

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Thursday 13 September 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 K.E. Wells.

Observers: Councillors S. Drew and M.LI. Davies

APOLOGIES: Councillor E.W. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

Acting Chief Executive, Corporate Director of Resources, Financial Controller and the County Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Leader referred to the recent tragedy in the United States of America where a great many lives had been lost and asked that Members stand in sympathy.

555. 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) Verbal Update on the Recruitment of the Corporate Director for Personal Services by the Acting Chief Executive, and
- (ii) Foot and Mouth Controls - to be taken as Agenda Item 13.

556. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 30 August 2001 [previously circulated] were submitted.

Matters Arising:

Item 6 Wales European Centre Annual Subscription: The Leader said the Financial Controller and Head of Economic Regeneration would report back to Cabinet.

Item 8 Representation on the Court of the University of Wales: Councillor G.M. Kensler, on behalf of Councillor E.W. Williams, asked that the last line be amended to read "Councillor E.W. Williams suggested that Council representation on the Court should be structured on a political balance".

Item 14 Partnerships with Health: The Leader said the Resolution be amended to read "that Members agree that Cabinet ask the Social Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee to assist in developing policies related to strategic partnerships with Health Services and that there be a report back to Cabinet in 3 months".

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked that the compatibility of ICT systems be examined.

Item 19 North Wales Indoor Athletics Facility: Councillor E.A. Owens, as a governor of Rhyl High School, had declared an interest in the item.

RESOLVED that subject to the above the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 August 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

557. RECRUITMENT

The Leader, Councillor E.C. Edwards submitted the following applications for approval:

- i Sc 2 Archives Assistant: Lifelong Learning Directorate ~ Cultural Services. Councillor I.M. German asked why the internal candidate had not been appointed. The Acting Chief Executive reminded Members of the need to appoint the best person for the job and it was considered as a general rule necessary to have more than one candidate to interview. However, the internal candidate would be considered along with external candidates.
- ii PO2 Planning Officer: Personal Services ~ Planning Team.

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

- iii Recruitment of Corporate Director for Personal Services:

The Head of Client Services declared an interest and left the room.

The Acting Chief Executive gave a verbal report to Members on the situation regarding the recruitment of the Corporate Director for Personal Services. Applications had been received by the Recruitment Consultants but some did not meet the person specification. It was proposed that Riley Consulting attend the Cabinet meeting on 25.09.2001 to draw up a shortlist. The candidate assessment would be held on 09.10.2001 and the formal interview with all Members on 10.10.2001.

RESOLVED accordingly.

558. APPOINTMENT OF WLGA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME BOARD

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' agreement to the nomination of a Labour Member for consideration by the WLGA to represent them on the Public Private Partnership Programme Board [4Ps]. The Leader said the vacancy is amongst the appointments made by the Labour Group.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked that her vote against the resolution.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the Labour Group nominate a Labour Member for consideration by the WLGA to represent them on the Public Private Partnership Programme Board [4Ps].

559. PROCESS LEADING TO THE REGENERATION STRATEGY FOR RHYL

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' support for the process developed leading to the preparation and implementation of a strategy for Rhyl and in particular the process of consultation leading to the formation of a vision for the future of the town.

Both Councillor R.W. Hughes and Councillor E.A. Owens congratulated the Leader and Corporate Director for the Environment and staff on the report and the opportunity given to consider the area in and around Rhyl and for the sensitivity used in the approach.

RESOLVED that Members supported the process being adopted to the development of a regeneration strategy for Rhyl and the involvement of Rhyl Councillors in the process.

560. DENBIGHSHIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval to proposed changes in the maximum grant levels and delegated levels for the range of business support measures offered by the County Council as detailed in Appendix 1 attached

to the report. Councillor Edwards referred to a misprint in the third paragraph in the reasons for seeking the decision, the maximum BDG should be restricted to £15k.

Councillor G.M. Kensler enquired whether Members could be given details of the applicants. The Head of Economic Regeneration said Local Members could only be given details of successful applicants as the material considered was confidential. Councillor W.R. Webb said successful applicants would have met the set criteria therefore Members would not need to know their identity. The Acting Chief Executive said some commercial enterprises would not wish their applications to be made public knowledge.

RESOLVED that Members approved the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

561. LOCAL MEMBERS' NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report [previously circulated] for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located. Councillor Wells referred to Ysgol y Llys, Prestatyn and said the Clerk to the Governors had proposed criteria for selection of a Governor for Ysgol y Llys, namely a Welsh speaker, a County Councillor and someone with financial acumen to ensure a better balance of representation. Mr. W.R. Evans met the criteria and was the preferred nomination.

Discussion followed on whether the criteria set was national policy. The County Clerk said the National Assembly of Wales had issued guidelines for a balanced body of governors but the specific needs would vary from school to school, therefore no general rule was being created by the acceptance of the school's criteria.

Mr. W.R. Evans was approved as the nomination for Ysgol y Llys, Prestatyn.

RESOLVED that the LEA Governor appointments be approved as listed, subject to the above.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader welcomed students from Italy to the meeting and asked Councillor R.W. Hughes to introduce the group to Members. Councillor R.W. Hughes, as Chair of ECTARC welcomed the students to a meeting of the Cabinet and said part of their three week stay would be spent looking at the transition from school to work and how Local Government works.

562. GCAT2 AGREEMENT

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' approval for Denbighshire County Council to sign up to the GCAT2 collaborative procurement agreement.

The current GCAT arrangements was due to expire at the end of September 2001, having run its 5 year term. With over 900 individual public sector organisations registered to use GCAT, procurement costs are reduced. By registering for the GCAT 2 Agreement, Denbighshire would be able to make full use of the e-catalogue of suppliers' entries.

RESOLVED that Members agreed to Denbighshire County Council sign up to the new GCAT2 contract.

563. DRAFT CULTURE AND LEISURE STRATEGY

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' consideration of the Draft Culture and Leisure Strategy and agreement of the Strategy in principle subject to any amendments from the consultation process. Councillor Hughes said that many organisations had been consulted, for example Town and Community Councils and Voluntary Organisations and the document would be available to the public

in all of the County's Libraries. Many positive comments had been received on the Draft Strategy and it had also been well received by the Scrutiny Committee earlier in the week.

Councillor D.M. Holder asked whether a steering committee would be formed for the future to monitor the Strategy. The Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure said the performance management framework would monitor the strategy to see whether the targets set were being met. Councillor G.M. Kensler said that whilst the vision for culture and leisure was there, the funding of the arts in particular was atrocious when compared to Europe.

Councillor E.A. Owens congratulated Councillor R.W. Hughes and the officers for the recent conference at Llangollen and the resultant Draft Strategy. She agreed funding would be an issue as there was no scope for the unstructured use of funds. The Draft Strategy would contribute to the well being of people, helping to ensure social inclusion for all.

Councillor D.M. Morris spoke to the students and said there were archaeological remains of Roman baths in Denbighshire and hoped that the Italian group would have an opportunity to visit.

RESOLVED that Members agreed in principle the Draft Culture and Leisure Strategy subject to any amendments from the consultation process, as an overarching document that guides the service plans of the County Council and the work of its partners.

564. A494 PWLLGLAS: TEMPORARY TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report [previously circulated] to advise Members of the current situation with regard to the temporary traffic lights on the A494 trunk road at Pwllglas, erected in the interests of safety following the floods in November 2000. Conwy County Borough Council, on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales under the terms of the North East Wales Trunk Road Partnership, are expected to complete the designing of the new retaining wall and once contract procurement has been agreed work should commence on the site in November 2001.

Councillor W.R. Webb said the public should be kept informed of the reasons for the delay and the progress made to date. Councillor Webb also queried whether the North East Wales Trunk Road Partnership was working and the cost to the Authority. The Director of the Environment said officers were aware of the difficulties and work had had to be prioritised after the floods. The future of trunk roads was under review and there would be scope to enter into discussions with partners to improve the level of service. Councillor K.E. Wells said in some instances, communication with the public was lacking and the Authority should keep the public informed of the situation. Councillor D.M. Morris said the PR had been excellent but the press will not always print.

RESOLVED that Members note the report.

565. DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL [OFF STREET PARKING PLACES] [AMENDMENT] ORDER 2001

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report [previously circulated] seeking Members' authority to make and implement, at an appropriate time, the Off Street Parking Places [Amendment] Order 2001. The Order was required to amend the Rhuddlan Borough Council [Off Street Parking Places] Order 1992 by closure of the parking place specified as Greenfield Place, Rhyl in the schedule to the 1992 Order. It was a condition of the present contract for the sale of Greenfield Place that the 1992 Order was amended prior to the completion of the sale.

RESOLVED that Council make and implement the present proposed Order at an appropriate stage within the timescale for the sale of Greenfield Place.

566. POLICY AGREEMENTS

The Corporate Director of Resources submitted the report [previously circulated] seeking Members agreement to a response to the Draft Protocol for Evaluating Performance and agreement to the response on Fundamental Themes contained in the Policy Agreement. The report had been

considered by Scrutiny Committees and work was in hand to gather the information on the funding required for delivery of the policy agreements with a report back to the next Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:

- i the Draft Protocol on Evaluating Performance, and*
- ii the Fundamental Themes section as contained in the Policy Agreement.*

567. FOOT AND MOUTH CONTROLS

[This item was considered as a matter of urgency, notice having been given by the Leader.]

Councillor D.M. Morris presented the report [circulated at the meeting] seeking Members' confirmation of the actions taken by the Director of the Environment with regard to the new duties in relation to the Foot and Mouth Licensing imposed upon Local Authorities by the Welsh Assembly and DEFRA which would commence on 17.09.2001. All licensing duties would be assigned to Local Authorities and Members were being asked to approve the employment of 4 temporary staff until the end of March 2002 at an approximate cost of £45,000. The National Assembly for Wales and DEFRA have stated that reasonable costs for employment of extra staff will be met by them.

Councillor E.A. Owens said a clear understanding of reasonable costs was required and it would be essential to be able to terminate the temporary contracts when required. Cabinet would require maximum notice if the contingency fund was affected.

Councillor A.E. Roberts queried whether it would be feasible to train new staff over a weekend. The Public Protection Manager said it was hoped to recruit people with previous knowledge of licensing procedures and the farming community.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:

- [i] in view of the very tight timetable and the constant alteration of DEFRA's and the National Assembly for Wales' positions, the Environment Director and the Public Protection Manager proceed in the allocation of accommodation, staff appointments and equipment procurement*
- [ii] the Public Protection Manager pursue DEFRA to install access to the relevant databases and ensure that the newly appointed staff are trained over the weekend of 15 and 16 September 2001 to ensure they are capable of delivering an efficient licensing service as from 17 September 2001*
- [iii] should Foot and Mouth controls be extended beyond 31 March 2002, the contract of the present appointees be reviewed in March 2002 with a view to extension to a later date.*

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.
