

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Tuesday 23 October 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers: Councillor M.LI. Davies, S. Drew and W.G. Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

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

728. 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) recruitment - SO2 People in Communities Co-ordinator, Personal Services - Item 4vi;
- (ii) verbal update on Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn - Item 12;
- (iii) presentation by Audit Commission - Item deferred, and
- (iv) Part II - Appendix 2 for Item 15

729. PRESENTATION BY AUDIT COMMISSION - "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE"

Item deferred pending consideration of Partnership Council Best Value Review.

730. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 11 October 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 October 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

731. RECRUITMENT

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

- (4) PO 3 Support Services Manager - Resources Directorate: Revenues;
- (ii) Sc 2 Resident Warden, St Asaph - Personal Services: Housing Services - Permanent Full Time Post;
- (iii) Sc 5 Assistant Tourism Officer - Environment: Economic Regeneration;
- (iv) SO 1 Tourism Officer - Environment: Economic Regeneration;
- (v) Sc 4 - SO1 Planning Officer - Environment: Planning, and
- (vi) SO2 People in Communities Co-ordinator - Personal Services.

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

732. FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to new grant processes in order to give effect to the second tranche of financial assistance which had been provided to the Authority to disperse to businesses affected by the foot and mouth outbreak.

Members discussed the Appendices to the report, in particular:-

Appendix A: Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance said small businesses, for example, farm bed and breakfast establishments, should be encouraged to claim.

Appendix B - the Head of Economic Regeneration detailed for Members the European Grant Aid Rules where a maximum of £60k only can be awarded to any particular company over 3 years.

Appendix C - The Acting Chief Executive suggested that the e-marketing project should be extended to include St Asaph and Rhuddlan in due course. Town Councils should be invited to participate in seeking to develop this approach. Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said ECTARC could help with the web translation.

Appendix D - Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance welcomed the small grants scheme. Councillor W.R. Webb suggested that groups could find it difficult to fund 50% of the overall costs for Christmas activities and asked Members to consider groups funding only 25% of the match funding requirement and the County funding 75%. The Director of Resources agreed that small groups could be asked to fund 25% of the overall costs for Christmas activities.

Appendix E - Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for Welsh Language asked how the maximum of 15 companies would be targeted. The Head of Economic Regeneration said that grant scheme would be publicly advertised and the management of the scheme would rest with the Denbighshire Enterprise Agency as the Council's agent.

Appendix F - a general discussion followed on the Hedgerow Restoration Scheme and the plight of farmers was sympathetically overviewed by Members, the majority of whom felt that the scheme would benefit the rural environment and would provide an incentive to farmers in a difficult period.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value queried the recommendation at 7.3 in the report. Members agreed the same procedure as previously followed would be used to determine the recommendations, and a report from the panel recommending awards would be placed before Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) *approve the forms of grant as detailed in the report and Appendix A, with groups applying for the Small Grant Scheme at Appendix D being asked to fund only 25% of the overall cost;*
- (b) *agreed the evaluation be managed by the Corporate Director of Resources with the Head of Economic Regeneration, and*
- (c) *agreed their recommendation should be placed before a panel of the Cabinet to consist of the Leader, the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism and Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, and thereafter to the full Cabinet.*

733. REVENUE BUDGET 2001/2002

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of the current budget pressures. Councillor Owens detailed the Lifelong Learning, Personal Services and Environment budget performance. Lifelong Learning showed an overspend of £36k which would need to be resolved before the year end. The Environment Directorate Planning Services showed a small overspend and the figures for the

Directorate would be reviewed to ensure the £19k variance is fully costed. Personal Services was showing an upward trend but this again would be kept under review.

Councillor Owens informed Members that whilst interest rates were low, £50k would be moved from the capital to revenue budget. However, the low interest rate would be unlikely to continue.

The Acting Chief Executive suggested a revenue budget report for the Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Department should also be included in future reports.

RESOLVED that Members noted the figures in the Appendices attached to the report. Members agreed that both the Resources Directorate and Chief Executive's Department provide budget reports.

734. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

(Councillor R.W. Hughes and Councillor A.E. Roberts declared an interest in the item).

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to provide alternative resources to enable quality applicants to the Council's Strategic Development Scheme to be allocated funding.

Councillor Owens said a number of quality applications had been received and the sum of £31,756 revenue funding would be added to the unused £23,794 allocated to enable those applications to be taken forward, making a total provision of £55,550. The Head of Economic Regeneration said a complete list of applications would be provided for Cabinet at a later date.

RESOLVED that Members approved the sum of £31,756 be allocated for this year to top up the Strategic Development Scheme.

735. PROJECT 11, 6 GORDON AVENUE, RHYL

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to submit an application for planning approval for a change of use from a homeless hostel to educational use.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value queried the possible expenditure of money on an application which could be refused. Councillor Webb said the report only sought approval to submit an application for planning permission and that views of objectors, if any, would be taken into consideration at that stage.

RESOLVED that Members approved Council seek planning approval for the change of use of the homeless hostel into a building for the provision of education.

736. ADOPTION OF OPEN SPACES RESULTING FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to adopt open spaces required by Planning Conditions imposed by the Council in respect of approved housing development and to allocate sufficient revenue budget to maintain the adopted open spaces together with play equipment erected thereon, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that :-

- (a) current open space and play areas which have been required through Planning Conditions be adopted in accordance with the requirements set through the Planning Process;
- (b) adequate revenue budget funding be provided to cover the maintenance of these sites;
- (c) until the formal publication of the new Unitary Plan a Policy is developed to ensure that the interests of Denbighshire County Council are met and that the adoption procedure is undertaken with the minimum of delay, and

(ch) *until the Unitary Plan comes into force, the adoption of either open space or play provision is formally agreed and undertaken at the initial Planning Stage and adequate budgetary provision either through seeking commuted sums (if it is a new development) or by identifying revenue implications which will be required upon completion of the development (if it is a development which has previously had Planning Permission but without final detail).*

737. RUTHIN WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to negotiate with the existing service provider for the management of Ruthin Transfer Station to extend the contract for a further 12 months.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance asked whether a figure was available for the extra cost. The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services said costs would be in line with inflation.

RESOLVED *that Members agreed to proceed to negotiate with the existing service provider for the management of the Ruthin Waste Transfer Station to extend the contract for a further 12 months from the 1 December 2001 in line with the terms contained within the existing contract.*

738. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND BEST VALUE - PROGRESS REPORT

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the implementation of the DCC Performance Management Framework by April 2002 and the improvement of performance information and systems becomes a priority for Members and officers. Councillor Williams said District Audit had praised Denbighshire for the way the Performance Plan had been addressed. He wished to congratulate the Best Value staff for their work. Councillor Williams drew Members' attention to Appendix 3 and said individual audits of the systems may not be completed by 30 October 2001.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance asked for maximum notice of the proposed Best Value training for Members due to be held in December.

RESOLVED *that Members agreed to ensure the Authority's performance management framework is successfully implemented and performance information and systems are improved.*

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

739. MELYD AVENUE, PRESTATYN

The Leader, Councillor E.C. Edwards referred to a letter from Ann Jones AM, dated 22.10.2001 regarding the Roman baths within the development at Melyd Avenue Prestatyn. The Leader reminded Members that the Authority owned the site where the Roman remains were sited and a right of way to the remains existed. The Leader also referred to a letter sent by Sue Essex AM, the Minister for the Environment to Ann Jones, AM which referred to the feasibility of revoking a planning consent issued in 1980.

The County Clerk said correspondence had been received from developers of the site regarding the curtailment of access to the Roman remains during the period of the development. Members discussed the problems with access to the site.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said both CADW and CCW could provide funding but the grant amounts would be small. The Heritage Lottery Fund would not fund the purchase of any site to enable its protection. Councillor Hughes suggested Members and officers should meet with local residents. Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment agreed a meeting with representatives of local residents was desirable and said protection of the environment around the site was essential. Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language suggested if the proposed meeting took place, Ann Jones AM

should be invited. Councillor Kensler also suggested that the National Assembly of Wales and the WLGA should be asked to consider a change in the legislation in respect of certain aspects of planning matters. The Head of Planning agreed that Cabinet could write to the National Assembly for Wales seeking changes to planning laws.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance referred to the figures mentioned in Ann Jones' letter and suggested the Authority ask for clarification on the subject.

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources agreed a meeting between representatives of the residents of Melyd Avenue, Members and officers was required and asked that all local Members be invited.

Members discussed the closure of the site at the end of the working day on a temporary basis and agreed to defer the matter until the meeting with representatives of local residents had taken place.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:-

- (a) a meeting with representatives of the residents of Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn be arranged with local Members and officers;
- (b) officers to seek clarification from Ann Jones AM regarding possible funding pledges;
- (c) to defer the decision on temporary closure of the Roman remains site at the end of the working day until after the meeting with representatives of the residents of Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn had taken place, and
- (ch) that the Planning Committee be asked to consider authorising the Head of Planning Services to write to the National Assembly of Wales and the WLGA regarding changes to planning legislation in respect of commencement of development.

740. 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 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

741. SINGLE TENDER APPROVAL

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to single tender approval for Service and Systems Approval Ltd trading as "Sx3" to supply a software package for the computerisation of Local Land Charges.

RESOLVED that Members agreed Council enter into a single tender agreement with Service and Systems App(roval Ltd "Sx3" over a 5 year period.

742. CAPITAL PROGRAMME GROUP REPORT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report and appendices (previously circulated) advising Members of applications received for new capital schemes which had been considered by the Capital Programme Group (CPG). The Corporate Director of Resources discussed the new applications and progress on existing projects with Members.

Regarding the Old Chapel, Llangollen, Members queried the significant increase in costs. Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property reminded Members that agreement had previously been reached that the proposed facility at the Old Chapel, Llangollen would be open to the public at Easter 2002. Members agreed a report be produced for the next Cabinet meeting on the reasons for the escalation in costs and whether the facility would be open to the public by Easter 2002.

Ruthin Gaol Environmental Works - Members congratulated officers on the approval by the WDA of the application for grant aid.

Replacement Telephone System at Middle Lane Education Centre - Members agreed the replacement of the current telephone system, with ICT to ensure the system could be used elsewhere if the need arose.

RESOLVED that Members endorsed the recommendations of the Capital Programme Group subject to the above.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 p.m.
