had been formed by the Environment Scrutiny Panel and a report and costings of toilet provision in the County would be considered as would any innovative solutions to the problems.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked whether the £6k budget pressure on Countryside Services as a result of the impact of the floods could be recovered from the National Assembly of Wales £880k allocated to the Authority. Councillor Owens said the Authority would have to bear the £6k budget pressure.

RESOLVED that Members considered the necessary remedial actions to ensure the budget for the current financial year was not overspent.

244. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Cabinet Member for Training presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the provision of funding towards the cost of obtaining additional information to support action being taken to address anti-social behaviour in the County, particularly in the Rhyl area. A meeting involving various agencies, local people and groups had been held in Rhyl to look at ways of addressing the situation such as a local newsletter, additional traffic calming measures in the Rhydwen Drive Estate area, additional Educational Social Work staff at Rhyl High School, the improvement of street lighting on the estate and the provision of funding to enable an independent witness scheme to be piloted in the area.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked what the indirect costs would be. The Community Safety Officer indirect costs related to officers attendance at meetings and the legal costs of progressing anti social behaviour orders. The Community Safety Officer further explained that the direct costs of £10k were to be used to provide surveillance equipment in various areas, but primarily in Rhyl.

Councillor E.W. Williams stressed the importance of funding community safety properly and suggested the possible use of Objective One funding.

Councillor E.A. Owens said the problem of community safety could not be easily solved and she was impressed by the partnership working within Denbighshire. Councillor Owens identified that the £10k could be sourced from the contingency fund.

RESOLVED that Members agreed that provision of funding for the financial year 2001-2002 to enable the above scheme to be progressed. It was further resolved that officers investigate the possibility of submitting an Objective One bid for funding community safety activity in the County.

245. ON-STREET PARKING CHARGING - EAST AND WEST PARADE, RHYL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the consultation procedure outlined in the report for on-street parking charging on East and West Parade, Rhyl. The Rhyl Transportation Study recommended a parking strategy for the town with one of the measures to be considered in the short term being the introduction of charging for on-street parking.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked who would be policing the parking on yellow lines if on-street charging was introduced and whether the parking permits would continue.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked whether the Police Authority were to continue employing Traffic Wardens. Councillor Morris said the Traffic Wardens were not being replaced.

RESOLVED that Members' approve the consultation procedure for the introduction of on-street parking charging in East and West Parade, Rhyl as outlined in the report.

246. CLIVE ENGINE HOUSE, DYSEARTH

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to a Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Clive Engine House, Dyserth. Members were asked to agree to pursue funding opportunities to implement the strategy and to authorise commencement of formal negotiations with the landowner to acquire the monument. Councillor Hughes took the opportunity to thank the County Archaeologist for her work on the Strategy.

Councillor Hughes stressed to Members that the landowner wanted the footpath link to the walkway removed.

Councillor E.W. Williams said it was important for this type of structure/site not to be neglected in the future and asked if Objective One monies were available for this. Councillor Hughes said it was hoped to include this as part of the Strategy.

RESOLVED that Members:

- (i) approved the Clive Engine House Conservation Strategy and Action Plan;
- (ii) agreed to apply for relevant grants to implement the Strategy, and
- (iii) commence formal negotiations with the landowner to acquire the site and achieve a footpath link to Dyserth - Prestatyn Walkway.

247. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTNERSHIP

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning in conjunction with the Councillor E.C. Edwards, the Leader and Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to the response attached to the report in Appendix 1 to the Assembly's Consultation Document Children and Young People - A Framework for Partnership. The aim was to create a more coherent strategic framework in which services to children and young people were planned and to improve the coherence of local planning and in particular the planning frameworks created in response to the Assembly's own funding strategies.

RESOLVED that Members approved the response attached to the report at Appendix 1.

248. BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the Best Value Review Programme. Councillor Williams said Corporate Governance was the only new review to be included.

Councillor G.M. Kensler queried customer satisfaction at 2.4 in the report and whether all departments knew on a monthly basis how many complaints were received by the department and whether the Director of that department was informed on a monthly basis. The Chief Executive explained that Council 3 years ago had recommended a system to deal with complaints and that a report on the pattern of complaints was produced every year.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved the programme attached to the report.*

At this juncture (11.35 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

249. 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.*

250. SALE OF 7 / 9 NANT HALL ROAD, PRESTATYN

(Councillors I.M. German and D.M. Morris declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the debate and did not vote.)

Councillor W.R. Webb, the Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated seeking Members' approval to dispose of No 7/9 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn to Prestatyn Town Council who currently occupy the first floor of the premises.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked if the Town Council was paying the full freehold value and said reassurance was required that the Authority was practising Best Value. Once in the ownership of the Town Council there were no restrictions in place to stop them reselling the whole property at a profit.

Both Councillor Webb and the Director of Resources said covenants to limit the building's future disposal could be included as part of the conditions of sale but this may have an impact on the current market value.

The County Clerk said this matter had been discussed with the Valuation Section and the County was obliged to sell at the best price. The situation would be more complex as the building had a sitting tenant. The Authority could not sell at an undervalue. Councillor R.W. Hughes queried whether the property had to be sold at the open market value and the County Clerk confirmed this was so. Selling a property with sitting tenants affected the value.

Councillor E.W. Williams said with the advent of PFI perhaps Prestatyn Town Council could at that time be offered more suitable premises and that Denbighshire would regret selling the premises now.

Councillor W.R. Webb said Denbighshire would receive a fair price for the building.

***RESOLVED** that Members authorised the disposal of No 7/9 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn to the Prestatyn Town Council on terms to be agreed to include a restrictive covenant, with the Head of Design Services in consultation with the County Clerk.*

251. AWARD OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICE CONTRACT

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to award contract DSS 099.01 to expire February 2006 for the provision of an integrated passenger transport service to the lowest compliant tenderer.

RESOLVED that Members approved the setting up of the partnership between Highways and Transportation with the Department of Social Services and the Welsh Ambulance Service as referred to in the report. It was further resolved that the Head of Highways and Transportation let the contract to the lowest compliance tenderer.

252. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME CARE - IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS OF 31 AUGUST 2000 AND 21 DECEMBER 2000

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to implement Cabinet decisions of 31.08.2000 and 21.12.2000 as attached to the report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) *Cabinet approved the purchase of domiciliary care from the independent sector to meet the needs of the people supported by the 12 home carers who have accepted voluntary redundancy with the exceptions identified in 1 in the report, and*
- (ii) *that domiciliary care is purchased as set out in 1 of the report*

253. INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Councillor E.C. Edwards, The Leader and Councillor A.E. Roberts, Cabinet Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report seeking Members' approval for the interim arrangements for the management of the Corporate Directorate of Personal Services.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *Acting Chief Executive relinquish responsibility for day to day management of the Corporate Directorate : Personal Services as from 1 July 2001 for the duration of his acting role;*
- b) *That the day to day management responsibility for the Directorate be assumed for a month at a time on a rotational basis by:-*
 - *Head of Strategic Planning & Support Services*
 - *Head of Housing Services*
 - *Head of Client Services;*
- c) *That the Heads of Service should, for the period of responsibility, receive an Honorarium which equates to the difference between their current salary and the starting point for the Corporate Director scale;*
- d) *That the Acting Chief Executive retain responsibility for the Corporate Policy Leads, Area Partnerships work for Central Denbighshire, and the statutory designation of Director of Social Services, and*
- e) *Rileys be authorised to commence the recruitment of the Corporate Director: Personal Services during July, with a view to a September appointment.*

254. 16 SANDY LANE, PRESTATYN

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval to the sale of the first floor flat at 16 Sandy Lane, Prestatyn. Councillor W.R. Webb said this property had been fully marketed.

RESOLVED that Members approved the sale of the first floor flat at 16 Sandy Lane, Prestatyn as detailed in the report and other terms and conditions be agreed with the Head of Consultancy Services in consultation with the County Clerk .

255. MWROG STREET, RUTHIN - FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (circulated on the day) seeking approval for the Head of Highways to continue with the process of determining a single preferred technical option in respect of a long term solution to the repeated flooding problem in Mwrog Street, Ruthin.

Members discussed the three options in detail.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:-

The Head of Highways and Transportation be authorised to progress matters with respect to the Ruthin flood relief scheme as follows :

- *Complete the process of technical and economic appraisal with respect to the short list of 2 possible solution options;*
- *Consult with all affected and interested parties, and*
- *Subsequently report back to Members with a single preferred option recommendation, based on the outcome of the appraisal and consultation exercises*

The Leader congratulated Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism on a well deserved award of an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List for Services to the Community. Councillor R.W. Hughes thanked the Leader and Members and said she had received support from many people and the award was for all the people with whom she had worked.

The Leader asked Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader and Past Chairman of Denbighshire to address Members on the occasion of the retirement of the Chief Executive, Huw Vaughan Thomas. Councillor W.R. Webb said it was an honour to thank the Chief Executive for all his work on behalf of Denbighshire whilst at the same time it was a sad occasion for the Authority. Councillor Webb said the Authority had faced difficult times since the Chief Executive had been appointed and both Members and Denbighshire were in the Chief Executive's debt for all his hard work and vision for the County. The Chief Executive had gained the respect of both Members and staff. Councillor Webb wished the Chief Executive and his family well on behalf of the Cabinet.

The Leader then asked Councillor E.W. Williams, Past Chairman of Denbighshire to speak. Councillor E.W. Williams agreed with Councillor Webb and said the Chief Executive had made a point of visiting all the wards in Denbighshire on his appointment to familiarise himself with the Authority. The Chief Executive was a marvellous networker and Denbighshire had reaped the benefits of his way of working. Councillor Williams thanked the Chief Executive for his support during his year as Chairman and wished him and his family well.

The Chief Executive thanked both Councillor Webb and Councillor Williams for their kind words. He spoke of the mission statement on service delivery he and Members had worked to and said Denbighshire was at the forefront of many Authorities, particularly the ICT system used by the Authority. The Chief Executive said a balance would be required in future between the Cabinet and the Management Team under the modernisation agenda. He had no regrets in coming to Denbighshire, Members and staff had worked together through adversity.

The Leader concluded by saying he was fortunate to have worked with a Chief Executive who had the capacity to work hard, had courage, was decisive, energetic and enthusiastic, had both integrity and intelligence and had been resilient. The Leader thanked the Chief Executive for his friendship which had given them both the opportunity to work together closely.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 p.m.
