

**CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Main Hall, High School, Prestatyn on Tuesday 10th July 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 and E.W. Williams.

Observers - Councillors M.LI. Davies, D. Jones (Chairman).

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor K.E. Wells.

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

The Leader welcomed the pupils of Prestatyn High School to the meeting and thanked Mr A Keep, Headteacher and Mr J Jones, the Bursar for their help with the arrangements. The Leader asked Members to speak for a few minutes on their Lead Cabinet Member roles to provide an insight into the Cabinet way of working.

**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- (i) Part II Item 13 Foot and Mouth Financial Assistance - Item withdrawn. A Special Cabinet meeting has been arranged for 17 July 2001;
- (ii) Part II Item 14 03.07.2001 Flooding and Flood Response Procedure - Interim Approval - Urgent Report (papers circulated prior to the meeting), and
- (iii) External advertisement for Temporary SO1 Economic Development Officer, Temporary Sc 2 Clerical Assistant/Receptionist, Temporary Sc 4 Business Support Admin Assistant, Temporary Sc 4 Business Connect Administrative Assistant, Temporary SO1 Business Association Development Officer - all posts until 31 March 2003 - to be included at Item 4 on the Agenda.

**2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 28 June 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

**Accuracy:-**

Item 4 Representation on the Court of the University of Wales: Councillor E.W. Williams requested that it be noted that he had drawn attention to the fact that as well as being an existing Denbighshire representative on the Court of the University of Wales, Councillor M.LI. Davies also served on that body's Council.

Item 11 Revenue Budget Position 2000-2001:

Councillor G.M. Kensler suggested deletion of "the" - first word, second paragraph.

Item 12 Revenue Budget Position 2001-2002: Councillor G.M. Kensler asked that "into overall library budget" be added at the end of the penultimate line of the first paragraph.

Item 13 Anti-Social Behaviour: Councillor E.A. Owens corrected the typographical error in the third line of the fourth paragraph to read "sought from the contingency fund".

Item 14 On-Street Parking Charging - East and West Parade, Rhyl: Councillor I.M. German said her question on who would be consulted had been omitted.

Item 15 Clive Engine House , Dyserth: Councillor G.M. Kensler said her question on the revenue implications of the project had been omitted.

Item 19 Sale of 7 / 9 Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn: The County Clerk said the Leader had received representation from a Member regarding selling the building at less than market value. The Leader had written to the Member to say that the Authority is obliged to sell property at the best price.

Councillor E.W. Williams said he had moved not to sell the property and this had been omitted from the minutes.

#### **Matters Arising:-**

Cabinet: 12 June 2001 - Item 10 Llangollen Boundary Review: The assistant Chief Executive: Strategy reported that a meeting with Chris Ruane MP, Gareth Thomas MP and Alun Pugh AM would be held on 23.07.2001 to discuss the Deloitte Touche report. Ann Jones AM was unable to attend and a letter had been received from Martyn Jones MP stating that he did not wish to participate in any such meeting.

***RESOLVED*** that subject to the above the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 June 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP OF NORTH WALES VALUATION TRIBUNAL**

The Leader presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to re-appoint two members of the North Wales Valuation Tribunal, whose terms of office ends during 2001-2002. The members currently representing Denbighshire are:-

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

The Clerk to the Tribunal had reminded the Authority that the term of office on re-appointment may be for up to six years or until the member attains 72 years of age.

***RESOLVED*** that Members re-appointed 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 31 December 2007.

### **4 RECRUITMENT**

The Leader submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) BECTU 4 Box Office Assistant, Pavilion Theatre - Lifelong Learning - Post Approved.
- (ii) P/T BECTU 3-4 Technical Assistant Pavilion Theatre - Lifelong Learning - Post Approved.
- (iii) SO1 Customer Service Officer - Lifelong Learning: Culture and Leisure: Councillor G.M. Kensler asked what were the specialised skills required. The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure explained the post involved information / marketing / training. Councillor E.W. Williams asked how many customer services officers were employed in the County. - Post Approved.
- (iv) SO1 Temporary Economic Development Officer to 31.03.2003 - Environment: Councillor W.R. Webb asked what happened to the 100% funded posts at (iv) to (viii) after 31.03.2003.

The Head of Economic Regeneration said all the posts listed were 100% funded and if the posts were required after 31.03.2003, further funding would be sought at that time. The posts did not automatically become established nor would any redundancy monies be payable.

Councillor E.W. Williams asked whether the figure for the total salary bill for the 5 Temporary Economic Development posts was available and whether the original bid had included monies for these posts. The Head of Economic Development agreed to provide Councillor Williams with the figures requested and explained that to proceed with Objective 1 applications the posts were needed otherwise monies would have to be repaid. Councillor Williams asked whether all the money for the posts was Objective 1 money or would it include an element of match funding. The Head of Economic Regeneration said an element of match funding from the Economic Development Unit was included. - Post Approved.

- (v) Sc 2 Temporary Clerical Assistant/Receptionist to 31.03.2003 - Environment - Post Approved.
- (vi) Sc 4 Temporary Administrative Asst Business Support to 31.03.2003 - Environment - Post Approved.
- (vii) Sc 4 Temporary Administrative Asst Business Connect to 31.03.2003 - Environment - Post Approved.
- (viii) SO1 Temporary Business Association Development Officer to 31.03.2003 - Environment - Post Approved.

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

## **5 BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to 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.

The Head of Internal Audit outlined the proposals to Members, saying that a risk database would be created which would help the Authority to carry out its business and improve systems. Along with the Leader, each Cabinet Member would be consulted on an individual basis as would Scrutiny Chairs, the Chairman of the Council, the Audit Panel Chair, Chief Executive and Corporate Directors and the Monitoring Officer. Arising from this the main risks would be identified and the Business Risk Database created and also what needed to happen to ensure the risks once identified were managed. A report on the findings would be presented to Cabinet. The Business Risk Database was being undertaken in addition to the statutory requirements.

Councillor G.M. Kensler congratulated the Head of Internal Audit on the work undertaken so far. Councillor Kensler asked that the Welsh Language and Culture be included on the list of examples.

Councillor E.A. Owens expressed some concern regarding duplication and asked for a written interim report on the findings and whether observations from neighbouring Authorities would be available. The Head of Internal Audit said as far as he was aware, Denbighshire was the lead Authority in Wales in producing a Business Risk Database so no information would be available from neighbouring Authorities, and agreed an interim report would be made available to Cabinet at the risk identification stage.

**RESOLVED** that Members gave approval in principle for the implementation of a strategy for the management of Business Risk by the Council's Internal Audit Service and an interim report be presented to Cabinet.

## **6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2001-2002**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the Economic Development Strategy 2001-2002.

The County Clerk said the current strategy ends on repeal of the Local Government Act of 1989 which would create a vacuum before completion of the Council's Community Strategy under the Local Government Act of 2000. The National Assembly for Wales indicated that it will be some time before strategies are in place.

The Leader in presenting his report, drew Members' attention in particular to the third paragraph of page 1 and said how important the partnership was. He also drew Members' attention to the priority Objective 1 Projects listed at page 18.

Councillor R.W. Hughes thanked officers for the preparation of the report in a short time scale and said she was pleased that the cultural industries were now included in the projects.

Councillor E.A. Owens asked how the projects matched with the Single Programme Documents. The Head of Economic Regeneration said this was split on a local level between DCC and the Local Enterprise Agency and he would provide a report on this aspect.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked whether it would be possible to include Tourist Information Centres within the project. The Head of Economic Regeneration said the Wales Tourist Board were not considering extending the number of offices in Wales.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet approved the Strategy for recommendation to Council and agreed to seek subsequently the views of the relevant Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee(s) to shape future economic elements of the community strategy.

## **7 BUDGET STRATEGY: 2002-2003**

The Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a timetable for the initial stages of setting the budget for 2002-2003.

Councillor E.A. Owens suggested commencing the budget setting process with an informal meeting with Cabinet Members and Directors on 17.07.2001, looking at the overall County picture. Following this meeting the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and Financial Controller would meet with Directors and Heads of Service would meet to review the current budget position and the emerging pressures. A report to Cabinet would be made on 31.07.2001. In August a second round of meetings with Directorates would be held to discuss initial budget proposals for 2002-2003.

Councillor Owens said a presentation and discussion of findings would be held after the Cabinet meeting of 13.09.2001.

Councillor E.W. Williams said it was sometimes impossible to attend all the meetings and asked if the papers for discussion at the meetings could be e-mailed to Cabinet Members the previous day. Councillor Owens agreed the papers could be despatched by e-mail before the meeting.

Councillor G.M. Kensler congratulated the officers on the paper and hoped that Members would attend the meetings.

Councillor W.R. Webb asked why meetings were to be held in August when Local Authorities traditionally went into recess and Members should also consider that officers need to take leave. Councillor Owens said there would be no problem in delaying the meetings but it would mean the papers would be unavailable until the Cabinet meeting. The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy said problems could be encountered if meetings are held late in the year and the paper to consider priorities needed to be considered on 25.09.2001 to allow full consideration to take place.

The Corporate Director of Resources emphasised the need to be able to demonstrate that the Authority had considered its objectives and priorities for the coming year. This needed to be done in advance of the budget-setting process.

Councillor E.W. Williams suggested Members accept the dates given in the report and if a Director or Head of Service was unavailable for a meeting they should send a deputy.

**RESOLVED** that the timetable and plan indicated in Section 2 of the report be approved.

## **8 ANTI-BULLYING POLICY IN RESPECT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet recommendation to Council of the Anti-bullying Policy in respect of children / young people who are looked after by the Local Authority.

The Policy sets out a mission statement and the procedures to be followed by foster carers, residential staff, social workers and team managers in cases where it was alleged that bullying was taking place. Adoption of the policy would provide a multiagency response to effectively address issues of bullying in respect of looked after children/young people.

Councillor E.W. Williams suggested that the mission statement should cover all children in Denbighshire as "looked after" could refer to an informal arrangement in looking after children. The Acting Chief Executive said the Authority's first priority was to children in care or foster care and the informal arrangements were covered by the schools approach to anti-bullying.

Councillor G.M. Kensler welcomed the paper and asked whether children had been part of the consultation process. The Acting Chief Executive said children had been consulted via the Children's Rights Service. Councillor Kensler asked if a child could be removed to safety pending an investigation into an alleged incident (Appendix page 4). The Acting Chief Executive said depending on the circumstances the perpetrator and not the child might be removed.

***RESOLVED*** that Cabinet recommended to Council the Anti-bullying Policy in respect of children / young people looked after.

At this juncture (11.10 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

## **9 LEARNING DISABILITY COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES - LETTING TWO CONTRACTS**

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated). Owing to the confidential nature of the Appendix to the report it was distributed at the meeting and was collected by the Head of Housing Services after the end of the discussion. Members' agreement was sought to the letting of two contracts for the two new Community Living Schemes as detailed in the Appendix.

Councillor E.A. Owens asked what arrangements were made for a review. The Service Manager informed Members that individual care plans were reviewed.

***RESOLVED*** that Cabinet approved the letting of the contracts for two new Community Living Schemes as set out in the Appendix to the report.

## **10 LEARNING DISABILITY COMMUNITY LIVING SCHEMES - RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS**

(Councillor I.M. German declared an interest in the item and left the Chamber).

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated). Owing to the confidential nature of the Appendix to the report it was distributed at the meeting and was collected by the Head of Housing Services after the end of the discussion. Members agreement was sought to renew seven contracts for Community Living Schemes, using the revised contract approved by Cabinet on 12.06.2001.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked whether any of the contracts had been discussed by the Audit Panel. The Service Manager said the contracts had not been discussed by the Audit Panel.

Councillor E.W. Williams queried the proposed contract amounts. The Service Manager explained that inflation had been included in the figures and changes in the support arrangements for people provided for were subject to review. The support arrangements currently in place were working well.

The Acting Chief Executive said the arrangements were consistent with the Cabinet decision of 12.06.2001.

Councillor E.A. Owens said if the tender process was not being followed an audit trail would be required. The Head of Housing agreed an audit trail would be carried out.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed, subject to an audit trail being established, to renew seven contracts for Community Living Schemes using the revised contract approved by Cabinet on 12.06.2001 as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

**11 FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The report was withdrawn.

**12 3 JULY 2001: FLOODING AND FLOOD RESPONSE PROCEDURE - INTERIM APPROVAL**

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) asking Members to note the report covering the flooding incident in the County on 03.07.2001. Members were also asked to approve the introduction, on an interim basis, of the Highways and Transportation Flood Response Procedure. Members had approved the procedure at Cabinet on 03.04.2001 subject to the Environment Scrutiny Panel agreement. The Environment Scrutiny Panel had on 24.04.2001 agreed the Head of Highways incorporate the procedure in an all-embracing highways and transportation emergency procedures report. It was considered appropriate the flood response procedure be brought into force with immediate effect on an interim basis pending formal adoption in line with the intention of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

On behalf of Cabinet, Councillor D.M. Morris thanked all the staff who had worked on the emergency on 03.07.2001.

Councillor E.A. Owens stressed that a pre-emptive bid on the budget for monies for emergency procedures could not be made. Pressures and priorities would need to be considered.

Councillor E.W. Williams remarked that grass verges on many of the minor roads had not been cut this year. Councillor W.R. Webb agreed that this was general throughout the County.

Councillor G.M. Kensler praised officers for the speed of delivery of sandbags to Lenten Pool on the 03.07.2001. Councillor Kensler said Dalarwen, Denbigh should be included on the list as it was subject to flooding.

The Leader thanked the Director of the Environment and Steve Kent, the Highways Services Manager for their work during the floods.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the report covering the flooding incident in Denbighshire on 3 July 2001 and approved the introduction, on an interim basis, of the Highways and Transportation Flood Response Procedure.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 p.m.

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**CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 17 July, 2001 at 11.45 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.L.I Davies, P. Douglas, S. Drew, R.J.R. Jones and W. Roberts.

**ALSO PRESENT**

County Clerk, Corporate Director of Resources and the Head of Economic Regeneration.

The Leader welcomed Councillor Wayne Roberts, newly elected as Councillor for Rhyl East to his first Cabinet meeting .

**1 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.*

**2 FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The County Clerk advised Members as to the possible approaches to the decisions that needed to be made. Members could either approve the methodology proposed without receiving details of individual applications and delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources the power to approve or refuse applications having regard to the criteria. Alternatively, should Members wish formally to deliberate on the lists of applications proposed for approval and refusal it would be necessary for them to identify as to which applications they might have a "declarable interest" in. Members concluded that in the first instance they should restrict their debate to the methodology and accordingly the officers addressed these issues.

The Corporate Director of Resources outlined the basis on which the funding had been made available to Welsh Authorities, the consultation that had taken place throughout Wales and the general approach adopted. In particular, he outlined the distinction between support offered by way of NNDR Relief and direct cash support. In addition, he summarised for Members EU rules on the limits of the amount of state aid that could be given to undertakings. In general the amounts to be distributed under the Denbighshire scheme fell well within the EU de minimis rules.

Having considered the methodology and the decision making framework Members were content to approve the methodology and delegate decision as to the individual applications to the Corporate Director of Resources.

***RESOLVED that:***

- (i) the methodology outlined in the Corporate Director of Resources' report be approved;*
- (ii) there be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources the power to approve applications and to refuse applications;*
- (iii) that the draft letters of approval and refusal be endorsed, and*
- (iv) that Members congratulated the Corporate Director of Resources, the Head of Economic Regeneration, the Business Connect Manager and staff for the quality of help given to the applicants and for the thoroughness of their work on the scheme.*

The meeting concluded at 12.45 p.m.

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**CABINET MEMBER: LEADER**

**DATE: 31 JULY 2001**

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO NORTH WESTERN AND NORTH WALES SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

**1. DECISION SOUGHT**

To nominate a Member to represent Denbighshire County Council on the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee for the quadrennial period 1st July 2001 - 30th June 2005.

**2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

The Chief Executive of the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee has advised the Authority that the Quadrennial period for the Joint Committee began on 1st July 2001. Denbighshire County Council are being asked to appoint a Member representative to serve on the Joint Committee from 1st July 2001 - 30th June 2005.

For Cabinet's information, the Authority's current representative is Councillor Peter Douglas who has attended the majority of Joint Committee meetings held since his appointment.

**3. COST IMPLICATIONS**

Approved duty.

**4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

N/A

**5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT**

N/A

**6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

N/A

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet nominate a Member to represent the Authority on the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee for the quadrennial period 1st July 2001 - 30th June 2005.



**CABINET MEMBER: LEADER**

**DATE: 31 JULY 2001**

**SUBJECT: LLANDDULAS QUARRY AND LANDFILL SITE JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**1. DECISION SOUGHT**

To nominate a Member to replace the former Councillor A.E.W. Jones to serve on the Llanddulas Quarry and Landfill Site Joint Liaison Committee.

**2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

Following the resignation of the former Councillor A.E.W. Jones, there is now a need to appoint a replacement representative on to the Llanddulas Quarry and Landfill Site Joint Liaison Committee. The Committee provides a forum for discussion, information exchange and consultation relating to the performance of the waste disposal contract and is made up of representatives from the Environment Agency, Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council and the Local Communities surrounding the landfill site. The Committee meets quarterly and it's Terms of Reference allow for two representatives from Denbighshire. At present the other representative is Mr. Trevor Owen, Senior Officer - Waste Management, Directorate of Environment.

**3. COST IMPLICATIONS**

Approved Duty.

**4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

N/A.

**5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT**

N/A

**6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

N/A

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet nominate a Member representative to replace the former Councillor A.E.W. Jones on the Llanddulas Quarry and Landfill Site Joint Liaison Committee.

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER AND LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE

DATE: 31 JULY 2001

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR THE BUDGET FOR 2002-2003

**1 Decision Sought**

1.1 To agree the basic broad guidelines for preparing revenue and capital budget proposals for 2002 - 2003.

**2 Reason for Decision**

2.1 As agreed at the Cabinet on 10th July, the Authority needs to begin to determine its budget much earlier this year. Members therefore have agreed a timetable enabling the budget to be progressed in line with the Assembly's aim of finalising the settlement earlier as well as providing sufficient time for consultation with Policy Review and Scrutiny committees and partners on the draft proposals. The complete timetable is attached. (Appendix 1)

2.2 In setting the broad framework for budget preparation Members need to be aware of the critical requirement to relate budget proposals to the Council's overall priorities and objectives.

2.3 The District Auditor will be observing our process of budget setting as part of the Best Value regime noting the extent to which the Authority is working to a coherent performance management system. To have a fully functioning performance management system will be one of the main areas which will be scrutinised during the Authority's Best Value Corporate Governance Review.

The District Auditor will also be looking to see that there is further progress in delivering on the recovery plan and that there is no reduction in the Authority's commitment to bringing expenditure under control.

2.4 Cabinet and Council have agreed the main priorities to govern service plans for this year, but they will also need to do so for the budget for next year so that the service plans can be prepared for 2002/2003.\*

\* Service plans also need to cover a three year period and reflect the Council 3 year financial strategy.

Officers are currently working on designing a system for full implementation of a performance management system for next financial year which will enable:

**Policy Review** - Leading to setting of guidelines for budget preparation (April to June)

**Budget setting and consultation** on proposals - (July to February)

**Monitoring of** service plans and performance (quarterly)

2.5 **Broad Financial and Policy Parameters.** Members will see from appendix 1 and from discussion at the last Cabinet that the overall priorities for the production of the budget proposals will be set on 25th September. However it is useful before we go into the budget round to agree some base guidelines:

Last year the Authority received a 5.9% increase in revenue from the National Assembly which produced the budget as detailed in Appendix 2 (see column 1). This year early estimates suggest that we should begin to prepare on the basis of a 5% increase on this year. These increases do, of course, include provision for price and wage inflation.

Whilst a 5% increase is clearly better than an increase which merely covers inflation (estimated at 4%), the following should be noted:

- a. That the Assembly has a large policy programme; modernising, e.government, as well as key strategic objectives most of which will continue to impact on local government.
- b. That we have already reported on identified budget pressures for this financial year which if not properly addressed will impact on the capacity of the Authority to benefit from the settlement.
- c. There will be a host of other pressures (legislative and other capacity pressures) identified during the budget round discussions for setting the 2002/2003 budget.
- d. There will be substantial reviews of the Council's working (Corporate Governance and Joint Reviews) which will have a significant impact on the budget.
- 2.6 Against this picture however must be placed the anticipated reduction in top slicing for balances (subject to performance) which will yield additional funding for the Council to deliver its priorities. Secondly, the strong likelihood of specific grants and transfer of funding from for example DSS which will be over and above the 5% overall increase.
- 2.7 The above emphasises the need for a cautious approach and the need to reinforce previously agreed approaches to budget setting:
- **To ensure the delivery of our recovery plan and to build a prudent level of reserves**
  - **To find additional funding for specific services through:**
    - a. **efficiency savings**
    - b. **consideration of alternative forms of service delivery**
    - c. **taking into consideration SSA data in relation to service budgets.**
  - **To reprioritise objectives within the constraints of the finance available.\***  
\*There are **no cost-free** choices for service priorities. Prioritising one area has an impact upon funding levels for others areas of spend.
  - **.To take appropriate remedial action in year to deal with current pressures.\***  
\* The implications of meeting the requirements to stay within cash limits will need to be clearly identified.
- 2.7 In line with the prudent framework outlined above it is proposed to adopt the following to building up the budget: (see also appendix 2)
- Provision of 4% for inflation
  - £1m annual contribution to balances
  - Retention of £1m contribution to the contingency fund
  - Subject to budget performance in the current year to set aside £1m to meet service pressures and meet priorities.\*
- 2.8 To help Members reach a view on priorities the Cabinet discussion on the 13th September will include a presentation by Corporate Directors on the issues each Directorate faces. These will reflect the 1st and 2nd round of budget discussions planned for July and August. Corporate Directors will be expected to present an overview for their directorates across their service heads.
- 2.8 In determining the priorities Members will need to have regard for the Authorities overall vision.

Whilst the Authority has a Mission Statement, which still informs decisions, nevertheless since it was put together the Council works to an entirely new system and it is timely therefore reconsider it. The development of the Vision will need to be an all encompassing process involving Cabinet and Non Cabinet Members. The Leader will be addressing this issue

elsewhere on the agenda. Here it merely needs to be noted that the Cabinet meeting on 13th September will provide the opportunity to reflect on the fundamentals ideas which need to inform the process.

**3. Cost Implications**

3.1 See appendix 2

**4. Financial Controller Statement**

4.1 Identifying remedial action to contain current budget pressures will be essential to release additional funds for services next financial year. Failure to deliver on this and other elements of the Recovery Plan will lead to the reduction or elimination of funds for further pressures and service improvements.

The Capital Programme will be developed on a 3 year basis and updated quarterly in line with Council priorities following schemes appraisal and prioritising in line with the agreed new procedures.

**5. Consultation Carried Out**

5.1 Scrutiny Committee has been consulted prior to the meeting

**6. Implications on Other Policy Areas**

6.1 The budget process affects all areas.

**7. Recommendations**

7.1 That Members approve the report as the basis for the preparation for the budget for 2002-2003.

## Timetable For Budget.

Item	Date
<b>Report</b> to members indicating the initial timetable, the need for a process and initial discussions on ground rules.	10th July - Cabinet
<b>Initial informal discussions</b> with Cabinet to agree how the process of setting priorities will be progressed	17th July following short listing
First meetings Lead Member for Finance and Financial Controller with Directors and Heads of Service to review the current budget position	23rd - 27th July
<b>Financial Strategy paper to cabinet</b> outlining broad financial strategy and policy background and timetable.	31st July Cabinet
<b>Second Meetings For all Directorates and services to discuss ideas for Budget Proposals</b>	WB 20th August
<b>Presentation of issues</b> to Cabinet Members	13th September post cabinet meeting
<b>Priority setting</b>	25th Sept. Cabinet
<b>Draft Budgets Revenue and capital</b> for consideration by cabinet	11th October
<b>Consideration of Draft Budgets by Scrutiny Committees</b>	Oct/November 2001 Meetings.
<b>Provisional settlement Information</b>	Mid December
<b>Budget Proposals Revenue and Capital</b> to Cabinet.	20th December
<b>Cabinet Proposals to Council</b>	15th January 2002
<b>Final settlement figures</b>	Late January
<b>Council approval of Budget</b>	There are two special meetings agreed 12/2/02 and 26/2/02

## DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### BUDGET 2002/03

	Approved Budget 2001/2 £000	: Reallocated Budget 2001/2 £000	: Inflation (4%) 2002/03 £000	: Committed Changes 2002/03 £000	: Growth 2002/03 £000	: TOTAL 2002/03 £000
Schools Del budgets	36,209	36,209				
Service Budgets	56,240	57,240				
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	92,449	93,449	3,738	0	1,000	98,187
Contingency	1,000	0	0	1,000		1,000
Capital Finance Charges	11,524	11,524	0	1,000		12,524
Precepts & Levies	3,835	3,835	315	0		4,150
Contribution to balances	2,250	2,250	0	-1,500		750
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<b>TOTAL</b>	111,058	111,058	4,053	500	1,000	116,611
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<b>Target ("2001/2 plus 5%)</b>						<b>116,611</b>
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### Assumptions

1. 2001/02 contingency allocated to service budgets permanently.
2. 4% inflation for services , 8% for precepts
3. £1,000k impact of capital programme on Cap Fin Charges
4. New Contingency of £1m created
5. Contribution to balances reduced, retain £750k to provide positive balances, (PFI 2003/04)
6. 5% growth in total spend.
7. Available to improve services £1m (1%)

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E A OWENS**

**DATE: 31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET 2001/2002**

**1 Decision Sought**

That in the light of the latest budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the attached appendix, members consider what actions are necessary to ensure the budget for the year is not overspent.

**2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

The need to deliver the Council's agreed Recovery Action Plan and budget strategy which calls for positive balances by the end of the current year .

**3 Cost Implications**

The latest projections show an increase of £200k over the previous report which is largely due to the firming up of figures for pressures.

**4 Financial Controller Statement**

Failure to remove negative balances by the year end will reduce resources available for services in future years and endanger the Recovery Plan.

**5 Consultation Carried Out**

Lead Cabinet members are consulting in an ongoing manner with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial actions to prevent overspends in 2001/02. A series of meetings will commence during week beginning 23 July to consider current budget pressures and remedial actions.

**6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

The level of funding available to services together with budgetary performance impacts upon all services of the Council.

**7 Recommendation**

That Members consider necessary remedial actions to ensure the budget for the current financial year is not overspent.

**APPENDIX****DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****2001/02 BUDGET PRESSURES**

	-----Budget Pressures-----		Comments
	£000	£000	
<b><u>Lifelong Learning</u></b>			
<b><u>Education</u></b>			
Special needs pupils support	272		Increase in stated pupils; a review of the service is to be carried out
Advisory Service	30		
Clothing grants	23		
Asset management	<u>-6</u>	319	Vacant post
<b><u>Culture</u></b>			
Underachieved reduction re			
Rhuddlan library	18		Closure not achieved
Library relief staff	40		Statutory IT training
Archives	2		
Heritage	<u>3</u>	63	
<b><u>Leisure</u></b>			
Scala Cinema reduced income	10		Reduced, community based service
Ruthin Leisure Centre	<u>8</u>	18	
<b><u>Resorts &amp; Attractions</u></b>			
Rent reductions	12		Income and cost levels will be reviewed
Skytower Car Park	<u>-21</u>	-9	
<b><u>Countryside</u></b>			
Loggerheads income	<u>5</u>	5	Impact of flooding and Foot & Mouth
		<u>396</u>	
<b><u>Environment</u></b>			
<b><u>Public Protection &amp; Regulatory</u></b>			
Public conveniences, income & running costs	28		Income and cost levels will be reviewed
Regeneration services income	20		Income and cost levels will be reviewed
Environmental maintenance	<u>-20</u>	28	
<b><u>Planning</u></b>			
Land charges income	19		Income target not achievable
Appeals costs	9		
Community partnership funding	<u>17</u>	45	Reduced grant aid
		<u>73</u>	
<b><u>Personal Services</u></b>			
Children & Families	142		After the end of the first quarter, a general review of the budget allocations to services will be carried out
Purchaser	-338		
Provider	362		
Strategic Planning	<u>-98</u>	68	
<b>TOTAL PRESSURES REPORTED</b>		<b>537</b>	Total to be covered by remedial actions
		=====	



**CABINET MEMBER:           Lead Member for Finance**

**DATE:                         31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT:                    Capital Plan 2001/2002**

**1       Decision Sought**

To update Members on progress of the capital plan and to approve a strategy for managing the plan in 2001/2002

**2       Reason For Seeking Decision**

The Capital Plan for 2001/2002 was approved by Council at its meeting on 15 May. Estimates for the current financial year have been revised to take account of the anticipated outturn position from 2000/2001. The National Assembly for Wales has indicated that a capital grant will be available to assist the financing of the infrastructure reinstatement works arising from the flood damage which occurred in the Autumn of 2000. Council also approved operational capital planning and project management procedures. A fundamental part of these procedures is the establishment of a Capital Programme Group of officers. Approval is sought for the nomination of the Corporate Directors to this group.

**3       Cost Implications**

See attached Appendix.

**4       Financial Controller Statement**

The previous capital plan had assumed that the cost of flood damage reinstatement works would be met from Denbighshire's own resources. The plan was also dependent upon the future generation of capital receipts. The announcement of the grant now means that schemes which were dependent upon capital receipts being generated during 2001/2002 can now proceed without causing financing difficulties. The generation of capital receipts will nevertheless remain a priority for the Council in delivering further capital projects.

**5       Consultation Carried Out**

Corporate Directors, Heads of Service and previous Council and Cabinet decisions.

**6       Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

The maintenance and development of the Council's stock of assets is an important element of service delivery.

**7       Recommendation**

That Members approve the proposals for the management of the capital plan in 2001/2002 and the nomination of the Corporate Directors to the Capital Programme Group.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL				
CAPITAL PLAN 2001/02 TO 2003/04 - General Capital Funding		2001/02	2002/03	Estimated 2003/04
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Final General Capital Approval 2001/02		9,014	9,000	9,000
Less HRA element		1,109	1,000	1,000
		7,905	8,000	8,000
Capital Resources Brought Forward from 2000/01		1,328		
		9,233		
Funding expected from disposal of assets:	Conditional	1,250		
	To be generated	2,000	3,250	1,000
			1,000	1,000
		Total	12,483	9,000 est
				9,000 est
Forward commitments/rollover	Latest			
2000/01 Programme Rollover	2,166			
Provision for Grant Clawback	1,040			
Forward Commitments	245	3,451	425	100
Housing Improvement Grants - Block Allocation		2,500	2,500	2,500
Flood damage reinstatement				
- Horseshoe Pass	1,500			
Special funding	-1,500			
- Other Highways works	1,570			
Special funding	-1,335			
- Loggerheads Country Park	76			
Special funding	-65	247	0	0
Flood prevention schemes	875		2,125	2,450
less 45% special funding	-394	481	-956	-1,103
Response to maintenance backlog				
Highways - Block Allocation				
- Structural maintenance, bridges etc		1,000	1,000	1,000
Property - Block Allocation				
- Major maintenance		1,000	1,000	1,000
Sea Defence works	80			
Special funding	-50	30	100	100
Community Projects - Block Allocation		280	280	280
Match Funding - Block Allocation		100	100	100
Business Development Grants	130		130	130
Adaptations to homes of disabled	80		80	80
Sun Centre roof	200			
Plas Brondyffryn match funding	250			
Learning stream IT system	335			
Social Services client IT system	400			
Ty Nant offices landscaping (planning requirement)	25	1,420		
Contingency		250	180	180
		10,759	6,964	6,818
Available for funding - dependent on capital receipts - see above		1,724	2,036	2,183
		12,483	9,000	9,000

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:       CLLR K WELLS - LEAD CABINET MEMBER  
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**DATE:                     31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT:                 TEACHERS - PREMATURE RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**1       DECISION SOUGHT**

To agree the introduction of Premature Retirement Benefits for Teachers who do not meet the requirements of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme for Teachers and are made redundant from the Authority or who leave the Authority's pensionable employment on the grounds of organisational efficiency - see Appendix 1

**2       REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

The Authority does not currently have a Pension Enhancement Scheme covering teachers within its employment who leave work as a result of the above circumstances.

**3       COST IMPLICATIONS**

Not able to quantify specifically as costs are dependent upon individual circumstances.

**4       FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

Currently teacher's EVR costs are funded by topslicing schools delegated budgets by agreed amounts. The numbers allowed to leave are restricted by the funding available. This proposal is for the very rare occasions when circumstances do not fit the existing scheme but should be considered in a similar manner to non teaching staff.

**5       CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Teacher Union representatives are in agreement with the proposals

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

N/A

**7       RECOMMENDATION**

The introduction by the Authority of a Premature Retirement Benefits Scheme for Teachers who are either made redundant from the Authority or who leave the Authority's pensionable employment on the grounds of organisational efficiency.

## APPENDIX 1

A teacher aged between 50 - 59 who is either made redundant by the Authority as his/her employer or who leaves pensionable employment on the grounds of organisational efficiency may be granted unreduced premature retirement benefits, providing they are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The payment of these unreduced benefits from the Teachers' Pension Scheme is at the discretion of the employer.

The premature retirement arrangements as governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 1997, and subsequent amendments, provide for two types of compensation to be payable by the employer:-

**Mandatory Compensation** - benefits (both pension and lump sum) which are based on accrued service within the Teachers' Pension Scheme, are split between the Scheme and the employer. The employer's share is called the 'mandatory compensation' and the employer must agree to pay this if an application for premature retirement benefits is to be accepted by Teachers' Pensions. The amount that the employer contributes will vary in each case and will be determined as a percentage of the pension and lump sum based on the age of the employee at the date of leaving.

**Discretionary Compensation** - benefits (both pension and lump sum) may be increased by the employer through the granting of service enhancement (added years) to compensate teachers for the fact that they have had to retire early. The granting of such 'added years' is at the discretion of the employer.

Members will be aware that the Pension Enhancement Scheme that applies to employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (administered by Clwyd Pensions) contains within it the provision for the granting of 'added years' in appropriate cases on the basis of 1 'added year' for every 5 years service within the Pension Scheme.

It is considered appropriate that as Denbighshire County Council is the employer of both employees who contribute to the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme the awarding of 'added years' service should be applied consistently to the two categories of staff. Therefore teachers who are either made redundant from the Authority or who leave the Authority's pensionable employment on the grounds of organisational efficiency and are eligible to receive 'added years' service should be granted such service by the Authority on the same basis as employees covered by the Pension Enhancement Scheme that applies to employees who contribute to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Eligibility for the receipt of discretionary compensation (added years) to be based on the same criteria as pertains to the Pension Enhancement Scheme that applies to employees who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS**

**DATE: 31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT: Off Street Parking Places Orders**

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To seek agreement to the implementation of new Off Street Parking Places Orders.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

Currently only those car parks on which charges are levied are covered by Off Street Parking Places Orders (OPPO). A number of OPPOs are in place for car parks in Rhyl and Prestatyn sealed by the former Rhuddlan Borough Council and one OPPO sealed by the County Council for some car parks in Llangollen, Denbigh and Ruthin. Management problems can arise in free car parks due to the lack of OPPOs, for example, legal accesses being blocked by vehicles parked outside marked bays, overnight camping or sale of vehicles. Unlike the car parks covered by OPPOs Excess Charge Tickets cannot be issued for such inconsiderate acts or inappropriate uses. It is proposed therefore to implement a new OPPO to cover all the Council's free public car parks. A list of the car parks to be included in the new Order is shown in Appendix A.

It is proposed also to introduce charges at the following car parks:-

- Crown Lane, Denbigh
- Rhyl Railway Station
- Rhyl Gateway Offices
- Mill Street, Llangollen

It is intended that Crown Lane car park be designated for short stay use. An area of parking on public highway adjacent to the car park in Crown Lane will be the subject of an On Street Parking Places Order and controlled in tandem with, and charging at the same rates as the car park. The proposed tariff is shown in Appendix B.

Some legal issues have to be addressed regarding charging at the two car parks at Rhyl Railway Station and Gateway Offices. At this stage it is intended to designate the two car parks for short stay use, the Gateway Offices car park will be available only at weekends. During the week the latter is used by the tenants of the Gateway station buildings. A new OPPO will be promoted when the legal issues have been resolved.

The Mill Street car park in Llangollen occupies land that was the subject of a land transfer in 1989. The transfer enabled the local authority to introduce charging in the car park subject to the refund of charges to the occupiers and customers of the Sarah Ponsonby public house. Lengthy discussions were held with the previous owners of the public house regarding operating a system of refund without any workable agreement being reached. Contact has been made with the new owners. A means of overcoming the issue of refunds has been identified. This would involve transferring to the owners of the public house a small area of the car park closest to Mill Street and to the entrance to the public house. The public house owners would then be prepared to remove any conditions regarding refunds in the remaining lower area of the car park and transfer ownership of an area of ground in the middle of this car park to the Council.

The solution proposed would benefit the Council in that the maintenance liability for the area of car park transferred to the public house would be removed. It would make enforcement of charges in the main car park easier and more effective. There would be no loss of revenue as public house patrons and staff are entitled to free parking. As the two car parks are physically

separate the cost of installing and maintaining a ticket machine in the upper car park would be saved.

Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc have approached the Council regarding the introduction of controls on their Marsh Road supermarket car park in Rhyl. The car park is being used by commuters to the disbenefit of their business and in contravention of conditions imposed on the planning consent for the store. Agreement has been reached that the Council will provide enforcement services to impose a two hour stay restriction, for the sum of £5,000 per annum and retention of revenue from Excess Charge Notices issued. This will require the introduction of an OPPO. As the arrangements could change in the future it is intended to promote a separate Order for the supermarket car park. Morrisons have indicated that they will meet the costs involved. The company will be arranging for the provision of signage and ticket machines themselves.

### **3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

The principal costs are for processing the Orders, signage in the car parks and ticket machines. The total costs for the initial OPPO covering the car parks listed in Appendix A and Crown Lane on-street and off-street car parks will be in the region of £5,300. This will be offset against future income from introducing charging. It is not possible to estimate the amount of additional revenue due to a lack of data on car park patronage, and the fact that the car parks at present do not have any form of control, and therefore usage patterns will change when charging is introduced.

All the costs involved in progressing the OPPO for the Morrison's supermarket will be met by the company.

### **4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The costs of the exercise will need to be contained within the relevant service budget.

### **5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

The proposed order will be advertised and open to consultation at a draft stage. The parking and traffic subcommittee of the Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee will in due course review the charging and operational requirements as part of the County wide review. This will also include public consultation.

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

There are no implications on other policy areas.

### **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) To implement an Off Street Parking Places Order incorporating all the Council's free public car parks listed in Appendix A.
- (ii) To introduce charges at the Crown Lane, Denbigh and, subject to resolving legal issues, at the Rhyl Station, Rhyl Gateway and Mill Street car parks as outlined in the report.
- (iii) To introduce an On Street Parking Places Order in respect of Crown Lane for the car parking bays marked on the highway.
- (iv) To introduce an Off Street Parking Places Order for the Morrison's supermarket car park in Rhyl.
- (v) To commence negotiations to transfer land at the Mill Street car park in Llangollen.

**APPENDIX A** - Car Parks to be included in new OPPO

Corwen	Bridge Street (formerly known as Station Yard) Green Lane Pavilion - London Road
Denbigh	Barkers Well Lane Multi-storey Mount Pleasant Post Office Lane Townsend - Park Street
Dyserth	Waterfall Road
Llandegla	The Village
Llangollen	Brook Street Hall Street
Meliden	Ffordd Talargoch
Rhuddlan	Parliament Street Vicarage Lane
Rhyl	Park and Ride, Clwyd Retail Park Splash Point - Marine Drive
Ruthin	Craft Centre Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street Lon Parcwr - opposite Craft Centre Rhos Street Troed y Rhiw
St Asaph	Bowling Green - Lower Street

APPENDIX B - Proposed car park tariffs

Crown Lane, Denbigh

Monday to Sunday 0800 - 1700 hours	up to 2 hours	- 20p
	2 - 3 hours	- 40p
	3 - 4 hours	- 80p
	Over 4 hours	- £5



REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORIS

DATE: 31 JULY 2001

SUBJECT: FLOOD EMERGENCY & RECOVERY WORKS - DESIGN AND SUPERVISION

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

- 1.1 Approval, in retrospect, to action taken by the Head of Highways in respect of the procurement of additional resources to enable the execution of a programme of works under the Bellwin emergency arrangements and successful completion of the bidding process for National Assembly Severe Weather Capital Grant funding.
- 1.2 Approval to retain consultant's design and supervision staff, initially engaged for the post-flooding (Bellwin) emergency period, to enable the successful execution of the County Council's flood recovery programme

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

The extent and nature of the emergency works carried out in the period following the October/November 2000 floods (£2.4m of work on over 150 separate sites in 6 months) necessitated the temporary procurement, at very short notice, of several additional design and site supervisory staff.

Local Authority neighbours, beset by similar problems, were not able to assist in this respect and existing in-house resources were insufficient to manage such an extensive programme of unplanned work within the time scales prescribed for emergency (Bellwin) funding by National Assembly for Wales. Additionally, initial short time scales were twice extended, rendering longer term planning impossible.

Suitably experienced staff were sourced through consultants Symonds of Colwyn Bay, drawn almost entirely from site staff recently employed on the major A55 Ynys Mon highway scheme. Comparison with other consultants and staffing agencies confirmed that the staff rates paid were consistent with the market for similarly qualified staff. All costs incurred to 30th June, 2001 have been included within the claim to National Assembly for reimbursement under the Bellwin scheme. The level of cost associated with additional resources to be claimed in this way is approximately £65,000.

Subsequent to the Bellwin emergency work, the County Council is now about to undertake a programme of Capital flood recovery works. The total value of this programme is in excess of £3.0m, including a scheme to repair the Horseshoe Pass landslip (£1.5m).

The staff employed during the Bellwin period have been retained on a provisional basis, initially to enable the Authority to complete the onerous bidding process for 85% National Assembly funding (Severe Weather Capital Grant) in respect of the £1.57m flood recovery programme. The staff procured for the emergency works are now operationally fully integrated with in-house staff and conversant with both the specific sites in question and the County Council systems which govern the execution of the work necessary to complete reinstatement of the damaged infrastructure. A separate procurement exercise in respect of the Capital works programme would, at this stage, lead to a significant loss of momentum within the programme and would be unlikely to result in significant, if any, cost savings.

### **3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

The overall flood recovery programme amounts to £3.07m, comprising £1.57m structural renewal and £1.5m Horseshoe Pass remediation scheme. The value of the programme is calculated on the basis of works costs plus an overall allowance of 12% for design and supervision, thus including a sum of £330,000 for design and supervision of the 65 individual schemes involved.

The Horseshoe Pass scheme is 100% special funded by National Assembly for Wales. National Assembly Severe Weather Capital Grant (SWCG), at a level of 85%, is available on the remaining elements of the programme.

The cost of retaining the necessary level of design and supervisory staff, under the present arrangement, would be approximately £167,500, allowing for a progressive reduction in staff as the programme is achieved. The remainder of the allowance for design and supervision will be taken up via the use of specialist consultants, for some of the larger, more complex schemes, and the use of our own internal staff, where they are directly involved in the programme.

### **4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The proposal provides an efficient and cost effective way of progressing the works involved. It will be necessary to submit the programme to the new Capital appraisal process as a block sum to ensure costs are containable within the funding available

### **5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Neighbouring Authorities and in-house consultant - no suitably skilled resources available.

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

Organisation of resource procurement to best achieve execution of this element of the capital programme

### **7 RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 That Members approve, in retrospect, the actions taken by the Head of Highways and Transportation in respect of procuring additional resources to assist with the execution of emergency works following the Oct./Nov. 2000 flooding.

7.2 That Members authorise the Head of Highways and Transportation to retain additional design and supervisory staff, as necessary, to enable the successful accomplishment of the Capital programme for flood recovery, subject to the overall cost, inclusive of in-house and specialist consultants' staff, being contained within the 12% allowance determined for these purposes.

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS

DATE: 31 JULY 2001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RENEWAL AREAS: SOUTH WEST RHYL AND DENBIGH

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve changes to the documents as detailed below in respect of Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for South West/East Rhyl and Denbigh. Copies of the documents are available from Carol Evans, Area Renewal Officer, Caledfryn or Group Rooms.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Cabinet have previously approved the final draft documents prior to public consultation. In accordance with Welsh Office circular 59/96 notices in the local press and information letters have been delivered to all addresses in the designated areas. The response to the consultation was general with most enquiries asking what the scheme was about and when was their property likely to be done. There was however one specific request to adjust the boundary in the Denbigh area. After consideration of the housing survey results and reviewing the boundary of the Townscape Heritage Initiative area the boundary has been adjusted to include three more properties. Two out of these three properties failed the relevant fitness criteria and the properties are included in the heritage area. Similarly in the Rhyl area the boundary has been adjusted to include one extra property on Greenfield Street, namely "The Bungalow" which is in a poor state of disrepair.

2.2 We have been awarded £500,000 in SCA this financial year and approval is sought to commence works during the current financial year in the following areas with some flexibility allowed according to funding spend

**Denbigh:-** Leicester Terrace, St Hilary's Terrace, 13, 14, 15, Castle Hill and Bron y Gaer, Castle Hill

This scheme will compliment the work already undertaken to the castle, commence to tackle housing refurbishment in the heritage area and provide an excellent opportunity for sympathetic environmental improvements in the area.

**Rhyl:-** 18 - 54 Vale Road and Nos 1 - 13, 2 - 16 Morlan Park

This will enable **two** electoral wards within the designated area in Rhyl to benefit from Group Repair Schemes. Both proposed schemes contain housing in a serious state of disrepair. Vale Road is a highly visible area of Rhyl which will provide impact and also compliment the recent development of the Morrisons supermarket site and the forthcoming Matalan development which will both bring in many visitors to Rhyl.

2.3 Approval is sought to appoint Consultants for the schemes on a phase by phase basis.

2.4 Approval is sought to continue a sequential phasing of works over the next ten years subject to available funding and prioritising impact. This will enable officers to fully commit SCAs

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The works will be funded from specific Supplementary Credit

#### **4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The Council's new Capital Schemes Monitoring Procedures will help ensure scheme costs are contained within the funding available and any possible future revenue implications are identified

#### **5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- Rhyl Town Council
- Denbigh Town Council
- All Heads of Service - Denbighshire County Council
- Members of the public through questionnaires
- Rhyl West and South West Community Agency
- Denbigh Voluntary Services Council
- Denbighshire County Council cabinet
- Denbighshire County Council scrutiny panel
- Public meetings

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

- Agenda 21
- Anti poverty strategy
- Crime and Disorder
- Housing Strategy and Operational Plan
- Home Energy Conservation Act
- Fuel Poverty Strategy
- Renovation Grants Policy

#### **7 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet approves the following:-

- 1) The changes to the documents in respect of Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments for South West/East Rhyl and Denbigh as listed in the report
- 2) To commence a programme of Group Repair works starting with the properties detailed in 2.2 and continuing through to completion over a 10 year period from declaration.
- 3) To appoint Consultants for each phase of Group Repair works in each area.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS**

**DATE: 31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT: Transport Grant Bids 2002 - 2003**

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To seek Members approval for Transport Grant bids for 2002 - 2003

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

The National Assembly has invited bids for Package and Safe Routes to Schools submissions, applications for which have to be received by the Assembly by the end of August.

**Package Bid**

It is proposed to continue seeking funding for the River Clwyd Coastal area Package jointly with Conwy County Borough Council. This will be the fourth submission for the Package area.

The Assembly in the three past settlements has indicated that priority should be given to cycling and quality bus partnerships. It is proposed to include in the August bid the following schemes:-

- further development of the Rhyl Cycle Network comprising a route over the H-bridge and extending a radial route into the residential areas on the eastern fringes of Rhyl from the town centre
- cycle/pedestrian facilities at Tynewydd Road bridge, Rhyl
- links between the Prestatyn - Dyserth cycle route and the Meliden - Rhuddlan route at Allt y Craig and between the Prestatyn - Dyserth route and the National Cycle Network in Prestatyn
- cycle routes connecting Rhuddlan - Glan Clwyd Hospital - St Asaph Business Park, Rhuddlan - St Asaph, along the B5381 Glascoed Road and Gypsy Lane in Rhuddlan
- infrastructure and publicity in support of a quality bus partnership with Arriva Cymru for services 50/51/52 between Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan and St Asaph
- a new pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Elwy in St Asaph.
- develop detailed designs for the Cefndy Employment Park access road

**Safe Routes to Schools**

A bid will be made for the next phase of the Rhyl Safer Routs to Schools initiative. This will be for measures identified to improve pedestrian routes to and from Ysgol Llywelyn.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

It is intended that the works bid for will be funded by the National Assembly. A financial contribution will also be sought from the WDA for the cycle routes to St Asaph Business Park.

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The Council's new Capital Schemes Monitoring Process will help ensure costs are kept within approved funding available and that any future revenue implications are identified.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Proposed bids have been the subject of separate consultation exercises over the past three years.

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

There are no significant implications for other policy areas.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

That Members approve the Transport Grant submissions outlined in the report for the River Clwyd Coastal Area Package and Safer Routes to Schools initiatives in Rhyl.

## Agenda Item No: 15

### REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor D M Morris, Lead Member for the Environment

**DATE:** 31 July 2001

**SUBJECT:** Food Safety Technical Officer

#### 1. Decision Sought

- 1.1 Members agree to the appointment of a Food Safety Technical Officer to carry out inspections and investigations undertaken by the Public Protection Section.
- 1.2 Members agree that further funding be allocated to the food sampling programme in order to ensure that the Authority achieve a sampling target of 2 samples per 1000 population.

#### 2. Reason for the Decision

- 2.1 Additional funding has been provided by the Welsh Assembly to local authorities for food law enforcement. The main aim of the funding allows local authorities to further improve their law enforcement performance.
- 2.2 The funding is some £30,000 each year for food standards and safety enforcement.
- 2.3 Members may recall that because of staff vacancies not being filled last year the Authority had to engage the services of outside consultants between January and March of this year in order to ensure that food safety inspections reached a reasonable level. Three Food Safety Officers have now been appointed which brings the Authority's Food Safety Section back up to it's original strength.
- 2.4 It is proposed that an additional officer be appointed to assist in the duties of inspection, sampling and investigation of Food Safety issues. The postholder will carry out food inspections to low risk premises; maintain the food register; and assist in the investigation of food poisoning outbreaks and food complaints. This will allow more experienced officers to concentrate on the higher risk category premises and mean that the Authority's performance targets are met and increased thus complying with the aims of the Welsh Assembly.
- 2.5 Should Members approve the new post then the suitable applicant will be trained to the standard set out in the job description and then in future years will receive further training to develop their professional qualifications.
- 2.6 In 1996 the sampling budget for Public Protection was in excess of £12000. Since then with the financial restraints placed upon the department the budget has been reduced to £4500. The target figure recommended by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture is 2.5 samples per 1000 population. The proposal is that part of the funding is used to supplement the Authority's sampling programme by £8000 which will allow officers to carry out a sampling programme to achieve 2 samples per 1000 population.

#### 3. Cost Implications

- 3.1 The proposed post has been evaluated at Scale 5 but this is with the qualifications detailed in the attached job description. It is envisaged that the successful applicant would commence on a salary scale lower than evaluated and would have to obtain the appropriate qualifications before moving onto Scale 5.
- 3.2 The additional funding for the post, training and the increase in sampling would be met by the additional funding which has been allocated within the Public Protection budget.

3.3 Costs would be as follows:-

Scale 4 appointment	£14000
On Costs	£ 4000
Training and other expenses	£ 2000
Sampling	£ 8000

The remaining £2000 would be used to improve the protective clothing and equipment used by the Food Safety Section.

**4. Financial Controller Statement**

The costs of the proposal are to be contained within the base budget.

**5. Consultation carried out**

Lead Cabinet Member for Finance  
Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment  
Financial Controller  
DCC Food Safety Group

The above consultees support this application.

**6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

Health Plan/ Health Alliance  
Best Value Performance Indicators

**7. Recommendations**

**7.1 That the proposed post of Food safety Technical Officer be approved**

**7.2 That the recommendation to increase the food sampling budget be approved**



**CABINET MEMBER COUNCILLOR A E ROBERTS**

**DATE** 31 July 2001

**SUBJECT** Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000 & Carers Special Grant 2001-2002

**1. Decision Sought**

1.1 To approve the Social Services Department's plan to implement the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000, and in particular interim Eligibility Criteria for Carers Services.

1.2 To support the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2001 - 2002.

**2. Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 is a key part of the Government's Strategy to improve the long term health and well being of carers and those for whom they care. The Act came into force in Wales on July 1st 2001 (this date was brought forward from August 1st at short notice by the National Assembly).

2.2 The Act introduces a new right to a Carer's Assessment, which is not dependent on whether the person cared for has co-operated with an assessment and / or refused the provision of services; gives local authorities the power to provide certain services direct to carers (e.g., help in the home, household equipment, etc.) and gives local authorities the power to make direct payments to carers for the services they are assessed as needing.

2.3 Denbighshire Social Services has convened a planning group to implement the Act consisting of the Planning Manager, Team Managers, Social Workers, an OT and representative from the voluntary sector (Carers' Project). This group will refine and develop: carers assessment documentation; eligibility criteria for carers services; referral protocols; charging policy for carers services; direct payments for carers services and public information. There will be full training for staff on the Act and its implications during July. It was not appropriate to train staff earlier as the National Assembly was substantially re-writing the guidance to local authorities following a consultation exercise earlier in the year. (Revised guidance has only just been received and this is still marked draft. The National Assembly is, however, recommending that training can now commence).

2.4 Interim guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Carers Services has been designed (Appendix 1) and these will be piloted over the next few months. These criteria will need to be refined in the light of experience in using them, consultation with carers and other interested parties and further guidance from the National Assembly.

2.5 As a further part of its Strategy for carers, the National Assembly has made available a Carers' Special Grant which is initially for three years. In the first year (2000 - 2001), the grant was specifically for breaks services for carers. In the second year (2001 - 2002), the grant can be used more flexibly and can include Carers Services under the new Act.

2.6 Denbighshire has been invited by the National Assembly to submit a plan for the second year, by the 1st August, setting out the additional services they wish to provide by utilising the grant in 2001 - 2002. The plan (Appendix 2) consolidates the plan submitted and agreed by the National Assembly last year by recommending:

- continued funding of the breaks services commenced last year;

- funding of new breaks services for those caring for people with dementia; those caring for people with Multiple Sclerosis and those caring for people with mental health problems in the South of the County;
- additional support in the plan for young carers; and
- provision for Carers Services under the new Act.

### **3. Cost Implications**

- 3.1 Carers Services are new services and will have cost implications. However, the plan is to fully fund these from the Carers Special Grant. There will be further work to consider the introduction of a charging policy for carers' services (which is allowed for under the Act). A further report will be presented once the cost implications are clearer.

### **4. Financial Controller Statement**

It will be necessary to ensure that all additional costs from the proposals can be contained within the new funding available. Regular reporting of the position will be helpful.

### **5. Consultation Carried Out**

- 5.1 The intention is to implement the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 using the interim eligibility criteria set out in Appendix 1. Over the next few months, there will be consultation with carers, social services staff and other interested parties, including Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee, on all key aspects of implementation.
- 5.2 The Carers Grant Plan 2001 - 2002 has been the subject of extensive consultation and joint working including with carers, the Local Health Group, the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, NCH Action for Children (Young Carers Project), Rhuddlan District Crossroads, South Denbighshire Crossroads, the County Forum for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Handicap), the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, Vale of Clwyd MIND, the Carers Project and Age Concern. Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee commented on the Carers Grant Plan for 2000 - 2001.

### **6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

Corporate policy impacts include:

- Social Inclusion - the report recognises the role of carers and promotes social inclusion, e.g., by the provision of breaks services.
- Health Promotion - the report promotes the health of carers by the provision of support and services.

### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation is that Cabinet:

- approves the Social Services Department's plan to implement the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000, and in particular interim Eligibility Criteria for Carers Services.
- supports the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2001 - 2002, which will be submitted to the National Assembly for approval.

### Denbighshire Social Services - Interim Eligibility Criteria for Carers' Services under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

The following Eligibility Criteria for carers' services will be refined over time in the light of experience, the publication of Fair Access to Care Guidance by the National Assembly and consultation with carers and other interested parties.

*Much of the support which carers need can be provided through the provisions of the Community Care legislation and, in most cases, the preferred option will be to deliver services as community care services, where possible. These services will be subject to the Charging Policy in the usual way.*

*Separate carers' service/s may be provided where:*

- *there is clear evidence that the carer's ability to continue caring is at risk; or*
- *there is clear evidence that the health & well being of the carer is at risk; or*
- *the carer has other caring responsibilities and there is clear evidence that the health and well being of these other family members, e.g., children, may be at risk; or*
- *the carer is unable to seek employment or the carer's current employment is at risk;*

*and the provision of community care services has not removed the need. Those undertaking assessments will also have fully explored other ways of meeting the need and these will be documented for Panel.*

*Separate carers' services may also be provided where the cared for person is refusing the provision of community care services. In these instances, the equivalent level of service that would have been provided to the cared for person, may be provided to the carer in the form of a carer's service/s. This is so that the carer can undertake tasks that would have been provided as a community care service/s.*

**Initially, all requests for carers' services under these criteria will be considered by the Community Care Panel.** Social Workers may bring to the attention of the Panel any other situations where they consider that the provision of a carer's service is required. This will inform further refinement of the criteria.

**Carer's Grant in Denbighshire 2001 - 2002, Summary of Proposals**

**Appendix 2**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Key Features</b>	<b>Amount Allocated £</b>
<b>1.</b> Grant Aid to Rhuddlan District Crossroads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a service to 10 new carers.</li> <li>• Provide an evening and weekend service.</li> <li>• If more limited take up, provide additional services to some existing clients.</li> </ul>	29,386
<b>2.</b> Grant Aid to South Denbighshire Crossroads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a service to 7 new carers.</li> <li>• Provide an overnight break for 17 carers, 4 times per annum.</li> <li>• Provide a weekend / 48 hour break for 7 clients, 2 times per annum.</li> <li>• If more limited take up, provide additional services to some existing clients.</li> </ul>	19,125
<b>3.</b> Additional Funding for the Community Link House (Denbigh) for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Handicap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional respite care for carers who have been assessed as needing an additional service (currently the Link house is restricted to 4 weeks per person per year).</li> </ul>	5,150
<b>4.</b> Grant Aid to NCH Action for Children Young Carers Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with the provision of transport to enable young carers to attend their local group anywhere in the County, and in particular the South of the County where the rural nature of the area has restricted access to the service for some young carers.</li> <li>• Increase the range of outings / activities provided to young carers in the hope that, by providing a wider range of activities, each young carer will have the opportunity to take advantage of a break from their role.</li> </ul>	5,150
<b>5.</b> Additional Funding for the Social Services Children with Disabilities Team to provide Breaks for Parent Carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a project work service to 15 families who have been assessed as requiring project work, but have not had a project worker allocated.</li> <li>• Provide family based respite care for 10 children who are currently difficult to place.</li> <li>• Provide additional project work service for up to 10 families.</li> <li>• Provide additional residential respite care.</li> </ul>	14,461

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Key Features</b>	<b>Amount Allocated £</b>
<p><b>6.</b> Block Book beds in two Residential Homes for Older People for Respite..</p> <p>Introduce a Flat Rate Charge for Respite Care in Residential Homes, promoting a carer friendly scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme will enable carers to plan the respite they need (currently it is difficult to book respite care in advance).</li> <li>• Carers will be given an allocation of respite, e.g., one week in every ten, depending on their needs.</li> <li>• Carers will be able to arrange the respite directly with the residential home.</li> <li>• A flat rate of £45 per week would be charged.</li> </ul>	20,600
<b>7.</b> Grant Aid to Vale of Clwyd MIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a flexible range of structured social opportunities for people with a serious mental illness which have the effect of providing a break for the carer (North Denbighshire, Denbigh and Ruthin areas).</li> </ul>	20,293
<b>8.</b> Provide additional support to those caring for a person with a mental illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a flexible range of structured social opportunities for people with a serious mental illness which have the effect of providing a break for the carer (Llangollen area).</li> <li>• Further develop the role of the Family Support Co-ordinator (Dolen Project)</li> </ul>	4,569
<b>9.</b> Grant Aid to Alzheimer's Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a day care service for young people with dementia on one day per week, thus providing a break for carers.</li> </ul>	5,000 or 10,000 depending on contribution from Health.
<b>10.</b> Grant Aid to NCH Action for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint a Young Carers Forum Development Worker for period 1.9.01 - 31.3.02.</li> </ul>	5,000
<b>11.</b> Grant Aid to Multiple Sclerosis Support Centre, Saltney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for 16 people with MS from Denbighshire 5 hours per week, thus enabling their carers to take a break. To provide carer activities during this time. To provide some transport to the Centre.</li> </ul>	8,648
<b>12.</b> To provide Carers Services under the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carers Services are not defined under the Act, but can be any services which enable a carer to continue caring and / or promote their health and well being, e.g., help in the home for a carer who devotes most of their time to personal care.</li> <li>• Services to be provided following individual assessment and using Eligibility Criteria for Carers Services.</li> </ul>	Underspend

## Notes

- Proposals 1 - 7 are a continuation of the Carers Grant Plan 2000 - 2001 approved by the National Assembly.
- Proposals 8 - 12 are new proposals, not previously approved by the National Assembly.
- Funds available = £86,600 carry forward from 2000 - 2001 (approved by National Assembly) + £137,382 (new grant to be approved by National Assembly)
- All projects funded are subject to specific Service Level Agreements with the Local Authority and are also subject to Monitoring and Evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the National Assembly.

**CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services****DATE: 31 July 2001****SUBJECT: Housing Options Working Party****1 Decision Sought**

- (i) To establish a process to give guidance on the Council's position on valuation issues, capital receipt and management costs.
- (ii) To confirm continuing funding for the investigation of Housing Options.

**2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

- 2.1 The Housing Options Working Party is considering the future options for the Council's housing stock. The Council has agreed to informal consultation with all tenants before a decision is taken on whether to proceed to a formal ballot of tenants on the preferred option of Stock Transfer to a Community Ownership Housing Organisation to be known as Dyffryn Community Housing. The first of a series of newsletters was delivered to all tenants in early July, a freephone inquiry line has been established, a series of meetings will be arranged for tenants in September/October and there will be home visits and other contacts to explain the proposals as they are developed. A full report will then be brought to Cabinet and Council on the outcome of the informal consultation to decide whether to proceed to ballot.
- 2.2 In developing the detailed proposals there are a number of issues which affect the future structure and service delivery for Dyffryn Community Housing but there are other issues for the Council and for the relationship between the two bodies. In particular the valuation of the stock for transfer is assessed at "Tenanted Market Value" which is a special method of valuation taking account of future investment requirements and rental income. Much of the process is set by the valuation method itself but there are significant factors on service delivery levels and rentals which affect the outcome and will be a matter of negotiation.
- 2.3 Advice has been received from the Legal Consultants on the way such issues should be considered and at some stage there needs to be clear separation between Members and officers involved on behalf of Denbighshire and/or Dyffryn - this has been taken into account in nominations to the Shadow Board of Dyffryn. In the meantime the Working Party is considering both interests but has now agreed to seek the guidance of the Council regarding the level of receipt required for the Council to be able to progress with any transfer and its objectives and priorities in respect of rents and service levels/management costs.
- 2.4 Funding for the process of considering Housing Options is provided from the Housing Capital Budget and is supported 50% by the National Assembly through a Special Credit Approval (SCA). Costs in 2000/2001 were lower than expected due the delays in the process and amounted to £82,445, the National Assembly approved the use of the remainder of their SCA on general Housing Capital improvements. A further SCA of £100,000 has been received to cover 50% of the costs in 2001/2002 and this is expected to cover expenditure up to and including any ballot as well as the continuing cost of employing consultants and temporary staff.

### **3 Cost Implications**

The issue of valuation is critical to the process to establish Dyffryn Community Housing on a stable footing and provide the Council with a fairly calculated capital receipt taking into account the existing Housing debt. There are a number of future implications for the Council General Fund even after the closure of the Housing Revenue Account.

### **4 Financial Controller Statement**

The main thrust of the proposed stock transfer has always been the need to address the increasing backlog of repairs to the properties. This backlog cannot be tackled under the current regulations and is in danger of getting worse.

Work will need to commence shortly on agreeing a reasonable level for the valuation of the Housing stock to be included in the transfer calculations.

### **5 Consultation Carried Out**

The Housing Options Working Party involves Members and Tenants. All 4200 tenants have recently received the first newsletter as part of informal consultation.

### **6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

Stock Transfer will have major implications for many areas of the Council including Community Governance and the Recovery Plan.

### **7 Recommendation**

- (i) That further reports be presented with the support of the Corporate Director of Resources to establish the Council's position on Valuation, Capital Receipt, Rents and Service Delivery issues consequent on any transfer of the Council's Housing Stock
- (ii) That funding for the investigation of Housing Options for Consultants and temporary staff continue within the limits set in the Housing Capital budget.



**CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A E Roberts**

**DATE: 31 July 2001**

**SUBJECT: Social Services Business Plan / Social Care Plan 2001 - 2004**

**1. Decision Sought**

1.1 To approve the Social Care Plan / Business Plan 2001 - 2004.

**2. Reason for Seeking Decision**

2.1 The production of this plan is required under the NHS and Community Care Act 1990. The National Assembly has recently published revised guidance on the production of this statutory plan.

2.2 The plan is a key document setting out the strategic direction for the Social Services Department. The plan is intended to assist the Cabinet in its understanding of the complex issues which affect services. The plan is also an important element of the Department's preparation for the Joint Review in 2002.

**3. Cost Implications**

3.1 The plan contains information on the distribution of the social services budget and information on financial performance.

3.2 The plan make an assumption of 3% reductions for next year, although the Council is yet to finalise the budget strategy for 2002 - 2003. The financial summary shows a projected outturn of £299,524 over for 2001 - 2002. Remedial actions have commenced in order to secure a balanced budget by year end.

**4. Financial Controller Statement**

The pressures and financial assumptions within the Plan will be tested as part of the 2002/03 Budget Setting Process through a series of meetings due to commence week beginning 23rd July

**5. Consultation Carried Out**

5.1 Section 7 of the plan which details the important partnerships that have contributed to producing the plan and in particular joint working with:

- service users and carers
- health services
- housing services
- education
- the voluntary sector
- the independent / private sector
- other local authorities, particularly in North Wales

- 5.2 A commitment to further strengthening joint planning and consultation arrangements is a key issue referred to in the plan. The plan makes it clear that a fundamental review of planning arrangements is underway.
- 5.3 The full plan which has currently been made available to Cabinet Members only will further assist consultation and joint working. A user friendly summary is in the process of being produced and will be made available to all County Council Members.
- 6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**
- 6.1 The plan illustrates the Social Services Department's commitment to the corporate Business Planning process.
- 6.2 The plan has been designed in a Best Value format and this is why "inputs", outputs" and "outcomes" are identified. The plan will form the basis of the Department's Performance Management Framework.
- 6.3 The plan details the corporate policy impacts arising from individual service plans.
- 7. Recommendation**
- 7.1 That Cabinet approve the Social Services Business Plan / Social Care Plan 2001 - 2004.

APPENDIX NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM