

**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.LI. 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.

**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) 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

**2 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.

**3 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.

#### **4 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.LI. 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.LI. 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.

#### **5 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.

#### **6 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.

#### **7 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.

## **8 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.

## **9 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.

## **10 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.

## **11 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.

## **12** 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.

## **13** 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.

#### **14 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.

#### **15 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.

#### **16 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.

## **17 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.

## **18 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.

## **19 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.

**20 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.

**21 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

**22 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.

**23**     **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 .

**24**     **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.

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## REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3

**CABINET MEMBER:** LEADER

**DATE:** 10 JULY 2001

**SUBJECT:** MEMBERSHIP OF NORTH WALES VALUATION TRIBUNAL

### 1. DECISION SOUGHT

To re-appoint two members of the North Wales Valuation Tribunal, previously appointed by Denbighshire, whose terms of office end during this 2001/2002 year.

### 2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

A letter has been received from the Clerk of the Tribunal reminding the County Council that the term of office of the following two representatives, appointed by the Authority to serve for the period 1996-2002, will end during this year 2001/02:

Mr. H.M. McEvoy, Silverwood, 2 East Avenue, Bryn Newydd, Prestatyn.  
Councillor R.W. Hughes, 2 Bryn Llys, Meliden, Prestatyn.

The Clerk has expressed the Tribunal's reluctance to lose Members who had given their service over a number of years, mindful not only of their long and voluntary contribution but their valuable experience also and informs us that this has been reinforced recently by a structured training programme.

Should Members be mindful to reappoint Mr. McEvoy and Councillor Hughes, the Clerk of the Tribunal reminds the Authority that the term of office on re-appointment, in accordance with the Regulations, may be for up to six years (or until the member attains 72 years of age) and asks that any new terms of office expire on the 31st December in a relevant year.

### 3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Approved duty for Councillor Hughes

### 4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

N/A

### 5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

N/A

### 6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

N/A

### 7. RECOMMENDATION

That Members re-appoint Mr. H.M. McEvoy and Councillor R.W. Hughes as representatives of the North Wales Valuation Tribunal for a six year term of office to expire on 31st December 2007.

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Section: Pavilion Theatre

Post Title: Box Office Assistant

Salary Grade: BECTU 4

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

This is a part-time post - Minimum of 10 hours per week - but the postholder is required to work every weekend at the Pavillon Theatre in Rhyl.

We have advertised internally - only one candidate applied. We interviewed the candidate, however she was unable to commit to working every Saturday.

Therefore we now wish to advertise externally as a matter of urgency.

Signed: Sioned Bowen (Corporate Director)

Dated: 25 June 2001

Signed: Shirine Hughes (Lead Member)

Dated: 28.06.2001

To: Cabinet

Signed: [Signature] (Leader)

Date: 29 June 2001

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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Please return this form to

Einna Saffill, Personnel Officer, Directorate of Lifelong Learning, Caledfryn, Smithfield Road, Denbigh.

CABINET 10.07.2001

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Section: Pavilion Theatre

Post Title: Technical Assistant

Salary Grade: BECTU 3/4

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

This is a part-time post - 16 hours per week working at the Pavilion Theatre in Rhyl.

We have advertised internally - but only one candidate applied. Unfortunately we cannot consider this applicant at this stage as they currently work for the Suncentre in Rhyl. As the Suncentre is now part of the Clwyd Leisure Trust - they are not part of Denbighshire Council and staff are unable to apply for Internal posts within the Authority.

This post needs to be filled as soon as possible - as the current postholder left on 31st May, 2001.

If this post is not filled soon, it will have a serious impact on further productions being staged at the Pavilion.

Signed: Siored Bowen (Corporate Director)

Dated: 18/06/01

Signed: Manu Hylas (Lead Member)

Dated: 25/06/01

To: Cabinet

Signed: [Signature] (Leader)

Date: 03.07.2001

Approved  Refused

Comments/Reasons

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\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to

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

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Section: Culture & Leisure

Post Title: Customer Service Officer

Salary Grade: SO1

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

This is a re-designation of an existing post which has been updated, improved and refocused to meet the needs of the new culture and Leisure Department towards implementing a customer care plan for the service. The post will be advertised internally although a range of specialised skills are required therefore if any appropriate applicants are not forward coming from within the Council approval is ~~not~~ <sup>sought</sup> for external recruitment. The budget for this post exists within the Culture and leisure Budget.

Signed: [Signature] ASSISTANT  
(Corporate Director)

Dated: 28/6/01

Signed: [Signature] (Lead Member)

Dated: 29.06.01.

To: Cabinet

Signed: [Signature] (Leader)

Date: 3rd July 2001

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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Please return this form to

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

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: LEADER**

**DATE: 10 JULY 2001**

**SUBJECT: BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT**

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

1.1 To obtain agreement for the implementation of a strategy for the management of Business Risk, leading to the formulation of a Business Risk Register for the Council and a new Internal Audit Plan based upon identified key risks.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

2.1 There is no co-ordinated corporate register detailing all major organisational risks within the Council's operations. The risks in question are those key risks that would prevent the Council achieving its corporate and service objectives.

2.2 A full written report on Business Risk Management is available from the Head of Internal Audit Services and a visual presentation can be arranged if Members require it.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Risk assessment to be carried out within current Internal Audit resources. However, the assessment will result in an Audit Needs Assessment i.e. the level of internal audit "needed" in the organisation to enable it to manage the identified risks. Members will then need to decide whether to increase resources or prioritise audit work, whilst taking responsibility for the consequences of operations not being audited.

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The result of the process detailed above will help inform the budget setting process for next financial year.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Discussed and agreed the approach with Corporate Director Resources and Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy.

**6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

N/A

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

Members give approval for the implementation of a strategy for the management of Business Risk by the Councils Internal Audit Service.

# BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

## WHAT IS BUSINESS RISK?

*Something that may prevent the organisation from achieving its business objectives.*

- In other words, any risk that may prevent the Council from achieving its corporate and/or service objectives.

## HOW DO RISKS AFFECT US?

Risks can effect the organisations ability to:

- Survive
- Compete successfully
- Maintain financial strength
- Maintain public image
- Maintain quality staff, operations and service to the customer

## SOME EXAMPLES

- Unable to fulfil statutory obligations
- Environmental issues e.g. Emissions
- Fraud
- Service cuts
- New, or old IT systems
- New legislation causing system changes
- Ethical issues e.g. Standards, public image
- Low staff morale
- Natural disaster e.g. Flood
- Poor Inspection results e.g. Best Value, Estyn

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

- Enables the identification and management of business critical risks
- Promotes risk consciousness throughout the organisation
- Highlights opportunities for improvement
- Demonstrates continuous improvement in preparation for Best Value reviews.

## WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH INTERNAL AUDIT?

- The Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Public Authorities states that:

*“The evaluation of controls should be done against an assessment of the risks facing the organisation.”*

- The Audit Commission states in its publication on the role of Internal Audit that:

*“In recent years the role has developed to embrace assurance about the management of business risks (financial and operational, corporate governance and the entire control framework.”*

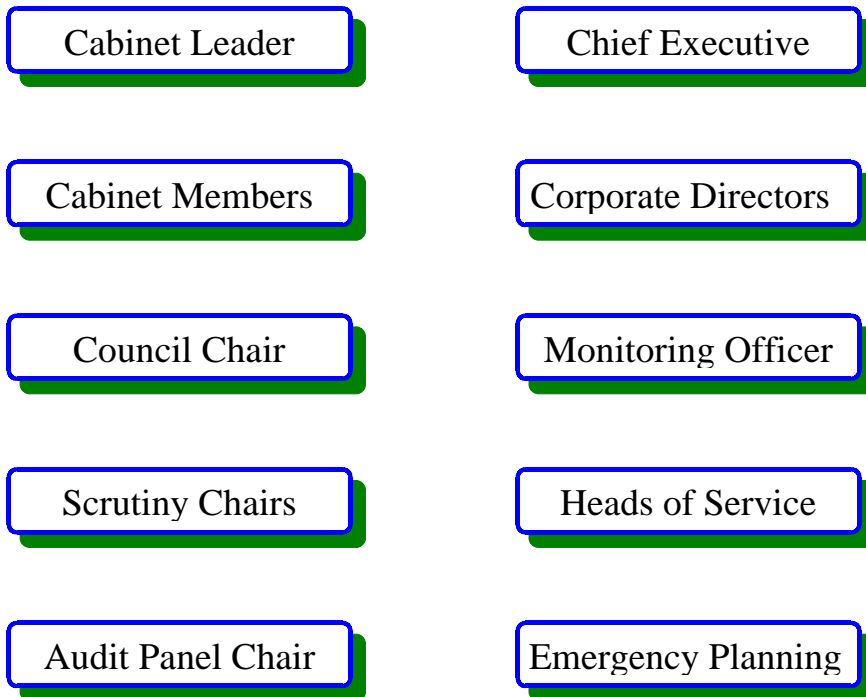
- The Institute of Internal Auditors new definition of Internal Audit includes the following:

*“Internal Auditing.....helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.”*



## WHERE DO WE START?

- First step is to identify the risks.
- Internal Audit will therefore be meeting individually with:



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- From these meetings a Business Risk Database will be formulated.
- Risks will be scored by the Head of Internal Audit, to highlight priorities.
- The following weighted categories will contribute to the risk score:



- Results will be discussed with the Chairs of Scrutiny and Audit

- An Audit Needs Analysis will be prepared showing the level of internal audit resources “needed” in the Council for 2002/3.
- If the audit resources “needed” are higher than the resources currently available, a report will be presented to Cabinet for a decision to be made on whether to approve an increase in resources or prioritise audits within current resources.
- If audit work has to be prioritised within current resources, an Annual Audit Plan will be formulated in consultation with the Chairs of Scrutiny and Audit.
- A second report will be presented to Cabinet to show the areas that have been deleted from the Audit Needs Analysis because of resource shortages, to arrive at the Annual Audit Plan (The Needs Gap).
- In the above situation, Cabinet Members will be required to accept responsibility if problems e.g. Fraud or losses occur in the audit areas appearing in the Needs Gap.
- Areas can also be identified for Scrutiny Committee reviews.

## **CONCLUSION**

This new approach means:

- Participation of Members and management in the identification of audit or scrutiny needs.
- Members and management accepting responsibility for the identification of major business risks.
- Co-ordination of Internal Audit and Scrutiny Committee work.
- Corporate ownership of the Annual Audit Plan.
- Internal Audit conducting reviews that really matter and add value, rather than routine cyclical auditing of operations.
- Good preparation for Best Value as this approach also requires service improvements.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**DATE: 10 JULY 2001**

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2001 / 2002**

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To consider proposals for the Council's Economic Development Strategy for 2001 / 2002 which is attached at Appendix A and to provide a steer to Council.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

To comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to produce an annual Economic Development Strategy.

Approval of this report provides for authority in this area following the implementation of the Local Government Act 2000.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed strategy is within existing budgets.

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

Any financial implications from the proposals will need to be contained within budgets.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

The Strategy builds upon the previous year's strategy on which a major public consultation exercise was carried out. The document reflects consultations with the wider partnership.

**6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

The Strategy has implications for Anti-Poverty and the developing Community Regeneration Strategy

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet approve the Strategy for recommendation to Council and agree to seek subsequently the views of the relevant Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee(s) to shape future economic elements of the community strategy.

**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
2001/2002**

## **FOREWORD BY THE LEADER OF DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

I welcome this opportunity of introducing Denbighshire's Economic Development Strategy for 2001/2002. The legal requirement to produce such an Economic Development Strategy lapses this summer and in future the Economic Development Strategy will be subsumed into the Community Strategy approach required by the Government.

This will be a bridging strategy taking us into the new strategic structure. Nevertheless it is an important document because it is now quite clear that the opportunities of the Objective 1 programme are considerable for Denbighshire and this strategy reflects the consequences of successful applications by the County Council and its partners during the first rounds of the Objective 1 programme.

Companies are expanding throughout Denbighshire, I welcome in particular the announcement during this year of the decision by the Austrian company Pachem to locate a new packaging plant in Rhyl. Additionally the decision by TRB to significantly expand their employment is another sign of a successful international investment in Denbighshire. There are substantial success stories and these are ???. During 2000/2001 15 companies located in Denbighshire's new industrial units and the expansion of WTS Holdings from St. Asaph Business Park into the former Kwik Save Headquarters at Prestatyn will provide a significant boost for the town of Prestatyn.

I wish to thank everybody in the private sector who works to promote and build the economy of Denbighshire. Special thanks must go to those on the Denbighshire Objective 1 partnership who have given of their time and energy in order to develop our Objective 1 strategy for Denbighshire and make it possible to make a local European programme work. We are at the beginning of the Objective 1 programme and we must work at it to ensure its success for our County.

**Councillor Elwyn Edwards  
Leader Denbighshire County Council  
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration.  
DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

| HIGHLIGHTS 2000/2001                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MAIN POINTS 2001/2002                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Start of Corwen and Llangollen Small Towns and Villages Initiative</li> <li>❑ Progress towards new Prestatyn Indoor Tennis Centre</li> <li>❑ Commencement of Final Phase of Aldi Workshops Units, Rhyl</li> <li>❑ New design of Coastal Tourism Brochure and review of coastal marketing</li> <li>❑ Creation of new European Objective 1 Inter-Regional Partnerships</li> <li>❑ Start of Objective 1 Programme</li> <li>❑ Commissioning of Bedford Street Facilities</li> <li>❑ Objective One applications for workshop units at Rhyl, Prestatyn and Ruthin</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Production of a new Corwen and Llangollen Small Town and Villages initiative action plan</li> <li>❑ Completion of final phase of Aldi workshop units, Rhyl</li> <li>❑ Start of work on new workshop units at Prestatyn, Ruthin and Corwen</li> <li>❑ New business support programmes under Objective 1 programme</li> <li>❑ New Denbighshire key funds under Objective 1 programme</li> <li>❑ New Denbighshire Enterprise Agency with enhanced services under Objective 1 programme</li> <li>❑ Denbighshire enters INTEREG IIIA programme between West Wales and Eastern Ireland</li> <li>❑ New tourism strategy</li> <li>❑ Expanded Tourism and Development Programme with Objective One Support</li> <li>❑ New regeneration facility at Town Hall Denbigh</li> <li>❑ New regeneration strategy being developed for Rhyl</li> </ul> |

**CYNGOR SIR DDINBYCH  
DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STRATEGAETH DATBLYGU'R ECONOMI  
2001 / 2002**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
2001 / 2002**

**MEIRION HUGHES**

Geithredol Prif Weithredwr / Acting Chief Executive

**IWAN PRYS JONES**

Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Amgylchedd / Corporate Director - Environment

**GARETH EVANS**

Pennaeth Adfywio'r Economi / Head of Economic Regeneration

# MISSION STATEMENT

**Denbighshire County is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents and will work in partnership with all sections of the community to strengthen the economy.**

In support of this the Council has agreed the following key strategic objective:-

## **WE WILL STRIVE TO CREATE A BALANCED AND DIVERSE ECONOMY**

In order to achieve its mission the Council believes it must create secure employment with quality jobs and will work closely with local businesses and others to achieve this end.

**It is from within this corporate commitment created by members of the Council that the key principles of this Strategy are drawn, namely *sustainable development, partnership, community involvement and economic diversification*; all within the mission statement context of protecting and enhancing our environment.**



## **PRIORITIES**

The Priorities of this Economic Development Strategy are to work within the Objective 1 Strategy for West Wales and the Valleys and the National Economic Development Strategy and to focus in particular on:

- (i) Improving Gross Domestic Product within the County. The National Assembly's target is 81% of the UK average by 2010**
- (ii) Socio Economic Regeneration of the County**
- (iii) Creating additional Jobs within the target established for the County of + 5,000 jobs by 2010**
- (iv) To develop within the Objective 1 Strategy a sustainable and balanced economy in partnership with other Agencies taking account of environmental and social needs**
- (v) To secure sufficient employment land through the UDP and an attractive portfolio of sites**

# 1. THE ECONOMY IN DENBIGHSHIRE

## 1.1 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Price Waterhouse Coopers believe that U.K. GDP growth will average around 2.75% in both 2000 and 2001. In the case of Wales, the strong pound and a general global slowdown could cause unemployment to increase especially in the manufacturing sectors. For Wales they forecast lower GDP growth at 2.3% for both years.

Cardiff University's Business School Welsh Economic Review shows Welsh employment prospects continuing to be affected by high sterling rates and they were forecasting strong employment growth in agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction and lower growth in the service sectors but a decline in manufacturing between June 1998 - 1999. The impact of the Foot and Mouth epidemic will however have a considerable negative impact on these forecasts.

The University of Liverpool's Research Group in Microeconomics suggests that the Western part of North Wales should grow at around 2% leading to modest falls in unemployment. Denbighshire, it believes is well placed to develop a "local environment in which it is profitable to do business" and the County's good communication eastwards can be further augmented by "the public sector (utilising) resources from Objective One to (support) projects which will enable this private sector to thrive."

The resources available for economic regeneration in Denbighshire have increased significantly. New capital investments are being made together with significant enhancements of the Economic Development function itself funded from the Objective 1 programme and from the National Assembly of Wales' Local Regeneration Fund.

Future work arising from the opportunities of the Objective 1 programme will be developed around the strategic areas of the Foryd/West Parade and Cefndy Employment Park and surrounding employment sites at Rhyl, St. Asaph Business Park, the Glasdir development, north of Ruthin, the Colomendy estate at Denbigh and the centre of Corwen with economic development opportunities arising from a western terminus for the Llangollen railway.

Within these strategic areas key projects will be taken forward particularly the Ffordd Las Enterprise Centre, employment projects arising from the continuing expansion of Llandrillo College and new employment land being made available at both St. Asaph Business Park and at Glasdir, Ruthin.

Rural regeneration will form a further strategic area of work where the promotion of a Leader Plus programme will help diversify the rural economy and will develop niche tourism products to help expand the rural tourist sector. At Ruthin, the development of Nant Clwyd House and The Old Chapel, Llangollen

initial work on the development of an integrated marketing programme will help regenerate visitor related businesses.

## Economic Statistics For Denbighshire

### (i) Population

|                                                                           |        |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Total population aged 16 +                                                | 72,000 |        |
| Total economically active                                                 | 39,000 |        |
| Total in employment                                                       | 35,000 |        |
| Total employees                                                           | 29,000 |        |
| Total self-employed                                                       | 7,000  |        |
| Unemployed April 2000                                                     | 1,364  | (3.2%) |
|                                                                           |        |        |
| Proportion of population aged 16 +<br>economically active (Denbighshire)  |        | 56.3%  |
| Proportion of population aged 16 +<br>economically active (Great Britain) |        | 63.1%  |

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey 1999

## (ii) Occupations

|                                      | MALE (%) |      |       | FEMALE (%) |      |       |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------|-------|------------|------|-------|
|                                      | D/Shire  | GB   | Wales | D/Shire    | GB   | Wales |
| Managers and administration          | 21.5     | 19.3 | 18.6  | 13.1       | 11.6 | 10.8  |
| Professional occupation              | 8.0      | 9.5  | 8.0   | 7.8        | 7.6  | 7.5   |
| Associate professional and technical | 6.3      | 7.8  | 6.5   | 12.5       | 9.9  | 9.6   |
| Clerical and related                 | 4.4      | 6.7  | 5.8   | 22.1       | 28.1 | 24.0  |
| Craft and related                    | 25.3     | 23.1 | 23.8  | 1.9        | 3.5  | 3.3   |
| Personal and protective services     | 5.3      | 6.1  | 5.7   | 16.5       | 13.0 | 14.9  |
| Sales                                | 4.1      | 4.5  | 4.0   | 13.0       | 10.5 | 11.4  |
| Plant and machine operatives         | 15.0     | 14.3 | 17.0  | 3.2        | 5.1  | 6.3   |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing    | 9.4      | 7.5  | 8.7   | 8.9        | 9.9  | 1.2   |

## (iii) Earnings

### Average Gross Weekly Earnings, 1999

#### All employees

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Denbighshire  | £341.20 |
| Wales         | £353.60 |
| Great Britain | £400.10 |

Source: ONS New Earnings Survey 1999

### Average Gross Weekly Earnings

Full time males, Great Britain £442.40  
Wales £384.00, 86.80% percentage of GB average

Full time females, Great Britain £326.50  
Wales £298.30, 91.36% percentage of GB average

Source: New Earnings Survey 1999

#### (iv) Employees in Employment

|                                                | Number in<br>Denbighshire<br>1997 | Proportion in<br>Denbighshire<br>1997 | Proportion in<br>Great Britain<br>1997 |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Agriculture and fishing                        | 1,198                             | 3.8                                   | 1.7                                    |
| Energy and water                               | 218                               | 0.7                                   | 0.9                                    |
| Manufacturing                                  | 5,306                             | 17                                    | 17.8                                   |
| Construction                                   | 1,578                             | 5                                     | 4.3                                    |
| Distribution, hotels and restaurants           | 7,771                             | 24.8                                  | 22.5                                   |
| Transport and communications                   | 1,140                             | 3.6                                   | 5.8                                    |
| Banking, finance and insurance                 | 2,235                             | 7.1                                   | 18.3                                   |
| Public administration, education<br>and health | 10,303                            | 32.9                                  | 24.1                                   |
| Other services                                 | 1,547                             | 4.9                                   | 4.7                                    |

Source: ONS 1997 Annual Employment Survey

## 2. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

- 2.1 The Economic Development Strategy for the County Council is at the core of Denbighshire's local Objective 1 strategy. Denbighshire's local action plan has as its theme 'Raising Prosperity and Reducing Social Exclusion by Generating Quality Jobs, Quality Training Opportunities and Quality Services'.

The local action plan has as its drivers -

- ◆ Increased output, productivity and added value of people in work;
- ◆ Targeting resources to stimulate manufacturing and financial sector businesses;
- ◆ Targeting resources to stimulate agriculture and tourism;
- ◆ Targeting resources to help diversify agriculture and develop added value projects;
- ◆ Providing additional resources for business advice services;
- ◆ Raising inward investment levels;
- ◆ Targeting resources to unemployment blackspots;
- ◆ Reducing inactivity rates;
- ◆ Resourcing educational needs;
- ◆ Linking education to Vocational needs;
- ◆ Resourcing identified training needs;
- ◆ Providing grants to reduce training costs for employers.

- 2.2 This is the strategic context within which Denbighshire's Economic Development Strategy will be taken forward for the next few years. The workings out of the strategy in all the different areas in which economic development takes place can be seen on the following pages.

Opportunities for economic regeneration arises from:

### **(i) Substantial Infrastructure Investment**

The A55, Rhuddlan By-pass, St Asaph Business Park, Cefndy Employment Park and improvements to the A494 are all existing infrastructure assets which can help to create employment opportunities in Denbighshire. The introduction of ADSL (asynchronous digital subscriber loop) technology to BT's exchange in Denbigh will provide greater bandwidth for e-commerce in Denbigh using existing copper wires.

### **(ii) Some Established Industries Offer Hope for the Future**

The recent KPMG survey of Denbighshire and Conwy identified the following local growth sectors - optronics, food and drink, rubber and plastics, metal goods and engineering instruments, communication and distribution and health.

**(iii) The Expansion of New Industries in Adjacent Areas Creates New Markets**

The expansion of businesses to the east of Denbighshire create direct employment opportunities for people in Denbighshire. There are also new opportunities as the more diverse economy developing in North East Wales sources local suppliers for many of its needs.

**(iv) Objective 1 Status**

This will provide funds for a wide variety of regeneration measures and will be actively employed by the Council and its partners to regenerate the economy.

**(v) New Assisted Area Status**

The granting of Tier One Assisted Area Status for Denbighshire gives the County a clear competitive edge in attracting new companies to Denbighshire and in expanding indigenous SMEs.

### **3. GRANT REGIMES WITHIN DENBIGHSHIRE**

#### **3.1 ASSISTED AREA STATUS**

Tier One Assisted Area Status is available for the County with rates of grant available at the maximum permitted by both European Union and United Kingdom governments.

#### **3.2 EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

Objective 1 funding is available within the County which provides the widest range possible of European funding at the maximum levels of grant permitted by the European Union. Grant rates vary between 37% and 75% for eligible projects.

#### **3.3 WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Environmental Improvement Grants; Land Reclamation Grants; Urban Investment Grants; Town Improvement Grants at three towns in Denbighshire; Small Towns and Villages Initiatives in Corwen and Llangollen. There is close co-operation with the Agency and the Agency also provides direct grant assistance to the private sector.

#### **3.4 WALES TOURIST BOARD**

The Board offers grants to eligible tourist projects at a rate which is dependent on the number of jobs created and also on the Board's assessment of the grant required to realise the project. Recent Objective One funding has enabled this Board to offer grant rates averaging 35% to eligible businesses in the Objective One area.

#### **3.5 OTHER EXTERNAL GRANT SOURCES**

Other external grant sources are available especially Lottery Funding and the Council has an Officer who helps signpost potential applicants to appropriate Lottery opportunities.

#### **3.6 DENBIGHSHIRE GRANTS**

Denbighshire County Council operates Business Development Grants to SMEs, Marketing Grants, Computers for Farmers Grants, Enterprise Grants and Job Subsidy Grants. Since Local Government Reorganisation up to March 2001 the grant packages have assisted in the creation 330 new jobs at a grant cost of £2,385 per job. Further grants for the Voluntary Sector are also operated but these are being reviewed by the National Assembly.



## **4. INWARD INVESTMENT**

New opportunities arising from both the Objective 1 programme and the Tier One Assisted Area Status associated with the Objective 1 programme are transforming opportunities for Company development and location within Denbighshire. Research commissioned from KPMG has identified key merging opportunities: electronics, film industry, health, education/training, specialist research, financial services and distribution.

Existing companies within Denbighshire are taking advantage of the opportunity of the new assisted area regime to explore grant opportunities to finance their expansion. Additionally, the recent news that Pachem will establish itself at Rhyl is evidence of increased interest among international companies in the opportunities of locating in Denbighshire. The Objective 1 programme will be used by the Council and its partners to facilitate further property and development opportunity and also the provision of a range of additional measures to facilitate company location in the County.

### **4.1 NORTH EAST WALES PARTNERSHIP**

In partnership with Flintshire and Wrexham further initiatives aimed at targeted areas of potential investment will be undertaken.

### **4.2 INCREASING RATE OF ENQUIRY**

The tier one assisted area status has led to an increasing number of investment enquiries. The A55 / St. Asaph is identified as a major strategic priority for the expansion of business within the Objective 1 programme. The Council welcomes the recent WDA success in obtaining fast track Objective 1 money for the expansion of the St. Asaph Business Park.

## 5. INDIGENOUS COMPANY FORMATION/EXPANSION

### 5.1 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Some sectors provide specific opportunities for growth especially:-

**Optronics** - building on the cluster of companies near St Asaph;

**Food** - building on the proposals in the Rural White Paper;

**Distribution** - building on the A55;

**Health** - building on the major investment at Glan Clwyd Hospital;

**New Technology** - building on the skills of the Denbigh TVE Centre and Interactive;

**Telecommunications** - ensuring that the businesses and communities of Denbighshire gain access to the opportunities provided by cable technology.

**Creative Industries** - craft, design and cultural related product.

### 5.2 BUSINESS CONNECT

Business Connect Denbighshire has recently undertaken several major steps forward. Denbighshire County Council has appointed a County Business Connect Manager, who answers centrally the Business Connect 0845 telephone number and has established a co-ordinated process for dealing with all enquiries. A directory of services for operational partners is in place and she holds regular training days on products and services available through Business Connect. These measures, to increase co-operation between the operational partners locally, will be built on and enhanced throughout the forthcoming year.

### 5.3 THE ROLE OF THE ENTERPRISE AGENCIES

At the start of the year a Denbighshire Enterprise Agency was formed with a clear remit to focus on small company development and complement the Council's Economic Development work.

### 5.4 THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S OWN ROLE

The Council has a wide ranging role:

- Development Support to New Enterprise Agency
- Publishing the Denbighshire Business Directory
- Publishing a comprehensive Industrial and Commercial Property Register
- Publishing Industrial Estate Guides
- Providing a business information service through the Library Service
- Providing Job Subsidy Scheme
- Providing Business Development Grant; Business Enterprise Grant; Business Marketing Grant schemes
- Training and Skilling: Developing the North West Wales Employment Zone
- Creation of CCETs
- New Technology - Support for Optronic Industry Cluster at St Asaph

- Support for Cyber Skills project at Denbigh
- Support for Tele Bureau at Rhyl
- Identification of ICT opportunities at Denbigh
- Membership of North Wales Film Commission
- Facilitating Denbighshire's Objective 1 Partnership
- Monitor enquiries and demand for land and premises
- Development team approach: planning and economic development to encourage upturn in employment activity
- Support and Advice for Creative Industries

## 6. REGENERATION

### 6.1 REVIVING TOWN CENTRES

**Corwen** - Develop and promote Corwen rail terminus; seek to expand industrial estate; continue with town scheme; implement Small Town and Villages Initiative. Improvement of Corwen Pavilion

**Denbigh** - Develop new starter units; continue with town scheme; implement Town Heritage Initiative; refurbish the Town Hall; continue with Heritage Interpretation Work and implement Town Improvement Grant project; Identify Town as priority for Objective 1 Programme. Improvement of access and promotion of Denbigh Castle and exploration of the potential Gees Museum.

**Llangollen** - Progress canal mooring basin and Plas Newydd; implement Small Town and Villages Initiative; implement heritage work at Plas Newydd. Identify town as suitable for WTB funding. Development of the Old Chapel into a new Cultural and Tourism Centre.

**Prestatyn** - develop new workshop units; implement new Ffrith Beach Strategy; support Community Strategy. Exploration of the development of Tennis Centre and redevelopment of Scala cinema and arts centre.

**Rhuddlan** - continue with town centre environmental improvement scheme. Produce heritage trail leaflet.

**Rhyl** - develop new Foryd Strategy; promote new Town Heritage Initiative; complete Capital Challenge scheme; identify town as priority for Objective 1 programme.

**Ruthin** - Implement new town centre environmental improvements; identify areas for new Workshop Unit Development; continue with Town Scheme and bring forward Glasdir Development and North Link Road; promote refurbishment of Nant Clwyd House.

**St. Asaph** - promote business opportunities on the Business Park.

### 6.2 THE RETAILING CHALLENGE

Develop challenge grants for Chambers of Trade and Business groups within the Objective 1 programme to assist businesses to network within towns focussing on new marketing opportunities; promoting initiatives in developing additional employment. The challenge is to be run alongside schemes for environmental and heritage improvements.

### 6.3 INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

The Council continues to expand its own industrial property portfolio and will continue to manage this so as to complement the private sector provision. During 2001/2002 a further 9 units, already under construction, will be completed.

The occupancy rate of units is now 82.5% as companies have expanded into sites elsewhere within Denbighshire and with the completed new projects, the number of units occupied is now increasing. The major pressure towns for new units are at Corwen, Ruthin and Prestatyn where demand is high and the Council has experienced difficulties in identifying opportunities for development.

The following projects were completed in 2000/2001

| LOCATION                                              | UNITS                                          | SOURCE OF FUNDING                | PRESENT POSITION          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Denbigh</b><br>Trem y Dyffryn<br>Phases III and IV | 12 units and 2 offices,<br>total area 927 sq m | LARS<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 5(b)) | Completion<br>Summer 2000 |
| <b>Rhyl</b><br>Cefndy Road<br>Phases IIIb & IV        | 5 units, total area<br>630 sq m                | WCC<br>SDS<br>ERDF<br>(Resider)  | Completion<br>Summer 2000 |
| <b>Rhyl</b><br>Wood Road<br>Phase II                  | 4 x 88 sq m                                    | SDS<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1)     | Completion<br>Spring 2001 |

**Note:** LARS - Local Authority Rural Scheme; ERDF - European Regional Development Fund; SDS - Former Strategic Development Scheme; WCC - Welsh Capital Challenge

## **PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1 PROJECTS**

The following successful applications will be developed:

| <b>LOCATION</b>                                                      | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                          | <b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Corwen</b><br>London Road<br>Studio Units                         | 697 sq m                                    | LRF<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1)  |
| <b>Ruthin</b><br>Lon Parcwr<br>Infill unit                           | 743 sq m                                    | LARS<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1) |
| <b>Prestatyn</b><br>Gas Works<br>Workshop Units                      | 465 sq m                                    | LRF<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1)  |
| <b>Denbigh</b><br>Showcase<br>Regeneration<br>Project                | Remodelling of<br>Town Hall<br>ground floor | ERDF<br>(Objective 1)<br>WDA  |
| <b>Rhuddlan</b><br>Visitor<br>Enhancement<br>Programme               | Upgrading of<br>High Street                 | ERDF<br>(Objective 1)<br>DCC  |
| <b>Denbighshire</b><br>Community Key<br>Fund                         | Community<br>Support Fund                   | LRF<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1)  |
| <b>Denbighshire</b><br>Rural Key Fund                                | Community<br>Support Fund                   | LRF<br>ERDF<br>(Objective 1)  |
| <b>Denbighshire</b><br>Countryside<br>Grants Scheme                  | Grants for<br>environmental<br>improvements | EAGGF<br>PRIVATE SECTOR       |
| <b>Denbighshire</b><br>Financial<br>Support<br>Programme for<br>SMEs | Grants for<br>expanding<br>companies        | ERDF<br>DCC                   |

**Note:** LARS - Local Authority Rural Scheme; LRF - Local Regeneration Fund; ERDF - European Regional Development Fund; EAGGF - European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund; DCC - Denbighshire County Council; WDA - Welsh Development Agency

Demand for the Council's unit remains high.

## **7. TOURISM AND MARKETING**

**7.1** Tourism makes a fundamental contribution to the economy in Denbighshire. Visitors spend £167,000,000 in Denbighshire making it the fifth County in value in the whole of Wales. It employs 4152 people and consequently, tourism is of vital importance to Denbighshire. Coastal tourism has contracted due to competition from various markets, it remains an important source of income and employment while rural tourism has benefited during the last decade from a number of Wales Tourist Board and European Union initiatives.

Tourism in Denbighshire has suffered from challenges to its traditional holiday long stay market, and faces the challenge to improve the quality and range of the bedstock, competition in the family visitor market and a need to improve the number of higher spending ABC1's.

**7.2** The Council will take all appropriate steps to encourage the private sector to invest in a quality, confident, modern industry which takes full account of the historic, social economic and natural advantages the County has to offer. In this way new market sectors can be tapped, visitor spend can be increased and new tourism products brought on stream which extend the tourism market and length of stay.

**7.3** The Council will also act in partnership to help stimulate and encourage a quality tourism product. The redevelopment of Nant Clwyd House in conjunction with Culture and Leisure Department the cultural unit and the development of niche sectors such as countryside activity, cycle and walking trails and events and markets will all serve to enhance Denbighshire's tourism appeal.

**7.4** The Council will also take all appropriate steps to ensure an environment both natural and man made that fosters the sustainable growth of a quality tourism industry. This will be done both by protecting the existing environment also through the enhancement of areas which have become derelict or degrading through man made activities. The principle focus of attention here will be in the West Parade/Foryd area of Rhyl where significant enhancement to the environment will stabilise the existing tourist product.

**7.5** Main Priorities for Tourism in Denbighshire are:

1. Identifying and encouraging quality growth sectors
2. Increasing involvement of the tourism business sector
3. Expanding markets and promotional activity using external funding
4. Identifying and endorsing new market and product development Opportunities
5. Working where appropriate with a regional and National Tourism Agencies and other Local Authorities
6. Strengthening and growth of Cultural Tourism product

7.6 Increasing visitor numbers to the County and maximising visitor spend through better aftercare services and networking with businesses.

7.7 Creating synergies with the emerging culture and leisure strategy, community partnership strategy, countryside strategy etc.

7.8 The Tourism units main areas of activity are:

**Overseas Markets Participation** - 18 overseas exhibitions aimed at the European holiday market, hosting overseas journalists and there is heavy participation in European Programme work.

**UK and Overseas** - two destination sell tourism brochures and widespread participation in WTB and regional campaigns together with the development of the Borderlands web site.

**Aftercare** - Researching and producing town trail leaflets, producing access promotion materials and participation in Council organised events together with managing the Tourism Information Centre Networks.

**Services to Business** - Providing support to businesses will continue to expand with a dedicated officer introduced into the unit in 2001/2002 to provide tourism business support.

**European Matters** - The tourism unit contributes to the Objective 1 programme, has assisted with the Leader Plus submission and is identifying projects for Interreg, three with Ireland.

**Cultural Tourism** - The Culture and Leisure Department are responsible for the development of facilities and product within the County giving customer focus for an enhanced visitor experience

7.9 The recent announcement of substantial new funds to Denbighshire from the Objective One programme to expand tourism marketing and development will ensure an expansion of aftercare support and services to businesses. Synergies work with the Council towards tourist strategies will also be explored.

7.10 The tourist industry generally has experienced underpaid business downturns as a result of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. The Council will encourage activity amongst businesses in order to help stimulate business recovery.



## **8. RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **8.1 Agriculture**

The continuing problems in agriculture stemming from long-term changes in Government/EU Strategy combined with the impact of the Foot and Mouth Disease will have serious effects both on Agriculture and on the wider rural economy. The severe impact which the Foot and Mouth Disease has had on rural tourism shows how inter-related different sectors of the rural economy are. The loss of purchasing power by farmers has also had significant consequences for farming support industries and also for rural retailers.

**8.2** The Council has obtained under the Objective 1 programme a new Rural Development Officer which will significantly boost rural initiative and rural business development work. The Council has also obtained from the Objective 1 programme funds for a Business Development Officer to help networking and interaction between rural business groups. Further applications are being made for funds to support rural business group joint activity.

**8.3** The Council has obtained funds to refurbish the ground floor of Denbigh Town Hall which will be turned into a facility to support markets and business activity. The ground floor of the Town Hall will be a staffed facility becoming a focus for regeneration within Denbigh.

The existing initiatives in food promotion including the development of farmers markets will be continued. Attempts to develop a new initiative targeted on the creation of a new heritage market in Ruthin will also be explored.

**8.4** The important initiatives at Nant Alyn will continue to be developed. A rural marketing group established under the Foot and Mouth Relief Programme will be built on encouraging good joint project development between businesses.

**8.5** Further developments in group activities will be pursued. The Council see this as an important way of achieving synergy in the regeneration of rural Denbighshire. The successful production of the business action plan by the Dee Valley Small Town and Villages Enterprise Initiative is particularly welcomed. The range of projects developed by the group will form the basis of future discussion between the Council and the Group. Particular priority will be given to

- ◆ Encouraging new business opportunities;
- ◆ Upgrading of tourism accommodation and catering services;
- ◆ Improving and co-ordinating marketing activity in the Dee Valley;
- ◆ Developing a year-round events programme;
- ◆ Supporting the development of appropriate attractions;
- ◆ Providing general support for agriculture and agricultural diversifications.

**8.6** The Council will develop project activity on the basis of co-operation with the STVI initiative. The following are early projects which will form part of the Council's activity:

1. Securing a terminus for the Llangollen railway at Corwen; and encouraging investment on contiguous land;
2. Providing new business units at Corwen;
3. Developing a quality Dee Valley tourist initiative;
4. Continued development of the Annual Autumn Food Festival at Llangollen;

**8.7** European funding has been of particular importance in the regeneration of rural Denbighshire. Since 1994, in addition to access to the structural funds, the presence of Cadwyn Leader 2 has helped animate rural group activities serving to levering additional funds into the rural economy as well as promoting innovative and experimental action.

The Council will support the new CRAI Leader plus application in conjunction with Flintshire. The Council supports the CRAI concept of exploiting the natural and cultural resources of the Clwydian Range and contiguous territories. It believes that the combination of natural attractions, cultural and industrial heritage, local agricultural products and the unique natural resources are a solid foundation for the development of an integrated strategy based on experimentation.

From the projects submitted by CRAI the Council will specifically support farm tourism projects, marketing of local food products, the exploitation of heritage to increase visitor number and the promotion of all year round hinter-land tourism based on a mixture of local topographical assets and the development of markets and events.

**8.8** Initiatives in relation to the Rural Credit Union and the machinery ring will be pursued and the further development of the Medieval Trail combining business opportunities with tourism development will also be a priority.

## **9. PARTNERSHIPS**

- 9.1** The County Council has found great value from its partnerships especially those which have emerged locally within the County and its strategic Partnerships with the WDA and CELTEC.
- 9.2** Creation of the new Local Action Plan for Objective 1 has taken its partnership work into a new dimension and the partnership involves over 100 organisations. This will be built upon as the Programme develops
- 9.3** The creation of a new CCET for Denbighshire provides opportunities for creating a new regeneration partnership within the County and the opportunities of the new vehicle will be positively grasped.
- 9.4** The Council will continue to co-operate with neighbouring authorities on regeneration matters and the Objective 1 Programme.
- 9.5** The prosperity of Denbighshire's communities depends on the numerous enterprises in the County employing local people, purchasing supplies locally, winning contracts and orders and keeping abreast of rapidly changing technologies and customer demand.
- 9.6** The Council will continue to do its utmost to support Denbighshire companies. It will seek to expand Denbighshire's economic base and it will do this within the partnership structures offered by Objective 1 and it looks forward to the co-operation of business communities in developing and taking forward these partnerships.

## 10. EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES

### 10.1 Denbighshire Objective One

The inclusion of Denbighshire within the Objective 1 West Wales and Valleys area provides Denbighshire with access to the most extensive programme of European funding available in Western Europe together with the highest intervention rates for project activities. Denbighshire will maximise the opportunity that this provides and will fully support the local partnership that has been established to develop and take forward a local Objective 1 strategy.

The following project will be taken forward during the 2001/2002 strategy period.

Denbighshire business support - Expenditure of £1,386,871 over 3 years to significantly increase the business support activities of the Council.

Denbighshire Financial Support Programme - A £1,317,893 programme of financial assistance to Companies to encourage indigenous companies to expand.

Denbighshire Industrial Sites Phase 1 & 2 - A £3,710,100 programme of 2,759 square metres of starter and expansion units to provide new opportunities for company development in Denbighshire.

The Denbigh showcase regeneration - A £564,000 project to provide a focus for business development in Denbighshire.

Two Key Funds providing £1,022,711 to support community regeneration in Denbighshire.

Denbighshire Tourism marketing and development programme providing and enhance programme of £1.2m to create new tourist opportunities

Additional applications will be lodged for -

1. The development of an integrated enterprise and community enterprise centre at Ffordd Las Rhyl, which will provide for 16,000 square feet of employment space.
2. A Denbighshire 'Golden Hello' project to provide wage subsidies for the creation of new jobs.
3. Enchant - A project to regenerate Nant Clwyd House as a catalyst for the tourism development of Ruthin.
4. A Denbighshire business networking initiative to resource the development of business group activity at Prestatyn and Denbigh.

5. Environmental improvement grants - to develop grants for the environmental upgrading of riverside and coastal environments so as to underpin develops in the tourist industry.
6. Plas Newydd, Llangollen improvement of this tourism facility as an enhanced visitor attraction.

## **10.2 Interreg**

The Council welcomes the acceptance of Denbighshire into the INTERREG 3A programme being developed between Eastern Ireland and West Wales. The opportunities of developing joint project with Eastern Ireland will be embraced. The first project to be explored by the County Council will be in the following areas -

- ◆ Ruthin Tourism Town Marketing Development
- ◆ Nant Clwyd House Family History Centre and Garden Interpretation
- ◆ Community Enterprise and Development
- ◆ Tourism Heritage Trail Development

## **10.3 Leader Plus**

The Council supports the application by CRAI for the promotion of a Leader Plus group within rural Denbighshire and rural Flintshire.

The Council supports the promotion of the Clwydian Range as the focus of the Leader Plus initiative believing that it offer a combination of natural attractions, cultural and industrial heritage, local agricultural products and unique national resources which provide a solid foundation for both an integrated strategy and experimentations.

Specific projects which this strategy will support include the development of farm tourism, food promotion and marketing, heritage developments, events and green touristic activities.

## **10.4 Equal**

The County Council will promote the opportunities for the development of an EQUAL initiative within Denbighshire.

## 11. CAPITAL RESOURCES FOR 2001/2002

| PROJECT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2000/01               |                            | 2001/02               |                            | 2002/03               |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DCC Funding<br>£000's | External Funding<br>£000's | DCC Funding<br>£000's | External Funding<br>£000's | DCC Funding<br>£000's | External Funding<br>£000's |
| Projects commenced/<br>completed in<br>2000/01                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |                            |                       |                            |                       |                            |
| Nant Clwyd House                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |                            | 100                   |                            |                       |                            |
| 19 Bedford Street<br>Rhyl                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 17                    |                            |                       |                            |                       |                            |
| Cefndy Road<br>Employment Park,<br>Rhyl                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 130                   | 225.5                      |                       |                            |                       |                            |
| Denbighshire<br>Foyer                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 90                    |                            |                       |                            |                       |                            |
| Morfa Clwyd<br>Business Centre,<br>Rhyl                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 23                    |                            |                       |                            |                       |                            |
| Trem y Dyffryn,<br>Denbigh Phases III<br>& IV                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 321                   | 191.5                      | 16                    |                            |                       |                            |
| Ruthin Gaol                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 60                    | 141                        | 40                    | 1339                       |                       | 20                         |
| Small Towns and<br>Villages Initiative                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 11                    |                            | 11                    |                            |                       |                            |
| Cwysi Family Farm<br>Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5                     |                            | 5                     |                            |                       |                            |
| Snowdonia BIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 20                    |                            | 20                    |                            |                       |                            |
| Cadwyn LEADER<br>Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 5                     |                            | 20                    |                            |                       |                            |
| Denbighshire<br>Industrial Sites<br>Development<br>Phase 1 - Wood<br>Rd, Rhyl (4 x 800<br>sq ft units); Kings<br>Ave, Prestatyn (2 x<br>1500 sq ft and 1 x<br>3000 sq ft units;<br>Lon Parcwr, Ruthin<br>(2 x 2200 sq ft and<br>1 3600 sq ft units) | 175.3                 | 749.3                      | 60.1                  | 845.3                      | 2.2                   | 32.8                       |

|                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |               |              |             |              |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Denbighshire Strategic Industrial Sites Development Project Phase 2 - Gas Works Lane , Prestatyn (2 x 2500 sq ft units); London Rd, Corwen (1 x 1500 sq ft and 3 x 2000 sq ft units) | 2.5            | 142.5         | 5            | 852.5       | 5            | 955         |
| Voluntary Sector Projects                                                                                                                                                            | 26             |               |              |             |              |             |
| Denbighshire Community Key Fund                                                                                                                                                      |                | .125          |              | 200.7       |              | 315.8       |
| Denbighshire Rural Key Fund                                                                                                                                                          |                | .125          |              | 147.8       |              | 216.4       |
| Denbigh Showcase Regeneration Project                                                                                                                                                | 22             | 322           | 27.5         | 178.5       |              |             |
| Countryside Grants Scheme                                                                                                                                                            | 7.95           | 111.5         | 8.2          | 111.2       |              |             |
| Denbighshire Financial Support Programme for SMEs                                                                                                                                    | 155            | 805           | 155          | 608         | 155          | 608         |
| Rhuddlan Visitor Enhancement Project                                                                                                                                                 |                | 442           |              | 298         |              |             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |               |              |             |              |             |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>1070.75</b> | <b>3404.8</b> | <b>467.8</b> | <b>4581</b> | <b>162.2</b> | <b>2148</b> |

## 12. REVENUE RESOURCES

|                                                                                                           | REVENUE<br>2001/2<br>£000'S |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Management and Support                                                                                    | 146.3                       |
| Business Support                                                                                          | 536.4                       |
| Marketing                                                                                                 | 112.6                       |
| Projects                                                                                                  | 100                         |
| Tourism                                                                                                   | 1,487.6                     |
| Industrial Estates                                                                                        | 200.8                       |
| Regeneration and Objective 1                                                                              | 418.5                       |
|                                                                                                           |                             |
| <b>Gross expenditure</b>                                                                                  | 3,002.1                     |
| <b>Income</b>                                                                                             | 1,405.7                     |
| <b>Net expenditure under s.33 of the<br/>Local Government &amp; Housing Act<br/>1989 and other powers</b> | 1,596.4                     |

## 13. PERSONNEL RESOURCES

### Approved Structure and Principal Responsibilities:-

Gareth Evans - Ext. 8080 - policy/strategy formulation, unit management and capital schemes

Des Manifold - Ext. 8085 - business support management, Rhyl

Mark Dixon - Ext. 8082 - inward investment and new technology initiatives, finance management, capital schemes, Llangollen and Prestatyn

Kevin Edwards - Ext. 8087 - European programme management

Sue Haygarth - Ext. 8083 - rural business support, Denbigh

Carolyn Brindle - Ext. 8089 - marketing, tourism development

Jenny Adams - Ext 8093 - rural tourism issues

Vacancy - 01745 344515 - tourism business officer

Catherine Williams - Business Connect Manager

Emma Joyce - European Officer

Dyfan Sion - Trainee Economic Development Officer



Temporary vacancies exist also in Business Support and Tourism Marketing

Mike Horrocks - Ext. 8092 - lottery grants sourcing and administration

Janet Turner - Ext. 8081 - Ruthin - administration

Barbara Thomas - Ext. 8094 - business database and property and business grant administration

Caroline Brady - Ext. 8086 - European assistance

Fiona Jones - Ext 8090 - marketing and administration

**TIC, Rhyl staff**

Pat Jones - 01745 344515

Ian Olson - 01745 344515

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: THE LEADER AND LEAD MEMEBR FOR FINANCE**

**DATE: 10 JULY 2001**

**SUBJECT: BUDGET STRATEGY: 2002-2003**

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To agree a timetable for the initial stages of setting the budget for 2002-2003.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

There is a need to develop a timetable which will eventually allow the completion of the budget setting process by February 2002.

In addition to the actual financial aspect of budget setting, the Authority needs to reconsider its objectives and priorities. This stage needs to be started before the financial allocations are agreed.

The following initial timetable has been developed:

- |                                                                                                                                                            |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| A. Initial informal discussion with Cabinet to agree how the process of setting priorities will be progressed                                              | 17 July        |
| B. First meetings - Lead Member for Finance and Financial Controller with Directors and Heads of Service Purpose - to review current budget position       | 23 - 27 July   |
| C. Financial strategy paper for 2002-2003 presented to Cabinet Timetable for period to end February 2002 to be included                                    | 31 July        |
| D. Second meetings Purpose - for all Directorates and Services to discuss ideas for Budget proposals for 2002-2003. Relevant Cabinet Members in attendanc. | 20 - 31 August |
| E. Post Cabinet meeting to all - presentation and discussion of Issues with Cabinet Members                                                                | 13 September   |

All meetings are open to any Council Member.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

Budget setting is a fundamental part of the governance of the Authority and it is essential to demonstrate that it is done in a controlled and co-ordinated manner.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

The initial stages of the process have been discussed with the Corporate Executive Team, the Leader and the Lead Member for Finance.

Further consultation will need to be had at Cabinet and subsequent meetings.

**6      IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

The final budget will ultimately provide the framework for all Services.

**7      RECOMMENDATION**

That the timetable and plan indicated in Section 2 is approved.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor Alby Roberts  
**DATE:** 10 July 2001  
**SUBJECT:** Anti-Bullying Policy in respect of Looked After Children

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To seek Cabinet recommendation to Council of the Anti-bullying Policy in respect of children/young people who are looked after by the local authority.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

The policy sets out :

- a mission statement
- procedures to be followed by foster carers, residential staff, social workers and team managers in cases where it is alleged that bullying is taking place

Adoption of the policy will provide a multiagency response for effectively addressing issues of bullying in respect of looked after children and young people.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

None

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

No cost implications.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Area Child Protection Committee Working Group  
Looked After Children Consultative Forum  
Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust  
Planning and Operations Group (SSD)  
NCH Cymru  
Children's Rights Service  
Child Care Team Managers

A leaflet setting the policy out in a 'child-friendly' way for children and young people is being produced and a number of young people have been consulted.

**6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

Children Looked After - the policy is important to the Council's corporate responsibility for children who are looked after.

Partnership Working - the policy promotes a multi-agency, partnership approach to supporting young people who are bullied.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet recommend to Council the Anti-bullying Policy in respect of children/ young people looked after.

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY: In Respect of Children/Young Persons Looked After**

### **DEFINITION:**

“ Bullying occurs when there is a misuse of power ( real or imagined ) by one individual or group over another individual or group.”

(“Say No To Bullies!” Denbighshire Education Services.)

“ Bullying is deliberate harassment or an aggressive act which causes hurt to another. The hurt can either be physical or psychological; inflicted by one child or a group.”

(“Tackling Bullying”N.S.P.C.C. )

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Bullying and its effects will not be condoned nor tolerated in respect of any child/young person “looked after” by Denbighshire County Council’s Social Services Department.

### **SCOPE OF PROCEDURES:**

This document serves to address the issues of child/child bullying. Situations where the alleged perpetrator is an adult would automatically come within the remit of the Child Protection Procedures.

The aim of this policy is to develop a multi- agency response for effectively addressing issues of bullying with an emphasis upon facilitating preventive work, support and education for children/young people “looked after” and their carers.

The practice guidance notes focus upon the children/young persons, “looked after” by Denbighshire, whose lives may be affected by bullying.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

All children, irrespective of their sex, race, beliefs, culture, language, physical or mental ability have the right to grow up free, both from actual harm and from the fear of it. These rights are enshrined in the U. N. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 and further, the child’s welfare is perceived as paramount in the Children Act 1989.

Section 17 (1) (a) of the Children Act 1989 clarifies the authority’s duty in respect of children in need :

“ to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need;”

This duty extends (as detailed in section 22 (3) of the Children Act 1989) also to all children “looked after,” a category which includes children who are accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act and children in respect of whom the authority holds a specific duty of care towards by virtue of a statutory order. An emphasis on eliciting and considering the child/young person’s wishes and feelings is applicable throughout.

All young people should have access to someone independent of their foster or residential home; a parent or friend, an advocate or independent visitor, and should be encouraged to contact this person eg by telephone.

It is important to appreciate the further dimension that a child/young person “looked after” may be more vulnerable in respect of bullying (both as a victim and perpetrator) because of many factors related to this status, including isolation, low self-esteem, absence of support network etc. He / she may also be more vulnerable psychologically as these incidents may trigger painful memories from the past. His / her previous life experiences may affect and influence his / her

perceptions of incidents. It must be accepted that these perceptions, whether substantiated or not are valid.

Occasionally, the effect(s) of bullying may be unintentional e.g. teasing when someone may not realise the harmful effect this can have on a child / young person. Usually bullying involves repeated incidents, although the term can also be used to describe isolated incidents.

Bullying can include one or more of the following:

- Making a fool of someone.
- Name calling.
- Being hit, kicked, pinched, spat at or threatened.
- Teasing, taunting or sending nasty notes.
- Spreading rumours and malicious gossip about someone.
- Deliberately destroying another child's property.
- Repeatedly excluding a child by not talking to them, or not letting them join in.
- Locking someone in a room.

Bullying is a form of child abuse and any concern that a child/young person is being bullied should be assessed in terms of whether he/she is suffering or is likely to suffer from significant harm.

Apart from the obvious danger of physical injury, even in its non physical form, bullying in itself can be a cause of significant harm. It may cause fear, anxiety and depression. In extreme circumstances it can be a factor which could contribute to a child/young person taking their own lives.

The authority acknowledges that this is a very complex area and further recognises its responsibilities in respect of both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator, who should also be considered to be first and foremost a child in need.

There are many implications for persons who fulfil the duty of care to these children/young persons on the authority's behalf, namely social workers, foster carers, residential staff, sessional workers and project staff. The authority recognises its duty towards them by providing them with clear guidelines clarifying the expectations upon them in this respect.

### **PROCEDURES:**

If a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child/ young person is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm the Social Services Department has a legal duty under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 to:

“make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.”

### **Alleged bullying on school premises:**

The Education Department has a clear policy on bullying and each school is required to have a procedure to which they adhere. Therefore, if bullying occurs within school premises, in the first instance the headteacher of that school should be advised and the school's procedure implemented.

The Education Department has corporate parenting responsibilities towards children “looked after” and consideration should also be given to the convening of a multi-disciplinary strategy / planning meeting as detailed below.

### **Alleged bullying in residential settings:**

“Residential settings” should be interpreted widely to include any establishment where children live away from home either for short or long periods unaccompanied by their parent(s) or persons with parental responsibility in respect of them. It therefore, includes all residential provision in the health, education and personal social service sectors, whether provided by a public, voluntary or private agency.

### **The Children Act '89 Guidance and Regulations Volume 4 Paragraphs 1.179 to 1.192:**

#### **Expectations upon residential staff:**

It is expected that carers in residential settings are able to give appropriate attention to children/young people and are able to evaluate what a child/young person is communicating to them.

Carers in residential settings are expected to recognise and respond effectively to signs of anxiety or distress, both verbal and non verbal. They will need, with clear guidance to be able to distinguish between behaviour which constitutes abuse or bullying and normal childhood behaviour.

Carers in residential settings must be aware of the child protection referral procedures in respect of themselves as detailed in the Child Protection Procedures.

### **Alleged bullying within/in respect of a child placed in a foster home:**

This section applies to children/young persons “looked after” by local authorities and to children placed by private and voluntary organisations.

### **The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3 Paragraph 3.1 to 3.6:**

#### **Expectations upon the local authority in respect of the provision of foster care :**

The expectations upon the local authority in respect of the provision of foster care are detailed in The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991; Review of Children’s Cases Regulations 1991 and Arrangements For Placement Of Children (General) Regulations 1991.

Regulation 7 of the Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991 provides that a local authority are **not** to allow the placement of a child with a particular foster carer to continue if it appears that the placement is no longer the most suitable way of performing their duty towards the child.

#### **Expectations upon Foster Carers:**

Carers have an important role as part of the professional team concerned with the child/young person’s care. This role is a skilled task which requires continuing support and training.

Schedule 2 (Regulation 3 (6) (b)) to The Foster Placement (Children) Regulations 1991 details the matters and obligations to be included in Foster Care Agreements. They include the following undertakings:

- Not to administer corporal punishment to any child placed with them.
- Pledge of confidentiality.

- To comply with any terms of the Foster Placement Agreement and to care for the child placed with them as a child of the family and to promote the child's welfare having regard to the responsible authority's long and short- term arrangements for the child.
- To notify the responsible authority immediately of any serious illness of the child or of any other serious occurrence affecting the child.
- Carers must be aware of the child protection referral procedures in respect of themselves as detailed in the Child Protection Procedures.

These expectations along with others are detailed further in the Foster Carer Handbook, of which every approved carer is given a copy.

**When actual injury is caused:**

Where bullying causes injury it may be that a criminal act has been committed. This then becomes a matter for the Police and the Child Protection Procedures should be invoked without delay. See both Section 2 "Standard Procedures" and (if appropriate) paragraph 33 (page 53), "Alleged Abuse of Children in Residential Settings."

Out of office hours foster carers may refer to the Out of Hours Emergency Duty System

**If no actual physical injury caused / evident :**

Where there is no evidence of injury consideration should still be given to invoking the child protection procedures, as the incident could still constitute "significant harm."

A medical examination of the child/young person should always be offered, whether or not the child/young person has any apparent injury.

If the child is accommodated under section 20 of the Act parental permission (or other person with parental responsibility) is required before a medical can be undertaken. If the child/young person is "in care" to the department by virtue of a statutory order the department will share parental responsibility with the parent(s) or others who have parental responsibility. It is still advisable to obtain parental permission if at all practical.

Consent to medical examination should be sought and obtained by any child/young person of sufficient age and understanding to make an "informed choice."

**ACTION**

- A All incident(s) of alleged bullying should be recorded and shared as designated- ie
  - a) in the Foster Carer's diary and discussed with the Family Placement Link worker within 24hrs.
  - b) in residential settings, on the Recording form and countersigned by a manager.
  - c) the child/ young persons social worker or team manager should be informed on the next working day.
  - d) if the alleged perpetrator is also a looked after child, their social worker should also be informed.
- B. At an early stage, the child's parents should be informed by the Social Services Department of the details of the allegation and the procedure to be followed.
- C. Consideration should be given to the need for an independent advocate for both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator.
- D. The date for a **multi-disciplinary Strategy / Planning meeting**, convened by the Social Services Department should be set immediately. The meeting itself should be convened



as quickly as is practicable. The time scale will reflect the seriousness of the concerns and other related factors, such as who the alleged perpetrator is and the perceived level of risk of reoccurrence. At the outset it should be held within 2 weeks - a time scale which reflects a lower level of risk and a contained situation.

- Membership of the meeting should include persons able to contribute to the process and support and/or guidance should be available to all parties.
- At least two of the lead agencies should be represented.
- The child and independent advocate if deemed appropriate should be invited, encouraged to attend and supported.
- The child's parent(s) should be invited if this is considered to be in the child's best interests.
- Consideration should be given to requesting the attendance of the social worker for the alleged perpetrator, if he/she is looked after.

E. At this meeting a strategy will be formulated for addressing issues and areas of need / help identified within the meeting.

F. The receiving agency will undertake to make any necessary referrals for help. In order to reflect the corporate responsibility this may be in partnership with colleagues from other agencies.

G. An Action Plan will be formulated which will clarify areas of responsibility and timescales.

H. These meetings are to be recorded by a person who is not involved in any other capacity in the meeting, wherever possible.

I. The incident itself may be deemed to constitute a significant event which will need to be addressed by the convening of a Review of the placement and the child's situation and may signify a need for a change in the Care Plan.

### **Expectations upon Project / Sessional Staff.**

**The above guidance applies also to Project and Sessional staff and any concerns about the welfare of any child/young person with whom they are dealing should be:**

- 1. noted in the sheet recording that session, and**
- 2. conveyed directly to their supervisor without delay.**

Project and Sessional Staff must be aware of the legal duty to investigate placed upon the Social Services Department by Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

They should also be aware of the child protection referral procedures in respect of themselves as detailed in Section 2 of the Child Protection Procedures.