

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the John Ambrose Theatre, Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin on Tuesday 6th November, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor E.C. Edwards (Leader) and Councillor I.M. German.

Observers: Councillor S. Drew, K. Hawkins and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Leader informed Members of the sudden death of Mr. Dilwyn Lloyd Williams, a former Denbighshire County Councillor. Members were asked to stand in silent tribute.

1 URGENT MATTERS

The Deputy 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) Item 3ii Recruitment of PO5 Principal Local Taxation Manager - Additional Item;
- (ii) Representation on Enlargement Working Group - Supplementary information to Item 4;
- (iii) Item 8 deferred, and
- (iv) Item 11A - Verbal Update on Modernisation Consultation by Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

- (i) The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 October 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Cabinet held on 9 October 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

- (ii) The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 23 October 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Item 5 Foot and Mouth Financial Assistance: Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value requested that the question he raised as to the extent of the County to benefit from the Appendix D Small Grant Scheme be noted. The Director of Resources confirmed the intention was for grants to be available for businesses throughout the County i.e. both the urban and the rural areas.

Item 8 Project 11, Gordon Avenue, Rhyl: Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language enquired when the costs would be known. The Deputy Leader said this item was only a request to go for planning approval for a change of use.

Item 12 Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn: The County Clerk updated Members on the position with regard to Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn. Members had been informed of arrangements made by Chris Ruane MP for a public meeting to be held on the evening of 9 November 2001. Members considered the position in the light of their previous decision but concluded that their own previous proposals should stand. The Acting Chief Executive reminded Members of the reasoning which led to their previous decision. Members reaffirmed their previous decision.

Item 15 Capital Programme Group Report: Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism updated Members on the Old Chapel, Llangollen and said a full report would be presented to Cabinet on 22.11.2001. Councillor Hughes gave brief details of the five options within the appraisal, some of which would have revenue implications. Costs had been estimated at £279k with £110k available in grants from various bodies which left a balance of £169k. The timescale for opening to the public would be early summer. Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance reminded Members that this item was not part of the Authority's Capital Programme and following discussion at Cabinet on 22.11.2001, should be included on the County Council Agenda for 27.11.2001. Members agreed to the inclusion of the item as above.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 October 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

3 RECRUITMENT

The Deputy Leader, Councillor W R Webb submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) Sc 3 Gallery Assistant - Lifelong Learning: Cultural Services, and
- (ii) PO5 Principal Local Taxation Manager - Resources: Local Taxation.

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

At this juncture, the Deputy Leader Councillor W.R. Webb welcomed the Head teacher and members of Ysgol Brynhyfryd 6th form to the meeting. Councillor Webb asked that both Members and officers introduce themselves to those present as each Agenda item arose.

4 WALES EUROPEAN CENTRE (WEC) SEMINAR: EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT, EXTENDING HORIZONS

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to attendance at the half day Seminar on European Enlargement, Extending Horizons on 23 November 2001 in St Asaph. After discussion it was agreed to ascertain whether there was a restriction on attendance numbers. Depending on the outcome of these enquiries it was agreed that if no attendance restriction was in force then any Member was free to attend.

RESOLVED accordingly.

5 EUROPEAN ENLARGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking nominations by the WLGA for the National Assembly's Enlargement Working Group from the Independent, Plaid Cymru or Conservative Members of the Authority.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the Independent, Plaid Cymru and Conservative Groups nominate a Member for the WLGA to further nominate for the National Assembly's Enlargement Working Group.

6 COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS IN WALES - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of arrangements for the meetings with the Commission on Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Wales on 21 November 2001 and to consider what submissions, if any, to make regarding the Commission's Terms of Reference attached to the report.

The Commission had been asked to review Local Government Electoral arrangements in Wales, and the Terms of Reference referred to making recommendations on electoral terms, procedures and number of Elected Members on Local Authorities by June 2002. Local Authorities and individual Groups / Members have been invited to submit written evidence on the issues raised.

Councillor W.R. Webb suggested an open meeting should be held to discuss the submissions. Members also agreed with Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to ascertain whether any Groups had already made submissions.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) *agreed the arrangements for the meeting with the Commission on Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Wales, and*
- (b) *agreed each political group prepare submissions regarding the Commission's Terms of Reference.*

7 CORPORATE INLAND FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Corporate Inland Flood Response Plan (October 2001) as the Authority's strategic co-ordination guide for dealing with major flooding within Denbighshire.

The Corporate Director: Environment, in response to a query from Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language, said the report was an internal document. The County Clerk reminded Members that whilst public documents have to be bilingual this was not required for internal operational documents. Councillor Kensler also asked the Corporate Director: Environment to ensure the emergency services staff were reminded that Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn was a residential school.

Councillor Kensler said 3.6.3 Main Emergency Responsibilities on page 16 should read 3.8.3

RESOLVED that subject to the above amendment Members approved the Corporate Inland Flood Response Plan (Issue 1 - September 2001) as the Council's strategic guide to coping with major flooding within Denbighshire.

8 DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POLICY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Authority's Performance Management Handbook attached to the report, which detailed the policy and financial planning framework. Members were also asked to attend a half day training session on the Authority's Performance Management Systems on 3 and 4 December 2001.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance stressed the need for all Cabinet and Scrutiny Members to read the report and asked Councillor Williams to consider making specific announcements with reference to the report and training days to ensure Members attend the training sessions. Councillor Williams reassured Councillor Owens that each Member would be made aware of Performance Management and that the Best Value Scrutiny Committee would discuss performance indicators with Scrutiny and Lead Cabinet Members.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for Welsh Language asked that the Welsh Language be included amongst the Corporate Policies within the Cross Cutting Issues.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved the Authority's draft Performance Management Handbook and programme of Member and officer training.*

9 LOCAL PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Item withdrawn.

10 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.

***RESOLVED** that the LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved as listed.*

11 SUPPORT FOR TWO PEOPLE TO BE RESETTLED FROM YSBYTY BRYN Y NEUADD

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking approval to go out to tender for the support of two people being resettled from Ysbyty Bryn y Neuadd into a Community Living Scheme in Denbighshire using the tender documents approved by Cabinet on 12 June 2001. Funding of £104,473 per annum had been approved by the National Assembly for Wales for two people to be resettled into a Denbighshire Community Living Scheme.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance drew Members' attention to the funding only being available for 2 years and in the financial year 2003/04 there was no guarantee that funding would be available. Councillor Owens reminded Members that this funding could not be automatically included as pressures in 2003/04. The Head of Strategic Planning and Support Services informed Members that the funding available from the National Assembly for Wales goes with the people being resettled and the Assembly have given a commitment to fund 2 people from Bryn y Neuadd and this was a continuation of that programme. The Head of Strategic Planning and Support Services was not aware that the funding would disappear in 2 years' time, but gave an undertaking to enquire further.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed the support package of the two people to be resettled from Ysbyty Bryn y Neuadd be put out to tender.*

12 TOURISM RELATED PROPERTIES IN RHYL AND PRESTATYN

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism and Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking agreement to further consultation regarding the coastal tourism related properties and to consider them in the context of the visioning exercise and wider plans for Rhyl. Clwyd Leisure Limited had requested the Council consider further transfer of tourism related properties as Part of Phase II with effect from 1 April 2002 detailed in the report. Both Councillors Hughes and Morris stressed the need for further consultation.

***RESOLVED** that further consultation regarding the coastal tourism related properties be undertaken in the context of the visioning exercise and wider plans for Rhyl.*

13 MODERNISATION CONSULTATION

The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy said a formal response had been received from Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities providing further advice as to the consultation requirements necessary for deciding upon the Authority's new constitution. The requirement was that further consultation should take place prior to the Council making its choice of

future constitutional arrangements and submitting its proposals to the National Assembly for Wales in January 2002.

RESOLVED that Members agreed with the need to comply with the Minister's directions.

At this juncture (11.30 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

14 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 paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15 PLOUGH HOTEL, ST ASAPH - ACCESS/EGRESS OVER COUNCIL/NORTH WALES FIRE SERVICE LAND

The Deputy Leader, Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval in granting the owners of the Plough Hotel, St. Asaph a perpetual right of way over Council / North Wales Fire Service owned land.

RESOLVED that Members approve the grant of a perpetual right of way over the land part owned by Denbighshire County Council and North Wales Fire Service (as hatched on the plan attached to the report at Appendix One), in favour of the Plough Hotel, St Asaph, subject to the following:-

The Plough Hotel:-

- To pay a commuted sum to be shared 50/50 between Denbighshire County Council and North Wales Fire Service.
- To be responsible for all costs, including the Council's legal and surveyor fees.
- 50% maintenance contribution on the said service road.
- 50% maintenance contribution on associated boundaries.
- To pay a reasonable contribution in establishing the service road as adoptable, if required.

Otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Head of Consultancy Services in consultation with the County Clerk.

16 DENBIGHSHIRE WELSH CHURCH ACTS SCHEME GRANT APPLICATIONS

(Councillor R.W. Hughes and Councillor E.W. Williams declared an interest in this item).

The Deputy Leader, Councillor W.R. Webb submitted the report seeking Members' approval for a number of applications for grant aid from the Denbighshire Welsh Church Acts Fund.

RESOLVED that Members approve the list of grants as detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report.

17 BUSINESS RATE RELIEF

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members approval for Business Rate Relief for the Ponderosa Cafe, Horseshoe Pass, Llangollen.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the "write off" sum as detailed in the report in order to allow a reduction in Business Rates for the Ponderosa Cafe.

The meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.

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

Directorate: Personal Services Service: Children

Post Title: Accommodation Support Worker Salary Grade: Scale 5 (part time)
cost not to exceed 10k

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

This is a new post concerned with developing a range of accommodation for young people leaving care. We have a statutory responsibility to provide them with suitable accommodation and currently there is very little provision for them. The post is funded 50% from the NAW Children First grant and 50% from the Gatsby Trust. A condition of funding is that the post is advertised externally to local housing associations. £10,000 is available from the Children First grant for the post. **FIXED TERM CONTRACT**

Cost Implication *

1

[Empty box for cost implication details]

Signed: PM Wade

Signed: AER Roberts (Cabinet Lead)

TO: CABINET

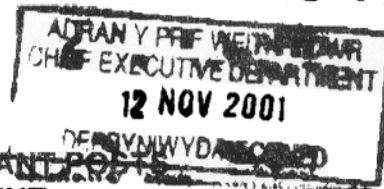
Signed: _____

Comments/Reasons

Please return this form

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3 ii

CABINET 22.11.2001



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

Directorate: Resources Landlord Service: CPU - County

Post Title: Property Officer / Technician Salary Grade: Scale 5

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

The Post is urgently required to support the heavy workload of the County Landlord's Group, within the Corporate Property Unit. The Group focuses on the strategic management of the Council's Corporate Property Portfolio and the post will involve a range of duties including auditing properties, such as Council Offices and Depots, etc. and require the technical ability to liaise with property professionals and premises users to update records and prepare accurate plans, as well as undertaking School Pupil Capacity assessments, etc. to assist the Asset Management process.

The single [internal] applicant does not possess the required academic qualification and moreover, lacks the relevant draughting experience / skills, considered vital for the effective undertaking of relevant duties. [The applicant's background is in Legal Administration].

Cost Implication 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget.

Financial Controller Statement

The Budgetary provision is available to meet the on-going costs of this post and consequently the filling of this post will not adversely impact on delivery of the Council's recovery plan.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 7.11.01

Signed: Ann Owens (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 7.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date:

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning Service: Education/Culture

Post Title: Childcare Information Assistant Salary Grade: Scale 2

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

This is a new post which has been created to assist in the delivery and development of the Childcare Information Service. The post is funded by the National Childcare Strategy grant which is given to Denbighshire Childcare Partnership to manage.

The post is temporary, initially until 31st March 2002. Continuation is subject to confirmation of anticipated grant for 2002-3.

Due to the funding arrangements of the post, it is not appropriate to ring fence this position to Denbighshire County Council employees only, therefore approval is requested to advertise externally.

Cost Implication *

- 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget.
 - 2 The appointment will lead to a budget overspend of £ k.
- * Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

The filling of this post is 100% external funding (grant aided) and consequently does not impact on delivery of the Recovery Plan.

Signed: Sharon Bowen (Corporate Director) Date: 14.11.01

Signed: KW Ellis (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 14.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: _____

Approved Refused

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Service: Education Services

Post Title: Cyberskills Adviser

Salary Grade: Scale 6

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

Due to the funding arrangements for this post from Objective 1, it is not appropriate to ring fence this position to staff of Denbighshire County Council.
It is unlikely that the qualifications (CCNA) and experience (business IT consultancy) are able to be met by internal candidates.

Cost Implication *

- 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget.
 - 2 The appointment will lead to a budget overspend of £ k.
- * Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

The filling of this post is 100% external funding (grant aided) and consequently does not impact on delivery of the Recovery Plan.

Signed: Sioned Bowen (Corporate Director) Date: 14.11.01

Signed: Kwelle (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 14.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: _____

Approved Refused
○ ○

CABINET 22-11-2001

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning Service: Strategy & Resources

Post Title: Staffing Officer Salary Grade: S01

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

This specialist post requires both knowledge of Education legislation and the ability to be able to communicate through the medium of Welsh. The postholder will be required to deal with a whole range of new Education Pay and Conditions Issues. With this person in post, the section can begin to look at the issues accruing from the transfer of 240 leisure staff into the Directorate on 01 April 2001. It is not anticipated that the post can be filled internally and therefore approval is sought to advertise internally and externally at the same time.

Cost Implication *

- 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget.
- 2 The appointment will lead to a budget overspend of £ k.
Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

Although the Directorate had reported a projected overspend in the revenue budget report prepared for 22 November 2001 Cabinet, subsequent budget meetings have identified actions to contain spending. Overall, spending is within budget.

Signed: Sioned Bowen (Corporate Director) Date: 14.11.01

Signed: Ken Lees (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 14.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: _____

Approved Refused
○ ○

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning Service: Education

Post Title: Data Programme/Analyst Salary Grade: Scale 6

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

This post has agreed funding from the Policy Agreements Funds (PIGS initiative) and covers the whole of Lifelong Learning Directorate.

There is some urgency in appointing in order to support the Directorate's work in meeting Best Value, NAW, Estyn and Audit Commission requirements.

It is a specialised post hence the need to advertise externally.

Cost Implication *

- 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget.
- 2 The appointment will lead to a budget overspend of £ k.
* Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

The funding from the Policy Agreements is in place.

Signed: Siobhan Bower (Corporate Director) Date: 14.11.01

Signed: Ken Allen (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 14.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: _____

Approved Refused

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

CABINET MEMBER: THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN DENBIGHSHIRE AND WREXHAM

1 Decision Sought

- 1.1 To approve the response [copy to follow] to forward to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, supplemented by the financial assessment by Deloitte Touche which will be available at the meeting.
- 1.2 For Cabinet therefore agree to recommend this response to County Council.

2 Reason for Decision

- 1.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission published its draft recommendation on 28 September. A copy of the Commission's report was sent to all Members for information.
- 1.3 The report seeks comments on the draft recommendations to be forward to the Commission by the 23 November.
- 1.4 Cabinet in considering the matter welcomed the report's finding, but agreed the need for a considered response and also agreed that as part of the Authority's response it would commission Deloitte Touche to comment on the financial analysis in the report and to provide its findings for forwarding to the Commission.

3 Cost Implications

- 3.1 There are no cost implications arising from this decision

4 Financial Controller Statement

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report but any transfer could have an adverse impact on the Council's recovery plan.

5 Consultation Carried Out

- 5.1 The Corporate Directors and relevant officers have all contributed comments for the response.

6 Implication for Other Policy Areas

- 6.1. There are none arising from this report, but as our responses to the Commission and as that of Deloitte Touche analysis makes clear, there are considerable financial implications for the Authority arising from any transfer.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That Members agree that the attached response and financial analysis provided by Deloitte Touche be forwarded to the Commission.
- 7.2 That the response be forwarded to Council for approval.

Draft Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's Draft proposals for the Denbighshire/Wrexham Boundary.

The Authority naturally welcomes the Commission's draft recommendations. The Authority would also wish to thank the Commission for its endeavours and particularly the time it spent in Authority taking the views of Members and responding to the questions of Denbighshire citizens in Llangollen. The Authority recognises the difficult task the Commission has had given the contentious nature of issue and welcomes the general fairness of the judgement in its report..

The Authority is concerned that the case for retention of Llangollen/ Llantysilio within Denbighshire as previously presented by the Council is given insufficient weight your assessment and we would therefore ask you to give greater consideration to the points made below. Specifically we would ask you to look again at the financial assessment in the light of the Deloitte Touche further report which we have commissioned.

Point 1. The historical argument. Your point (p37) that the area has had links with both Wrexham area and the Denbighshire area fails to make clear the historical distinction and the significance of the relationship to previous structures.

It is true that Llangollen Rural and Llantysilio came under Wrexham Rural District prior to 1974, but that was in the context of a three tier County Structure:

- At no time has Llangollen or Llantsylio been part of an authority at rural district level which has included Wrexham town.
- At no time has it been run at a senior tier level from an authority based in Wrexham.

This leads to the following conclusions.

- To put Llangollen and Llantysilio into a Wrexham-based unitary authority would be to introduce it into an entirely novel local government and political context.. There has been no local government link for 27 years.
- As a point of continuity, Llangollen and Llantysilio were previously in Denbighshire, were included in Glyndwr District Council in 1974 and in 1996 were included in the new Denbighshire, which includes most of the previous Glyndwr areas, including Llangollen and Llantysilio.
- On this basis the major continuity for Llangollen and Llantysilio in local government and political terms is with the west rather than the east.

Point 2. Economic Development

The assessment understates the problems for Llangollen and Llantysilio of a transfer. Whilst it is true that Llangollen would not lose its objective one status, it is no easy matter to set up an administrative structure for Objective One. Objective One requires partnership structures based on strategies as a basis for all prospective applications, which are both elaborate and time consuming. Those needing to be set up in Wrexham following a transfer would now be several years behind such planning which exists in Denbighshire. On the event of a transfer, therefore, Llangollen Llantysilio would represent an anomalous geographical entity which would be difficult to connect properly to West Wales and the Valleys Objective One Structures to the disadvantage of the two communities.

Llangollen and Llantysilio are currently integrated into this Council's planning arrangements and its economic strategy, which includes the whole of the Dee Valley. For Llangollen and Llantysilio to develop separately, though not impossible, would inevitably involve a wrench from existing initiatives. Any argument for maintaining continuity within the existing strategic framework, post transfer, would, of course, logically suggest leaving the area in Denbighshire.

Further, any such continuation of strategies following a transfer will require a consensus among the project beneficiaries and also a realignment of management arrangements. It is difficult to see how after a hard fought boundary dispute such arrangements can be ensured. The dislocation and delays caused by the need to institute new arrangements will delay new investment in regeneration issues to the detriment of both communities.

The points about dislocation which are worth stressing are

- Denbighshire has through virtue of its work on objective one and the resources it has had to devote to it, a team of officers who have the relevant expertise in European Objective One issues. This expertise is at a premium and would not transfer to Wrexham under any proposal to transfer the two areas.
- Denbighshire has 5 European officers (which represents a colossal growth in objective one resources) plus assistance from the European/objective one resources of the voluntary sector which have also increased.
- Denbighshire's programme covers all aspects of regeneration due to the broad remit of objective one and is thus not confined as in other European programmes.
- Thus whilst the new authority would receive the expertise associated with the projects being managed, it would not have the capacity to develop the Objective One strategic framework overnight.

Again the strategic capacity for Objective One in Denbighshire needs to be seen against the importance of Objective one for the authority as a whole. For Wrexham, Llangollen and Llantysilio would be merely one area covered by a special grant status. It follows that it would not have the same reason as Denbighshire has had to develop its objective One resources to the same extent.

Objective One is a long term rather than a short term issue; there being both transitional and possibly continuation funding issues upto 2010 and beyond, which means that the economic argument cannot be reduced in terms of its significance. These areas have been included in the Objective One area because of their inclusion within Denbighshire. If they had been outside Denbighshire they would not have benefited from this programme. Denbighshire is geared up to the extent that it is because the whole authority is included in the programme area.

Point 3 Education

P39/40 The argument that the popularity of the school Dinas Bran is independent of local authority boundary (assuming quality of provision could be maintained) fails to deal with the causal facts that have made and sustained the school's popularity and there are several points to make concerning the Authority's own contribution to this:

- The Authority has maintained and sustained the same principles and values as obtained in Clwyd relating to the provision of education in the area. It supports therefore the principles of mutual support and equity in provision. In consequence we have ensured that the south of the County does not lose out in provision. All services are provided in Denbighshire on an equal basis.
- The Authority has developed a single link officer (i.e. a designated education officer) linking to all Denbighshire schools. This provides for a personal relationship between the local authority and schools over school management and school curriculum issues. There are also similarly personal relationships established with schools governors.
- All Heads in Denbighshire belong to the one Denbighshire federation. Heads meet and influence Denbighshire Education policy. The fraternity of Heads therefore have a common agenda arising from common needs reinforced by the existence of the common link officer. In consequence they have considerable accessibility to politicians and officers to influence service planning.
- Schools are provided with the near maximum possible delegation of budgets to give schools as much financial autonomy as possible.
- Denbighshire has been responsive to the cultural needs of the area through its development of Welsh medium provision.
- The per capita spend school pupils has improved. Denbighshire is thus correcting an historical imbalance. The Commission should be aware that the capacity of the Authority to correct the imbalance was hampered by its inherited financial position arising from the Rhuddlan debt and the succession of poor financial settlements in the early years of the Authority. This position has now changed. Spending is under control and the debt has been financed. The Authority, therefore, looks more hopefully to the future to provide services within a less constrained climate.

If these point are taken together they go some way to explain how the quality of provision has been maintained and why the relationship between the Authority and the schools in Denbighshire have been so good (as is evidenced by the Audit Commission survey of

LEA support). It also explains why Denbighshire is now able to move into the provision of post 16 education through supporting a 6th form provision base in its secondary schools. The foundations for that approach have already been laid which ensures that Denbighshire, and specifically Llangollen, will be able to receive a substantial part of post 16 education from within the existing school base. Dolen Dysg Ddinbych (Denbighshire CCET) will facilitate this development.

The analysis of the causes of popularity must take into account therefore the policy framework in which services are provided. Denbighshire has a track record on these issues, whereas a transfer to another area opens up the question of whether this framework would be sustained and to the same degree. In saying this there is no intention to suggest that another authority's framework may be inferior, but that Denbighshire's is appropriate for Llangollen and Llantysilio.

The report by failing to assess the actual causes of popularity in our view by-passes the essential questions which needed to be addressed and which parents would certainly have expected to have featured in this report.

Point 4 Welsh Language

P40 The report observes :

a. that the percentage of Welsh Speakers in Llangollen and Llantysilio (21%) closely matches the percentage across Denbighshire.(25.4%) as opposed to Wrexham which is 13.8%

But it also argues

b that the comparison between Denbigh and Wrexham's percentage of Welsh speakers are not of the same order as between Denbighshire and Gwynedd or Montmouthshire (72% and 2.1% of Welsh speakers respectively) and therefore viewed against those comparisons the difference between Denbighshire and Wrexham is less significant.

c. the report also states that areas of Wrexham such as the Cieriog Valley have a similar profile to that of Llangollen and Llantysilio with the suggestion therefore that this cultural balance can be accommodated within the Wrexham authority.

We consider the observations made by the Commission to be wrongly focussed.

- Pointing to the extremes in the range of possibility over matching the cultural profile does not establish any clear conclusion. No one would argue that an analysis of poverty could legitimately proceed, for example, by comparing an unemployed British worker against either **a.** the position of a rich person or **b.** Someone living in destitute poverty. Thus whilst no one would doubt that a transfer to either Gwynedd or Montmouthshire of Llangollen and Llantysilio (assuming it were possible) would be undermining for elements in the community, this should not be used as an argument to demote a local comparison. The argument for it being a significant issue is based on the fact that there is a substantially higher percentage of persons who speak the Welsh language in Denbighshire to Wrexham.

- The second point relates to the Ceiriog Valley comparison. The assessment that there is no detrimental effect to those communities in terms of their cultural accommodation by the Wrexham Authority is based on no cited evidence or criteria. But even on a priori grounds the case is not made. The point is that an authority which has a profile similar to the area in question has a greater likelihood of being sensitive to the area's cultural needs. In Denbighshire's case this likelihood is reinforced by the political structure of the County in which there is a substantial Welsh speaking contingent within the Council who feel strongly on issues concerning the Welsh Language and Culture. This is evidenced by the Authority's adoption of a strong Welsh language policy prior to the requirements of the Welsh Language Act, by the development and pursuit of Welsh medium education and by its fostering of Welsh cultural issues generally. It is also reinforced by the strong rural and small town influence in Denbighshire's politics. An emphasis which is not as in evidence in Wrexham to the same degree.

Point 5 P42 Public Support

We would argue that the Commission's assessment of the referendum information is incomplete.

- The Commission does not draw any inference for the fact that the referendums in 1993 and 2000 show a move by residents to stay in Denbighshire. **(There has been a swing of more than 8% against inclusion in Wrexham.)**
- The report repeats the assertion by the then Assembly Secretary, Peter Law, that the community is divided. In a sense of course Llangollen is divided on this issue as the Authority is only too aware, but the question that needs to be addressed is how deep is its division; (48% of the people did not vote in the 2000 referendum), and to reiterate the point we made in our evidence (see appendix 1 p1) : if the division of feeling is significant why would transfer be regarded as a solution? The status of the argument is the key issue here and sadly the report does not analyse this.
- The report also states that there is no "clear majority" in favour of one option or another.(p42) This seems entirely untrue. The referendum provided a clear majority of 19 in favour of there being no boundary review. If the Commission means that the majority was not substantial or by a wide margin, then the point is accepted. But then the Commission is casting doubt on the mechanism of a referendum to establish a democratic outcome. Given that the Assembly was established on a similar turnout and a similar division of Yes's and No's, it is difficult to accept any reasoning which casts doubt on the legitimacy of the result. If the Commission had argued that the referendum was badly conducted, then the point would be a fair one to raise. In the absence of any such evidence the point has no significance.

Point 6 Health Services p42/43

The point concerning coterminosity and Health Service provision seems over stated. There is no particular reason why Health Services (particularly hospital services) need to be provided in the locality of a local authority where people live or that there are any

particular advantages deriving from this, and moreover, any particular issue for local authority boundaries. The following points should be noted:

- Acute services provision has no particular relationship to local authority boundaries.
- Local Health Boards under the proposals will be constituted on an LA basis. (It should be noted that North Wales Police have publicly stated that they will move to management of South Denbighshire from Denbighshire and are merely awaiting the outcome of the review)

But even if these new structures are not coterminous there will be the usual scope for political arrangements for representation where such bodies cross local authority boundaries.

- Primary care provision in Llangollen and Llantysilio is physically based in the town
The GP surgeries are there.
There is a local hospital providing GP beds
Mental Health Services are provided at Oakleigh
Chiropody services are also provided locally

Most of what is provided locally therefore will not change whatever the new administrative arrangements.

Further given the number of changes in health service structural arrangements in recent years it would seem particularly foolish to base a decision on transfer on coterminosity.

Summary.

There are naturally points for and against based on a transfer for specific services, but such arguments could be made across Wales where there are flows of population across boundaries for work, shopping or services. The real question is whether there are substantial advantages to be gained from a transfer both for the community concerned and the Authority in which it is contained.

In this case none of the advantages of transfer are critical. People in Llangollen have been provided with services for 5 years from Denbighshire County Council. There is no evidence that they have been materially disadvantaged from their inclusion in Denbighshire.

What is clear is:

- A. There is no democratic mandate for change.
- B. There will be costs to the host authority of a transfer.
- C. Llangollen and Llantysilio are situated in an authority whose profile it generally matches.

D. Llangollen and Llantyslio have received considerable service investment and will continue to do so uninterruptedly from the objective One programme if it remains in Denbighshire

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: NORTH WALES VALUATION TRIBUNAL - ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT APPOINTMENT PANELS

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To consider nominating elected Members, Officers or both together with Administrative support to form the Local Authority's membership of a Joint Appointment Panel for the appointment of members to the Valuation Tribunals.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Within The Valuation Tribunal (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001 there is a requirement to set up Joint Appointment Panels for the appointment of members to the Valuation Tribunals. Whilst there is no limit on the number of people Denbighshire could nominate, National Assembly guidance suggests Panels should be kept small with a maximum of three on either side. The Clerk to the North Wales Valuation Tribunal has indicated that their representation would consist of the President of the North Wales Valuation Tribunal together with himself. There would only be one vote for each side, with an equal power to veto an appointment.

It is anticipated that the Joint Appointment Panel will meet once a year to consider applications for appointment of members to the Valuation Tribunals.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Travel expenses will be incurred by the Council's representatives attending meetings of the Joint Appointment Panel.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Expenses are anticipated to be quite small and will fall to be funded from the Members' Budget and relevant Departmental Budget.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Directors of Resources and Environment are content with the recommendation and in view of his valuation interest and experience the Director of the Environment would be happy to partake as an officer nominee if Members so wished.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Statutory requirement to establish a Joint Appointments Panel.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That to accord with the Tribunal's nomination Cabinet consider nominating a Member and an Officer, together with Administrative support to form the Local Authority's membership of a Joint Appointment Panel for the appointment of members to the Valuation Tribunals.

CEO - IKH

REPORT TO CABINET**AGENDA ITEM NO: 6****REPORT BY: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS****DATE : 22 NOVEMBER 2001****SUBJECT : EMERGENCY PLANNING REVIEW****1.0 DECISION SOUGHT**

To submit the attached draft paper as the response of Denbighshire County Council to the August 2001 Cabinet Office discussion document entitled "The Future of Emergency Planning in England and Wales".

2.0 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- The serious and extensive floods that occurred in England and Wales last year, together with the Fuel crisis and the Foot and Mouth epidemic identified serious shortfalls in the UK's ability to deal with emergencies. As a result, the Deputy Prime Minister inaugurated reviews of emergency planning, flood defences, emergency funding and planning in flood prone areas.
- The Cabinet Office has taken over the responsibility for emergency planning from the Home Office and distributed a discussion document to interested parties, requesting replies be submitted by 31 October 2001.
- The Government has concluded that the Civil Defence Act of 1948 is no longer appropriate as the foundation for modern emergency planning, and proposes to introduce replacement legislation in an Emergency Planning Bill.
- The new legislation would give local authorities the responsibility to undertake hazard assessment of their area to identify local threats, prepare emergency plans to address these hazards, to work in partnership with the emergency services and others in preparing the plans, and to ensure that all local authority chief executives and departments attach a proper priority to emergency planning and responding effectively to disasters.
- It also proposes that Civil Defence Grant funding should be replaced through the Standing Spending Assessment.
- A number of other areas are likely to be considered following this consultation exercise, and can be expected to be brought forward for future consideration before being included in the new legislation.

3.0 COST IMPLICATIONS

None in respect of the submission.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposal to replace Civil Defence Grant by incorporating Civil Defence Costs within the Standard Spending Assessment may have implications for the Council's budget strategy in future years. The full implications of the revised arrangements will need to be assessed when central government's intentions become clearer.

5.0 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- Subject raised with Operations Management Board on 6 September 2001.

- Preliminary draft produced by Emergency Planning Unit and subsequently extensively scrutinised by Corporate Director Environment and Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy).

6.0 IMPLICATION ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

Dependent upon future legislation expected to follow the review process.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet are requested to endorse the draft paper.

CEO ~ MB

“The Future of Emergency Planning in England and Wales”

A Proposed Emergency Planning Bill

4.13 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) Do consultees endorse in broad terms the Government's proposals as outlined above – in particular, the proposal for a new emergency planning duty to fall on a range of partner bodies, with the local authority required to exercise community leadership?

The Council welcomes the commitment by government to changes in the legislative basis for emergency planning in England and Wales. The LGA, who have traditionally led on emergency planning issues for local authorities has for a number of years, with the support of the WLGA, advocated the introduction of legislation to put emergency planning by local government onto a clear statutory basis, based on the need to plan for peacetime emergencies rather than for Civil Defence.

The proposals outlined in Part 4 of the document are generally in accordance with the aspirations of this council for such legislation.

The responsibility for community emergency planning should lie at the local level with all local authorities empowered by the legislation. This is necessary for determination of local requirements and issues. Each authority should be required to co-ordinate partnership arrangements with such bodies as are necessary to achieve this aim.

On the issue of community leadership necessary to achieve strategic goals of wider areas, higher levels of partnerships above the operational level would be necessary. This should be mutually agreed by those required to work together, rather than imposed by any body, agency or boundary - see para 4.13 (e) below.

(b) How would those who disagree with the proposals seek to justify continuation of the current legislative basis – or some other proposal?

Not applicable.

(c) Should shire districts be brought within the scope of the new legislation? If so, what wide area arrangements would be appropriate?.

Not applicable in Wales

(d) What model of community leadership should be adopted for local authorities in the legislation?

It is suggested that the models of community leadership and community partnership being developed out of the powers of Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, and the Crime Reduction Partnerships, should be applied to a new system for emergency planning.

(e) How should the duty fall on partner bodies?

With local authority's undertaking a lead role it will be essential for partner bodies to given a duty to co-operate. This should be at both the local level and a strategic level, decided locally. The local authorities together with the emergency services and key partner organisations (to be defined in Regulation), should meet, under the Chair of the local authority Chief Executive, or Chief Officer of Police. This forum would agree the local structural mechanism by which strategic emergency planning policy is to be decided and implemented and to set the strategic framework for operational planning.

The structural mechanism should be required to be located within the local government system, and have clear and defined reporting lines to, and oversight by, elected members of the local authorities served. This is essential to ensure transparency and democratic oversight of a key service by local authorities.

It is essential that each of the individual authorities have identified, specialist, emergency planning staff, to ensure that its' own responsibilities are met. The strategic forum would need to agree the most appropriate level of resources to enable it to co-ordinate planning, training and response on a wide area basis. This would allow the forum either to build on existing local arrangements, perhaps by allocating the role to an existing Emergency Planning Unit, or to make new, innovative, arrangements that address perceived deficiencies in current arrangements. The Council believes that this should be a matter for local determination, subject to the maintenance of appropriate, nationally agreed, standards. The Council suggests that the legislation should allow for the transfer of funding between partners in order to support locally agreed arrangements.

(f) Should issues of wartime and peacetime planning be contained within the same statute? Indeed, should any distinction be drawn?

The Council suggests that should the approach, as outlined in para 4.13 (g) below be adopted, there would be no need for separate legislation in respect of wartime planning, which could be the subject of regulations particular to that scenario, which could be amended in the light of changing assessments of risk.

(g) Should the detail of the new system be contained in the primary legislation or determined by regulations issued from time to time by the relevant minister?

The primary legislation would not benefit by containing too many provisions in respect of the detail of the system. The Council suggests that the primary legislation should be an enabling Act, analogous to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1975, under which Regulations may be made from time to time to address particular issues.

This would allow for the introduction of, for example, European-derived civil protection measures in a manner compatible with the broader emergency planning system. The primary legislation should be used to bring the UK into line with the requirements of Europe.

The ability to deal with particular subject areas in respect of emergency planning and response by means of Statutory Instruments could be exploited, where there was a demonstrable need, to specify who should be responsible for dealing with particular types of emergency. In this

context, the responsibilities of local authorities, and others, in dealing with maritime pollution or veterinary emergencies, etc., and associated funding and technical issues, might be clarified.

(h) To what extent should a definition of emergency planning be included in legislation?

The definition of "emergency planning" needs to be explicit. The definition should include the generic range of activities which emergency planning is required to undertake in order to provide measures designed to protect the lives and properties of an area at risk.

Emergency Planning is the process by which preparations are made to assist the response to a disaster and incorporates planning, training and exercising as its core elements.

Funding through the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA)

4.20 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) Do consultees endorse the proposal to support emergency planning in future through the SSA?

The Council agrees to the proposal that funding for emergency planning should be channelled through the SSA route. As indicated above at para 14.3 (e), the Council also feels that there should be the freedom for authorities to transfer funding between themselves, to permit the establishment of joint arrangements for the discharge of their duties under the new legislation. However there is a need to determine, if there is a statutory duty, how will the SSA be calculated and will the funds transferred to Wales be adequate to enable the service to be delivered to its current level.

(b) How would those who disagree with this proposal seek to justify continuation of specific funding?

Not applicable.

(c) Should shire districts receive funding through the SSA for their role in emergency planning?

Not applicable in Wales

(d) Should funding be provided for emergency response and recovery, as well as for plan preparation, training and exercising?

The Council suggests that funding for response arrangements should be focussed on the provision of infrastructure such as Emergency Control s Centres, communications systems, Emergency Rest Centres, etc that have not been provided for under existing financial arrangements.

The Council feels that it would be appropriate for defined arrangements to be in place so that the costs incurred in provision of a response to disasters could be recovered. In this context the Council notes that not all authorities have reserves and contingency funds available to the extent assumed in the past. It is further suggested that recent experience supports a need for arrangements that do not assume single, rare, events.

The council feels that it would be appropriate for a national system to fully underwrite recovery costs that arise from repairing damaged infrastructure. In this regard, the Bellwin Scheme should be modified to allow work to be undertaken to prevent a recurrence of an

emergency rather than simple restoration of the infrastructure to the level prevailing before the emergency.

With reference to funding training and exercising, the proposed extended community partnership roles will lead to increased training requirement for the participating organisations which should be adequately funded.

(e) What considerations should determine the overall sum allocated by government in the SSA for emergency planning purposes?

In setting the sum to be made available by government for emergency planning, the Council would point out that the key factor in the delivery of the service is the availability of sufficient numbers of appropriately trained, skilled and motivated personnel. The Council has noted a serious decline in the numbers of professional emergency planners over the last ten years, associated with declining levels of grant funding, and is aware that authorities have commented that their response to recent emergencies has been compromised by the lack of such staff.

The advice received by the WLGA and LGA is that to deliver a service meeting the demands currently being imposed would require an additional 450 to 500 staff across England and Wales. Although this would primarily be for the employment of a professional emergency planning officer by each English shire district (who currently receive no direct grant funding and therefore tend not to employ such staff), it also includes extra staff in Wales to undertake planning, training and exercising work currently neglected due to lack of resources.

In addition, the limitations inherent in the use of ad-hoc facilities for the control of the response to protracted emergencies and disasters, such as floods, on shore oil pollution incidents or the Foot and Mouth crisis, causes problems. When setting funding levels the costs of establishing and maintaining effective Emergency Operations Centres should be borne in mind.

Some specialist equipment or supplies may need to be held although they are not required in normal circumstances but during emergencies cannot be obtained through normal arrangements in effective time scales.

The Council understands that the WLGA along with the LGA would be willing to discuss with government detailed funding requirements as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review process, currently being undertaken.

(f) Should local authorities be permitted in new legislation to carry out – and raise a charge for - agency or consultancy work on emergency planning?

The Council suggests that costs recoverable under existing legislation should continue to be recoverable. Where commercial or industrial organisations, by virtue of their operations, pose a risk to the well being of a community requiring preparedness greater than the norm, it is considered that the associated costs should be borne by such organisations.

It is not, however, considered appropriate that partner organisations should be permitted to make charges on local authorities for activities they conduct in discharge of their obligations to co-operate in the production of plans and to supply information required for the preparation of plans. These charges, as those of the local authority, should be borne by the commercial or

industrial concern to whom the plan refers.

Where an authority provides a service outside of its' statutory responsibilities, the Council suggests that it should be permitted to recover the full costs of providing that service. Some authorities, in order to provide increased security for their residents, may wish to make their expertise in emergency planning available to the private sector. They should be permitted to do so.

Matters for further consideration

5.5. The Government invites comments on the following points:

(a) What advantage or disadvantage might there be from seeking heightened public awareness of emergency planning arrangements?

The advantages may include:

- *an improved understanding of national policy, and central and regional government responsibilities*
- *an improved understanding of the responsibilities, capabilities and limitations of response agencies*
- *a heightened sense of personal responsibility and self help*
- *a heightened sense of community responsibility and self help*
- *an improved understanding of partnership responsibilities at all levels from central government down to the individual citizen*
- *general public made aware of current unrealistic expectation of response capabilities*

Perceived disadvantages include :

- *potential for a false perception that emergency planning staff are the key responders*
- *an increased and potentially unresourceable demand for community support*

(b) How can attention best be drawn to the roles and responsibilities of the citizen when faced with an emergency in co-operation with the relevant organisations and as one element in the new concept and legal framework of partnership?

National publicity programmes will bring initial benefits in increased awareness, and should be repeated regularly to maintain public knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of all concerned.

Inclusion of emergency planning information within a national citizenship education syllabus should be the primary long term means of raising awareness of these issues for future generations.

Another measure would be to incorporate the roles and responsibilities of the citizen into the relevant legislation.

5.11 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) In the light of increasing expectations placed on the service, would emergency planning benefit from the production of national guidance on good practice and other issues?

Greater consistency and improvements in standards are likely to be achieved with increased

national guidance. Central government should produce standards for the service, and in support of these standards, offer advice as to good practice and on other issues. However, in order to achieve the highest possible quality in these areas, the Council believes that it is absolutely essential that central government includes both professional and representative organisations in the development of such standards and guidance.

(b) If national guidance is required, should it cover hazard assessment, as well as other matters?

The Council believes that hazard assessment should be included. Information from emergency incident debriefs and lessons learnt from incidents, both nationally and internationally should also be included amongst the range of guidance that should be distributed.

(c) Who should be responsible for producing this guidance?

A partnership of central government, professional bodies and representative organisations should be involved in the development of guidance and any associated standards.

(d) What role should the Emergency Planning College play?

The Emergency Planning College could be developed as the centre for professional training, and more generally take responsibility for emergency planning training. The library at the Emergency Planning College should be developed as the national source of information for the emergency planning community.

(e) How should good practice be monitored?

Best Value inspections should help identify good practice, but it is suggested that the relevant professional bodies would have the major role in this area. Such bodies have done much valuable work in order to identify and share good practice, and the Council would suggest that this be built on.

(f) Is there a role for regular auditing, or inspection, of performance?

As with any local authority service there is always a role for monitoring performance.

(g) If so, how should this be undertaken?

The Council considers that any inspection regime adopted should reflect the new status of emergency planning as part of mainstream local authority business. It would therefore be inappropriate to set up a separate Inspectorate with responsibility solely for emergency planning. It is suggested that such quality control should be carried out as part of the regular Best Value process, with the participation of emergency planning practitioners.

Partnership and Community Leadership

5.18 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) To what extent does existing legislation requiring the emergency services, local authorities, privatised utilities and other bodies to prepare emergency plans already ensure that they do co-operate in multi-agency emergency planning arrangements?

Existing legislation does not ensure co-operation of all parties, only limited and direct relationships are covered e.g. COMAH. Although co-operation between local agencies and organisations is often good and effective, there may have been instances where the absence of statutory requirements to participate has been a detriment to the process.

(b) Can a duty to share in partnership arrangements for emergency planning help ensure a consistency of response from the relevant bodies?

Consistency of response is more likely to improve should partner bodies outside local government, the health services and the emergency services, be required to co-operate in emergency planning preparation and response activities, and to provide information required for the preparation of emergency plans. They should also be required as far as possible to act in accordance with the agreed emergency plans in force in the area.

(c) If the new legislation requires them to take on a community leadership role in emergency planning, what are the practical implications for local authorities?

The servicing of the partnership arrangement would inevitably bring an increased workload together with a greater expectation of local authority leadership on any joint agency emergency planning issues. This will bring increased resource requirements, which if not met jointly, will fall upon the local authority.

The leadership role, which should be underpinned by defined political reporting lines, will raise the level of political scrutiny of the function.

Willing co-operation of partners will be essential for the success of the local authority community leadership.

(d) If local authorities adopt a community leadership role in emergency planning, will the lead agency roles and responsibilities in prevention, response and recovery require further clarification?

The Council feels that:

- *general prevention, response and recovery responsibilities of all agencies involved should be included in the legislation*
- *there may be value in incorporating powers into the new legislation for local authorities to lead or direct the recovery phase of an emergency*

National and Regional Relationships

5.25 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) Are central government's response arrangements clear to its partner agencies?

The Council believes that recent emergencies have exposed serious weaknesses in the way Central Government operates in response to national emergencies. Throughout the Fuel Crisis, Flood emergencies and the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic, poor co-ordination within government and between government, including the National Assembly for Wales was apparent. The core difficulty experienced by local government during these emergencies has been a lack of

clarity and consistency in the central government response. It is the perception of many authorities that, in fact, no such co-ordinated response arrangements exist and that the various government departments and regions operate autonomously in planning for, and dealing with, emergencies. The absence of a strong, central, emergency planning and response structure, with decision-making authority and appropriate control and communications facilities, which can co-ordinate across departmental lines, contributes to this perception.

In addition, the Council suggests that the main functions to be performed by central government would include:

- *providing central policy oversight, reporting to the Deputy Prime Minister*
- *provision of central government emergency plans and procedures*
- *overseeing arrangements for wide-area planning and co-ordination*
- *providing advice and support to local authorities dealing with emergencies*
- *providing central government with co-ordination and communication facilities in the event of "massive disasters"*
- *monitoring local authority performance against the National Standards for Civil Protection*
- *overseeing the operation of the Emergency Planning College, which should be developed as the centre for professional training*
- *providing and leading on a Public Information Strategy for massive disasters*
- *Providing and leading on an initial Public Information campaign to introduce the new policy to the population*
- *acting as the Permanent National Correspondent on Civil Protection in Europe.*

(b) In what ways can more clearly defined lines of communication be developed between government departments and partner agencies and between levels of government?

It is strongly recommended that planning should be by and for central government, not by and for government departments, and conducted in partnership with the professional organisations and representative bodies of the various stakeholders. It is the opinion of this Council that the Cabinet Office would be the appropriate location to lead this process.

However, as the responsibility for local government matters lies with the National Assembly for Wales, the Council proposes that funding for local authority emergency planning be channelled through the Assembly as part of SSA. In the English context the DTLR would perform this role. It is therefore suggested that the emergency planning function within central government, wherever located, should be responsible for setting and monitoring performance standards, and developing policy, etc., to be applied by the Assembly and DTLR.

(c) How can a greater clarity of roles and responsibilities at a national, regional and local level be achieved?

The Council welcomes the Governments' decision to conduct a review of its' own arrangements for dealing with national emergencies, and through the WLGA and LGA would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Critical National Infrastructure Review. It believes that high-quality emergency planning can only be achieved by partnership working between all organisations having a role in dealing with a disaster.

(d) To what extent should central government and regional bodies, including regional government, be

consolidating generic and specific contingency plans according to the same principles and standards as those at local level?

Central government must be subject to the same standards and principles as all other agencies.

(e) If such a common national framework and standard for emergency planning is desirable, how can it be achieved?

A national framework can be achieved through using common guidelines and standards. It is essential that local flexibility be retained but consistency on key areas must be maintained through local partnership.

Central government should produce standards for the emergency planning service, and in support of those standards, offer advice as to good practice and on other issues. However, in order to achieve the highest possible quality in these areas, the authority believes that it is absolutely essential to involve both professional and representative organisations in the development of such standards and guidance.

(f) To what extent is a national or regional capability needed to provide expertise and resources to local areas in emergencies?

Central government has technical, material and personnel resources that would be invaluable to the response to even localised emergencies. The Autumn floods of 2000 were on such a scale that mutual aid support from neighbouring local authorities was unavailable due to their experiencing similar difficulties and regional support would have been the appropriate level to provide additional resources.

It is therefore essential that the policy on the use, and the means by which regional and national resources and expertise are deployed, can be, and are, included in appropriate plans. Government can support the response operation by the sourcing, provision, or stockpiling of such resources, and making them available as necessary.

(g) Do the changing priorities and delivery of emergency planning, associated, among other things, with the community leadership role for local authorities, provide an opportunity for revising or strengthening the sponsorship role of the Cabinet Office?

It is essential that the Cabinet Office strengthens its role within central government to ensure greater consistency and co-ordination of emergency planning and provides a lead to all relevant agencies in terms of standards and policy.

(h) Does the opportunity arise for the creation of a new national emergency planning agency to promote the service which is separate from central government departments?

The Council suggests that the establishment of a new national emergency planning agency is less critical than the need to ensure that the function is appropriately situated within central government to enable it to carry out the key functions covered elsewhere in this paper. In this respect the Cabinet Office should be the sponsor department to the service.

Devolved Administrations

5.30 The Government invites comments on the following matter:

(a) Should responsibility for the delivery of emergency planning throughout Wales transfer to the National Assembly for Wales?

This Council is unaware of the lead role in emergency planning in recent incidents that the National Assembly for Wales has taken as quoted at para 5.28 of the Discussion Document.

The Council considers that it is essential for central government to act corporately on this issue with standards and policy being determined within the Cabinet Office. It is the opinion of the Council that the effectiveness of preparations and operational response could be diminished by the devolvement of these issues, as a consistency of approach on this issue is critical at all levels and should be uniform across the UK. In this regard, moving the major emergency reporting chain for local authorities to the National Assembly whilst critical partners like the police and fire services report to central government departments introduces an unnecessary inconsistency. This does not preclude the National Assembly for Wales being actively involved in the function within Wales, in line with their operational roles and responsibilities, nor as distributor of funding.

The Council would therefore recommend that the powers of the Secretary of State in respect of emergency planning should not be devolved from Whitehall to Cardiff.

European Derived Legislation

5.36 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) Should local authorities be permitted, and indeed encouraged to use government funding under the SSA to support work on the off site plans required under the Regulations?

The use of SSA funding should be a matter for local determination. Encouragement of its use to subsidise the provision of other statutory duties, particularly where costs are recoverable, may not be an appropriate matter for central government.

(b) How can partner relationships established at local level under these Regulations, be harmonised with the new community partnership role in emergency planning?

In many areas basic partnership forums exist already and are working well. They are frequently utilised as the means for meeting European legislative requirements, although variations in the ability of partners to charge for their work done under such duties can be a cause of friction. Central government should look to rectify this anomaly.

(c) Under the proposed new emergency planning legislation, how can a greater consistency be achieved between the requirements and guidance associated with European derived legislation and what is expected of local authorities and partner organisations?

Current European derived legislation such as COMAH, provides a model for the development of off-site emergency plans for partner agencies, led by the local authority. Consistency should not therefore present a major challenge as the basic model is already in existence and can continue to be developed within the proposed legislation.

(d) Should the anomaly be addressed that the duty to prepare the off site plans required under the Regulations falls on non-metropolitan unitary authorities, but not directly on metropolitan districts and London boroughs?

Not applicable in Wales

Prevention, Response and Recovery

5.43 The Government invites comments on the following matters:

(a) Should emergency planning be defined in the new legislation to include responsibility for specific aspects of prevention, response and recovery?

The Council would welcome the inclusion of prevention, response and recovery in the proposed legislation.

Any role in the prevention of disasters is also likely to require new powers, and raises the question of the role of local authorities vis-à-vis major regulators in the transport, industrial, commercial and food sectors, as well as the central government and its executive agencies. It is recognised however, that this could lead to the public having unreal expectations of local authorities, being unaware of their lack of dedicated emergency response resources.

Responsibility for leading on the response phase of emergencies should be subject to further consideration of questions such as financial assistance to victims, insurance, legal issues. These areas may require national input for disasters where a local authority does not have the necessary resources. Local authorities currently lead with the voluntary sector in recovery matters, and the proposed community leadership role will provide a statutory link to the affected population.

(b) If aspects of prevention, and in particular, hazard assessment, are brought within the proposed new legislation, how should the limits of this duty be set?

As previously stated, the Council is of the view that prevention should be included in the legislation. The ability of a local authority to prevent emergencies is severely restricted, as financial limitations, legal issues and responsibilities of central government departments and agencies will preclude authorities from being able to put preventative measures in place. Issues outside local authorities ability to control in relation to possible emergencies include air flight paths, flood defence of major rivers, rail safety, severe weather, and non regulated industrial sites.

The Council is of the opinion that it is essential to establish the levels of risk which may threaten an area as a foundation for local emergency planning. From this information, it will possible be to identify feasible measures to prevent or reduce the threat and the likely consequences should a threat materialise. This step is necessary to identify the emergency plan requirement so that contingency arrangements can be implemented to cope with actual emergencies. Without these stages, it will not be possible to undertake the appropriate, relevant training and exercising necessary to ensure an efficient and effective response to emergency events which may be foreseeable.

Should the legislation introduce a responsibility on local authorities to co-ordinate Integrated Emergency Management within a given area, it is recommended that partner organisations be statutorily involved in the hazard analysis process. This joint activity would allow all likely responding organisations to have input to planning assumptions, prevention measures, training and exercising programmes, all aimed at developing the ability to respond to identified potential emergencies. The process should go further and undertake the production of a single joint emergency response plan, by all the organisations under the leadership of the local authority in whose area the risk lies.

(c) If elements of response and recovery are covered by the new duty, what should be the scope of this requirement?

Local authorities currently find that undertaking response and recovery actions in emergencies are limited through insufficient resources and potential legal liabilities hampering the range of activities that could be addressed.

A statutory duty to provide a specific level of response would require increased funding to establish and equip emergency operations centres, pay non standby staff to respond to out of hours events and fund necessary measures to ensure continued delivery of essential services. The use of the Bellwin Scheme to provide additional funding to local authorities caught up in emergency events should be extended to provide additional resources for response operations by all partner organisations. Funding of measures such as providing an emergency operations centre should come through an adequate settlement of SSA.

This Council feels that there is value in incorporating powers for local authorities to lead or direct recovery operations and the recovery phase of an emergency. Introduction of a responsibility to lead or undertake recovery measures should be accompanied by supporting funding to enable the organisations concerned to fulfil this activity.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: WLGA STRATEGIC REVIEW REVISED MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To approve the attached response to full Council on the WLGA's Strategic Review.

2. Reason For Decision

2.1 Members' view were surveyed during the summer as part of the WLGA Strategic Review examining the purposes and function of the WLGA.

2.2 An initial paper following from this exercise was discussed at the WLGA Co-ordinating Committee on the 26th October and did not receive substantial support.

2.3 Principal among the issues was the proposal to create an executive group within the WLGA. This was not found to be acceptable and therefore the secretariat were asked to submit a further paper for discussion and consultation.

2.4 The attached paper is due to be discussed on 30 November 2001.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 None arising from this report

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the proposals.

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 Councillor W R Webb

6. Implication for Other Policy Areas

6.1 The structure of the policy

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Members approve the attached Draft Response as a basis for responding to the Co-Ordinating Committee and for Members to make any observations on the proposals as they see fit.

Draft Response is the creation of a Partnership

The general thrust of this paper can be welcomed. There is a need for Welsh Local Government to drive the policy agenda in Wales rather than being a consultee in the National Assembly for Wales' programme.

Local Government has roots in every community. It has the practical knowledge of how the policy agendas actually work and what the needs of communities are. It should therefore be a major player in the development of the policy strategy for Wales. To do this it is necessary for it to focus its activities where it matters. There is a danger from opting for too wide a brief of not having the capacity to develop detailed and original policy work to complement that of the National Assembly.

A coherent structure of liaison arrangements for relevant Cabinet Members throughout will also help develop a coherent and all Wales approach to the policy agenda. Supporting this by an enhanced communication service will be very welcome. It has been noticed that the briefing system obtaining prior to reorganisation has not followed through to the same degree within the WLGA.

Where the Authority would depart from the proposals is in the creation of a Partnership Group as per annex A.

A comparison between this proposal and that in the paper presented to the Co-ordinating Committee in October reveals considerable similarities

Executive Group proposals Oct. 2001

- **To establish the Association's Policy Development Programme to shape the Annual Forward Plan and to set up Members Officer working groups to progress**
- **To establish and agree and monitor the Association expectations of the specified bodies and other organisations serving the interests of local government and secure arrangements for communicating objectives and receiving reports.**
- **To establish and oversee arrangements for formal liaison with the NAIW and with Government Agencies, the Trade Union movement, the Private Sector with the Voluntary Sector**
- **To undertake the functions of the management Sub Committee.**

Partnership Group

(I) To be responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Annual Forward plan and the coherent implementation of the Association's approved policy framework.

(II) To oversee arrangements for liaison with the National Assembly for Wales and with Government Agencies, the Trade Union movement, the Private Sector and the Voluntary Sector.

(III) To undertake the role of the Central Bodies Scrutiny Group and to secure arrangements for communicating objectives to and monitoring and reviewing performance of Central Bodies and other local authority related organisations in Wales.

(IV) To undertake the functions of the Management Sub Committee

The new proposals are arguably weaker, but the creation of any group even with the reduced scope as per the functions outlined in (I) - (IV) creates the danger of taking away influence from the Co-ordinating Committee on which every local authority is represented. The Partnership Group could thus easily become de facto an executive group. We would note that item (I) is not dissimilar to the function of the executive group within the modernised cabinet structure. For this Authority this would always create difficulties due to the political balance rules rendering it unlikely that North Wales would be represented on any such group.

There is an argument for greater policy co-ordination, but as Denbighshire has always argued, this should embrace a regional approach to policy development within the WLGA. Why concentrate the policy agenda in 10 Members of the Association when opening it out to a regional approach would involve more Members, gain greater ownership within the WLGA for the policy framework and, most importantly, reflect the different regional perspectives in determining the shape of the agenda and its prioritisation.

The co-ordination of this approach would require considerable planning, but it would represent a worthwhile investment in securing authority for the WLGA's views which a centralist approach lacks.

Of the proposals, the Liaison Group structure would be preferable but it needs to be clear that this Group should not under any circumstance mutate into an Executive Group. If this Group were to acquire any additional functions by a process of accretion over time then the membership of the Group would need to be looked at.

**WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL
30 NOVEMBER 2001**

**STRATEGIC REVIEW – MEMBER ARRANGEMENTS
REVISED PAPER**

Purpose

- 1 To give further consideration to proposals for possible member arrangements as part of the re-shaping of the Association's purpose and practice; and to invite determination of final framework proposals for submission to the Association's Council later today.

Background

- 2 The draft Review and proposals were circulated to Leaders and Chief Executives for discussion with authorities on 10th September. The Committee gave initial consideration to the Review on 28th September and deliberated further at the meeting on 26th October. Members supported the general thrust of the proposals, and with the exception of the section on Members' arrangements agreed to their submission to the Council. This paper offers a further opportunity to consider arrangements for elected members' involvement in the Association.

Survey

- 3 Almost 270 responses were received to the questionnaire circulated in July. Whilst most of these were from individual elected members some reflected corporate views.
- 4 The responses on role and priorities measure as follows:-

Q1 Association Role –

Lobbying Organisation 36%, Think Tank 33%, Advice Agency 20%, Trade Body, 8%, PR Company 3%

Q3 Association Priorities –

Policy Development 29%, Lobbying & Negotiating 22%, Service Improvement 17%, Guidance and Scrutiny 16%, Support for Individual Authorities 14%.

Q4 Association Focus –

On the Assembly rather than Westminster

On developing local government policy rather than working on Assembly proposals

On Lobbying rather than responding

Plus

(Q5) The Association should concentrate on fewer issues in greater depth.

In terms of relationships with member authorities the responses support –

(Q2) The Association should, on balance, be a critical friend rather than give unconditional support.

(Q5) The Association's links with individual elected members need to be strengthened substantially.

(Q6) Any greater demand for collective work should be met almost equally by staff from Local Authorities and changes/increases in the Association.

Member arrangements

- 5 The Co-ordinating Committee should re-focus its agenda onto deliberation of major policy proposals and creation of the Association's Policy Framework and within that should authorise the Spokespersons to finalise all policy action appropriate to their respective remits.
- 6 Spokespersons should establish liaison arrangements with the relevant Cabinet member in each authority and opportunities should be created for dialogue with other members of local authorities as appropriate.
- 7 All member activity should be supplemented by a much enhanced communication service providing regular information, both on the web-site and by personal delivery to all elected members.
- 8 The Council should agree to establish additional means of securing coherence in and direction of agreed policy activity through either a Partnership Group – see **Annex A** or a smaller Liaison Group – **see Annex B**.

Constitution

- 9 Any decision of the Council to adjust arrangements for elected member involvement will need to be reflected in due course by amendments to the Constitution which will be prepared and submitted to a subsequent meeting.

Recommendations

10 That the Association be recommended to adopt either Option A or B:

Option A –

A.1 To approve the creation of a Partnership Group;

A.2 To approve the Terms of Reference of the Partnership Group;

A.3 To approve the revised purposes of the Co-ordinating Committee;

A.4 To determine the composition of the Partnership Group;

A.5 To receive nominations and agree the membership of the Partnership Group;

A.6 To approve the principle of authority for and liaison arrangements of Spokespersons;

A.7 To require the development of a much enhanced communication service for all members.

or

Option B –

B.1 To approve revised purpose of Co-ordinating Committee;

B.2 To approve the principle of authority for and liaison arrangements of Spokespersons;

B.3 To establish a Leaders Liaison Group comprising the Leader of each Group, the Presiding Officer and one other majority group member;

B.4 To require the development of a much enhanced communication service for all members.

Author: Sandy Blair, Director

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Email: sandy.blair@wlga.gov.uk

Partnership Group Composition –

The Leader of the Association	1
The Leader of the other groups	2
The Spokespersons	6 * 1
	—
	9 * 2
Plus 1 additional member	10

Responsibilities

- (i) To be responsible for over-seeing the preparation of the Annual Forward Plan and the coherent implementation of the Association's approved Policy Framework.
- (i) To oversee arrangements for liaison with the National Assembly for Wales and with Government Agencies, the Trade Union Movement, the Private Sector and the Voluntary Sector.
- (i) To undertake the role of the Central Bodies Scrutiny Group and to secure arrangements for communicating objectives to, and monitoring and reviewing the performance of, Central Bodies and other local authority related organisations in Wales.
- (i) To undertake the functions of the Management Sub-Committee. (as set out in paragraphs 10.3 + 10.4 of the Constitution)

*** Notes**

¹This assumes that the Leader of the Coalition Group will attend as a Spokesperson and that he will nominate a substitute as Group Leader

²In order to accommodate 6 majority group members (1+5) the rules of political balance require an additional seat to be allocated to Plaid Cymru

ANNEX B

Liaison Group Membership:

Leader of the Association	1
Presiding Officer	1
Leaders of the other Groups	2
Additional Majority Member	1
	--
	5
	--

Liaison Group Responsibilities

- (i) To discuss proposals for shaping the Annual Forward Plan and agree arrangements for progressing individual projects as deemed necessary or appropriate.

- (ii) To undertake the roles of the Central Bodies Scrutiny Group and the Management Sub-Committee.

- (iii) To provide cross-party opportunity for considering and agreeing liaison arrangements with other organisations.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: LGA EDUCATION EXECUTIVE CLIENT SIDE GROUP

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To nominate Member nominations for the LGA Education Executive Client Side Group.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The WLGA is inviting all Member Councils to put forward a suitable nomination to the above Group. The LGA Education Executive Client Side Group monitors top slice funding for the National Foundation for Educational Research [NFER], the Institute for Adult Continuing Education [NIACE], plus the National Youth Agency for England. The WLGA decision that it would not be appropriate to nominate a member who sits on the Board of or is actively involved in the work of the NFER, NIACE or the National Youth Agency of Wales. The nominations will be considered at the December WLGA Coordinating Committee. The deadline is 1 December 2001 and must be accompanied by a formal nomination form.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Travel costs if not met by the Welsh Local Government Association.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The costs of this proposal must be maintained within existing budgetary provisions in order to maintain delivery of the Council's recovery plan.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Councillor K E Wells, the Lead Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning supports a nomination to the Education Executive Client Side Group.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

No obvious issues arising from this nomination.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members nominate a Member(s) to be the Welsh Local Authority member representative on the LGA Education Executive Client Side Group.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOODLAND FORUM

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To ask Members to agree to the retrospective nominations of Councillor D M Morris and Mr Michael Hall to represent the WLGA on the National Assembly Woodland Forum.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The National Assembly for Wales has launched the Woodlands for Wales strategy for trees and woodlands and it was agreed to start up a Woodland Forum to monitor progress towards implementation of the strategy, to act as a focus for information exchange and to report back to the Assembly. The Forum will be chaired by Carwyn Jones AM and the Forestry Commission are seeking Member or officer nominations to represent local government on this Forum. They would be expected to attend two meetings a year, the first of which will be held on the afternoon of 29 November 2001.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

This proposal does not have any budget implications and therefore does not adversely impact on delivery of the Council's recovery plan.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

N/A

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None arising from this decision but the Woodlands for Wales strategy has important implications for Agenda 21.

7 RECOMMENDATION

To agree retrospective nominations of Councillor D M Morris and Mr Michael Hall to the National Assembly Woodland Forum.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E C EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF FINANCE WORKING GROUPS IN 2002

1 DECISION SOUGHT

For Members to provide Member / Officer nominations for the WLGA Finance Working Groups in 2002: Distribution Sub Group; Expenditure Sub Group; Capital Sub Group and the Consultative Forum on Finance.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The WLGA is seeking nominations for Members and officers for the above working groups. Existing Council membership is as per the attached sheet.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

This proposal does not have any budget implications and therefore does not adversely impact on delivery of the Council's recovery plan.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Relevant Corporate Directors if officers nominated.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None arising from this report.

7 RECOMMENDATION

Members determine representation as appropriate.

<p><u>DISTRIBUTION SUB GROUP</u> Membership as at November 2001</p> <p>Elected members: None</p> <p>Officers Head of Finance, WLGA D G Elis Williams (Anglesey) * K W Finch (Conwy) K R Sawyers (Neath Port Talbot) M G Trubey (Swansea) J E Watkin (Ceredigion) * S Greenslade (Monmouthshire) David Waggett (Blaenau Gwent) M G Scholes (Wrexham) Roger Parry (Denbighshire) Huw Morse (Mid & West Wales Fire Authority)</p>	<p><u>EXPENDITURE SUB GROUP</u> Membership as at November 2001</p> <p>Elected members: Cllr Jeff Jones (Bridgend) Cllr R A Hughes (Conwy) Cllr R V Goodway (Cardiff) Cllr A Ff Jones (Gwynedd) Cllr W Rh Webb OBE (Denbighshire)</p> <p>Officers Head of Finance, WLGA D W Davies (Neath Port Talbot) M R Lewis (Pembrokeshire) S Rosser (Caerphilly) S Davies (The Vale of Glamorgan) R F Carter (Swansea) * Joyce Steven (Newport) Nic Wheeler (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority)</p>
<p><u>CAPITAL SUB GROUP</u> Membership as at November 2001</p> <p>Elected members: Cllr G R Court OBE (Caerphilly) Cllr Shan Wilkinson (Wrexham) Cllr Jeff Jones (Bridgend) Cllr J Codd (Rhondda Cynon Taff) Cllr J James (The Vale of Glamorgan)</p> <p>Officers Head of Finance, WLGA R F Carter (Swansea) A Howells (Carmarthenshire) H O'Sullivan (Merthyr Tydfil) L M James (Bridgend) * A G Thomas (Powys) P Nash (Torfaen) M G Scholes (Wrexham) H Thomas (Gwynedd) M Lewis (Pembrokeshire)</p>	<p><u>CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON FINANCE</u> Membership as at November 2001</p> <p>Elected members: Sir Harry Jones CBE (Newport) Cllr Colin Mann (Caerphilly) Cllr Dai Lloyd Evans (Ceredigion) Cllr Russell Goodway Cllr Shan Wilkinson (Wrexham)</p> <p>Officers: Director, WLGA Head of Finance, WLGA Finance advisers (4) Nic Wheeler (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority) Huw Morse (Mid & West Wales Fire Authority)</p>

* denotes the Association's finance advisers

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET - 22 November, 2001

LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LEA GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Report by the Lead Cabinet Member for Life Long Learning

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider nominations received for LEA Governor vacancies from the Local Member(s) for the area in which the school(s) are located subject to Council's approval of the criteria for selection.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Prior to 1st April, 1996 the appointment of LEA Governors was administered by the previous Clwyd County Council as Local Education Authority.

2.2 Under the Education (School Government) Regulations 1989 this function now falls to Denbighshire County Council in respect of those Schools within County.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the following nomination(s) for LEA Governor appointment(s) be approved, the names listed below being the names nominated by the Local Member(s) for the Schools.

ST ASAPH (INFANTS) V.P. (C)

Local Member: Councillor D.A. Thomas

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr D.A. Thomas

21.9.03

Mr George Williams, 61 Bishops Walk, St Asaph

16.0.05

Ms Judith Ann Owen, 23 Roe Parc, St Asaph

Resigned

NOMINATION

Mrs Janet Parry, Pinewood, Upper Denbigh Road, St Asaph.

County Clerk

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR K E WELLS, LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND ICT

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER, 2001

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To give approval to the ICT Department to continue discussions with particular IT service companies, into the possibility of forming an innovative partnership arrangement.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

In order to progress with the ICT Strategy and to ensure delivery of a best value service, the ICT Department needs to form a partnership with an outside private sector organisation. This is because we do not have all the skills and in particular, the resource to develop and deliver the best services on our own.

We need a partner with the relevant skills and accreditation who understands our technology, our business environment and, more importantly, can commit to allocating high skilled resource to us without high costs, in the hope that the overall returns of being a preferred supplier and the potential sales of what they produce, satisfy their business model.

We are looking for a partner to share possible risk and it is difficult to be prescriptive via a traditional tendering route. One element would be that we will be looking to suppliers to tell us what they would want from such an agreement.

The important issue is that of achieving the best value solution for Denbighshire. In this case, that is to hold detailed discussions with three, or maybe four, suppliers who are accredited and known to the ICT Department, to see how they propose to develop a working arrangement and from there, to select a preferred partner.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

No financial implications at this stage.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

At this stage, consultation has consisted of discussions with a selection of possible companies.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The objective of the initiative is to develop an approach to the delivery of corporate objectives and policies.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approve preliminary investigations with outside companies, with the intention of forming an innovative partnership.

REPORT TO CABINET:

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A E Roberts

DATE: 22 November 2001

SUBJECT: Sure Start Plan 2002-2003

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 Sure Start is a locally based programme, operating across Wales, which aims to increase opportunity for very young children and their families. Sure Start is expected to deliver a range of local services, targeted on areas of need, through co-ordinated action by a partnership of relevant local agencies. Denbighshire has received funding under Sure Start since 1999. For full details please see Sure Start Evaluation 2000-2001 (available from Christine Jones Sure Start Co-ordinator, ext. 6556 or e-mail on christine.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk).
- 1.2 The National Assembly for Wales requires that Denbighshire submits its Sure Start Plan 2002-2003 to them by 31st October 2001 and that this plan should be shaped by the findings recorded in the Evaluation 2000-2001.
- 1.3 The decision sought is that Cabinet endorses the proposed Sure Start Plan for 2002-2003 (attached).

2. REASONS FOR SEEKING THE DECISION

- 2.1 The funding for Sure Start is channelled through local authorities (except for Health Trusts who receive direct funding from the National Assembly). The National Assembly require the clear endorsement of partnership plans by Elected Members.

3. COST IMPLICATION

- 3.1 There is no cost implication for Denbighshire County Council as the Sure Start programme is directly funded by the National Assembly for Wales. The expected level of funding for 2002-2003 is £375,263.
- 3.2 The Sure Start funding is administered by Denbighshire Social Services through Paul Senior, Finance Officer, in partnership with Christine Jones, Sure Start Co-ordinator.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The scheme is not expected to impact on Denbighshire's budgetary position and the Recovery Plan. It will nevertheless be essential for costs to be maintained within the level of external finance available and that all categories of expenditure are in accordance with the grant regime.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 The Sure Start Management Group (which is chaired by Paul McWade, Head of Strategic Planning and Operational Services and acting Director of Social Services)

has endeavoured to make the planning and consultation process as open and extensive as possible within the timescale laid down by the National Assembly for Wales (13th August 2001- 31st October 2001).

- 5.2 The current partners listed below participated in shaping the draft plan via the Sure Start Management Group:
- Denbighshire Social Services
 - Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust
 - NCH Cymru
 - Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
 - Wales Pre-School Play Groups Association
 - Personal Service Society
 - Denbighshire Local Health Group
 - Directorate of Lifelong Learning
 - Denbighshire Child Care Partnership

The following were consulted on the draft plan:

- All members of Denbighshire Child Care Partnership.
- Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.
- Denbighshire Library Service.
- Members of the public via advertisements in the Denbighshire Free Press and the Journal.
- Sure Start users via the current Partners.
- Rhyl Community Agency.
- Elected members.

- 5.3 To ensure an even wider circulation, all parties above were asked to forward details to any other organisations that they believe meet the Sure Start Objectives.
- 5.4 As previously stated, all the current partners listed above participated in drawing up the plan via their delegated representatives on the Sure Start Management Group. There was little comment on the plan from other individuals or organisations consulted. One Elected Member complimented the plan and gave his general support. Another Elected Member noted that the consultation document was not available in Welsh (which will be addressed in future). Two Elected Members expressed an interest in knowing more about Sure Start and future developments.
- 5.5 All current partners were given the opportunity to take a full part in the decision making regarding the allocation of additional funds for Sure Start next year. **A full explanation of the decision making process for determining the final content of the plan, projects to be funded and the level of funding can be seen in the Executive Summary of the attached Sure Start Plan 2002 - 2003.**

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 The main impacts are on:

Health Promotion

The Sure Start programme seeks to promote the health and well-being of children of 0-4 and their families, particularly in areas of greatest need in the county.

Social Inclusion

The programme also promotes social inclusion, strengthening families and communities.

Partnership Working

The Sure Start Programme demonstrates a commitment to Partnership Working.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That Members support and endorse the Proposed Sure Start Plan 2002-2003.

SURE START PLAN FOR DENBIGHSHIRE 2002 - 2003



PROPOSED SURE START PLAN 2002-2003

OCTOBER 2001

CHRISTINE JONES

Executive Summary

The Sure Start Evaluation 2000-2001 identified that all Current Partners are providing a service in accordance with the National Sure Start Objectives and the requirements of Sure Start in Denbighshire. Thus the Plan for 2002-2003 retains all the existing partners. It extends the services that NCH Cymru provides to cover Denbigh without any increase in revenue as close scrutiny of the existing Budget has made funds available for this purpose. It also extends the services of Homestart, PSS Toy and Equipment Library and the Sure Start Health Visitor by an allocation of additional funds from the Budget 2002-2003. The above extension of services from existing partners is in accordance with both the National Assembly for Wales' vision for Sure Start and the findings in the Evaluation 2000-2001.

Thus Sure Start now has services in all Priority Areas with some provision for families living outside these areas. The latter is in accordance with Denbighshire's Plan 1999-2002.

The applications received for funding from organisations were of high quality and a thorough short-listing process was used. Representatives from the Partnership were fully involved in this process.

We received bids in the region of £260,000 which far exceeded the fund available. The Sure Start Management Group on 9.10.00 agreed that existing projects should have their grants increased to cover inflation and that the Part Time Co-ordinator should have a Part-Time Administrator purely for Sure Start. This left a sum in the region of £45,000.

The selection criteria were as follows:

- Do the applications relate their service to Sure Start objectives?
- If yes, how many objectives are being addressed in the proposed service?

If the objectives were not addressed, the application was not short-listed. This process enabled the Group to reach the Initial short-list. The group then proceeded to reduce the short-list further by employing the following criterion:

- Can the project be fully operational by 1.4.02?
- Has the project addressed sustainability post 31.3.03?
- Does the project state that it will operate in the Priority Areas?

This process allowed the Group to formulate the final list.

The Sure Start Management group agreed that the projects referred to in this Plan are those that, after close scrutiny, will provide a comprehensive service in Denbighshire.

The Management group has also taken into consideration the fact that over the course of a year, expenditure is variable and have thus agreed to allocate any underspends to

- The Integrated Centre as proposed by the Child Care Partnership (Christchurch, Rhyl).
- Assisted Places Scheme operated by MYM and PPA Wales specifically for children with a disability with priority to those living in the Designated Areas.
- The Young Parents Support Project to pay for up to two additional Child care places for children of school age parents.

As a result of the funding available and the rigorous short-listing process we are proposing that the Library Service becomes a new Partner with the inclusion of a Bookstart Project which meets all Sure Start Objectives, Members will be aware that Bookstart is already promoted in Denbighshire, but that it is not funded. Sure Start funding will not replace the existing provision, it will extend it.

Introduction

This document is the proposed Sure Start Plan for Denbighshire for the period April 2002 to March 2003.

Context & Need

For more detailed analysis of the context and need element of this document please see Sure Start Plan for Denbighshire 1999 - 2002 and the Sure Start Evaluation Report 2000 - 2001. These reports are available from Christine Jones, or Lorna Roberts also at the above address, e-mail lorna.roberts@denbighshire.gov.uk - telephone 01824 706635.

The Sure Start Evaluation 2000 - 2001 demonstrated that all the existing programmes were meeting their targets and providing a valuable service to members of the public.

The evaluation, whilst indicating that services had been well received, also highlighted that not all the resources were targeted towards those communities most in need, both in terms of geography and demonstrated social need. Hence the Plan 2002 - 2003 is designed to address this.

The Evaluation demonstrated that the communities most in need in accordance with the definition posed by the Children Act 1989 are:

- ⇒ Rhyl
- ⇒ South West Rhyl
- ⇒ Denbigh & Rural
- ⇒ St Asaph & Rural
- ⇒ Ruthin & Rural
- ⇒ Corwen & Rural
- ⇒ Llangollen & Rural

The areas defined as Priority Areas under Communities First are:

- ⇒ Rhyl
- ⇒ South West Rhyl
- ⇒ Rhyl East
- ⇒ Upper Denbigh
- ⇒ Bodelwyddan
- ⇒ Meliden
- ⇒ Corwen

Thus this Plan will be encompassing two complementary definitions of Need and will be providing a service in the following areas:

- ⇒ Rhyl
- ⇒ Rhyl East
- ⇒ South West Rhyl
- ⇒ Upper Denbigh
- ⇒ Bodelwyddan (accessible to St Asaph & Rural)
- ⇒ Meliden*
- ⇒ Corwen & Rural
- ⇒ Ruthin & Rural
- ⇒ Llangollen & Rural

Whilst neither Ruthin nor Llangollen feature as significant areas of need under either definition, it has been agreed that the services currently operational in these locations will be retained as both are rural communities where services are sparse and accessibility is problematic. There will need to be more intensive targeting of families in these areas to ensure that those families most in need have every opportunity and encouragement to utilise the services.

SURE START OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improving social and emotional development
- 2) Improving health
- 3) Improving the ability to learn
- 4) Strengthening families and communities
- 5) Increasing productivity of operations

Programme of Projects/ Partners

Project	Existing services
1: Homestart	This provides a countywide service but will be expected to focus more specifically on the Priority Areas during 2002-2003. Additional funding has been agreed out of the allocation for 2002-2003 to enable a second full-time co-ordinator to be appointed, thus giving Homestart scope to extend its services. Currently, there is a waiting list of families who would like a service and a waiting list of volunteers who require training. The current co-ordinator is working to capacity so in the absence of a second staff member, the service is not able to meet the needs of the community. Homestart primarily works with families 'in need' who have been referred by Denbighshire Social Services as part of either a Case Work Plan or Child Protection Plan.
2: PSS Toy & Equipment Library	This provides a countywide service but will be expected to focus more specifically on the Priority Areas during 2002-2003. Additional funding has been agreed out of the allocation for 2002-2003 to enable the recruitment of an additional member of staff whose role will be to further target priority areas.
3: NCH South Denbighshire	This Project currently provides a service in: Corwen & Rural Llangollen & Rural Ruthin & Rural In the Plan 2002-2003 it will be expected to extend its outreach service to families in the rural areas and to provide a Parent & Toddler Plus service in Upper Denbigh out of its existing budget.

Programme of Projects/ Partners

Project	Existing services
4: NCH South West Rhyl	This Project provides a service in South West Rhyl by funding sessions (as specified) at Rhyl Adventure Playground and part-funding a post in Rhyl Community Developing Agency.
5: PPA Assisted Places Scheme	This provision operates countywide and will continue to do so. Following the budget planning meeting on 30.10.01 it is envisaged that additional funds should be available for PPA/ MYM. This funding will be allocated when available to enable further assisted places to be made available for children with a disability with priority given to children in the designated areas.
6: MYM Peripatetic Offer	This provision operates in the Rhyl and Coastal Belt regions (Prestatyn, Meliden, Bodelwyddan, St. Asaph) and will continue to do so. Following the budget planning meeting on 30.10.01 it is envisaged that additional funds should be available for PPA/ MYM. This funding will be allocated when available to enable further assisted places to be made available for children with a disability with priority given to children in the designated areas.
7: Young Parents Support Project	This provision provides a countywide service.
8: Sure Start Parent Support Worker (Denbighshire Social Services)	This post currently provides a service to South Denbighshire only. However, in accordance with findings in the Evaluation 2000-2001, the structure of the post has been varied to 2 half-time posts- one based in Rhyl (North) and one based in Ruthin (South). Once again, priority will be given to referrals in the areas of greatest need.
9: Health Visitor (funded via Health)	The post provides a countywide service but will be expected to give priority to service delivery in the areas of greatest need. Additional funding has been agreed out of the allocation for 2002-2003 to allow for the current post to be re-graded to enable the post holder to extend her job description to include the training of Health Visitors in behaviour management.
10: Development Fund	The fund will be available for publicity and developments to projects in priority areas.
11: Monitoring & Research	Monies in this budget will be fully utilised in the countywide monitoring and evaluation conducted for the National Assembly for Wales, which expects Denbighshire to set aside 4% of the total budget for monitoring and research.
12: Co-ordinators Salary	This includes salary and 'on costs' for the 18½ hour Post.

Programme of Projects/ Partners

Project	New Service (allocation 2002-2003)
1. Bookstart (Part-Time Staff Member)	This project will be expected to provide a service to families living in the areas of greatest need. It will be expected to work in partnership with Health Visitors, the Sure Start Health Visitor and all Sure Start Partners but with particular emphasis on links with the PSS Tegan Project.

Project 1: HOMESTART

Aim: Support to Families and Parents/Befriending and Social Support

Details of Project and Location

Homestart visitors are volunteers who work in partnership alongside the statutory health and social services offering friendship, practical advice and support to families with young children in their own homes who are vulnerable to stress and/or isolation. It aims to provide a breathing space for parents and enables them to focus upon a recognised need, as recommended by a health or social services' colleague. As the approach emphasises working together with the family, the work to be done is carried out in a non-stigmatising and empowering way. The service complements the statutory services who are able to refer any family which contains a child within the specified age range.

Services to be Delivered

Home-visiting is open ended and the approach varies according to the needs of individual families as detailed in the agreement. Once or twice weekly visiting is usual, but it may be more frequent during a time of crisis. Home visitors are encouraged to build a trusting relationship, offer reassurance and share their practical skills as parents. Common needs are for parents to be given a break to do housework or to devote more time to a particular child. Other typical activities include accompanying families on outings or helping them to keep appointments. Volunteers may also provide emotional support for parents who lack support from other sources.

Effectiveness at Meeting those Needs

Homestart schemes typically consist of a paid organiser and about 30 volunteers who are experienced parents. No prior qualifications are required, but volunteers undertake ten weekly training sessions. A network of more than 180 autonomous home visiting schemes around the country is supported by a national organisation, Home-Start UK. In 1997/98 there were more than 5,800 Homestart volunteers supporting 14,000 families and 34,500 children.

Research Evidence

Research about the effectiveness of projects is available.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

The "resourceful friend" model complements the principle of partnership and supporting children within their own family. It is a flexible service which is provided within the home, thus meeting

the objectives of home-visiting and outreach. Consequently, it is easily accessible to families, and it provides a means of alleviating the impact of isolation and exclusion. Early intervention will reduce the need to become involved on a statutory basis later on, and earlier identification of potential problems and referral to appropriate specialist services will benefit the child and family. The providing of a role-model will increase parents' confidence and capacity in parenting and will improve the parent - child relationship. This service complements existing services such as Health & Social Services and will work well in conjunction with other developing services such as Information Service, Mobile Equipment & Toy Library and Outreach Services.

Cost

The staffing levels and costs are as follows:

The scheme employs one Homestart Organiser and one part-time secretary, and other out-goings include volunteer training costs and expenses and setting up and maintaining an office.

The necessary programme of funding to run the programme is:

2002 - 2003	£	} £60,306.00
Proposed 2003 - 2004		To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

A multidisciplinary management committee will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of this scheme. The Audit of Need as well as the other evidence containing documents referred to above provides a baseline and identifies the targets to be set. As delivery plans are implemented progress will be measured in terms of outputs in the following ways - number of referrals; outcomes will be derived from the expected and actual impact of services on children and families when compared against baseline measurements - reduction of child protection concerns, registration and accommodation for specified reasons. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Project 2: PSS TOY & EQUIPMENT LIBRARY

Aim: To Support Good Quality Play, Learning & Childcare

Play & Learning

Details of Project

This scheme is centrally based in Ruthin and whilst providing a countywide bilingual service it targets children of pre-school age and their families who have particular needs and/or by providing a mobile service visiting different parts of the county on a regular round. In conjunction with the local Volunteer Services Bureau, volunteers would be recruited and supported. The scheme maintains and loans appropriate toys and safety equipment, taking referrals from individuals, and both statutory and voluntary organisations. Being mindful of the support needs of vulnerable families, this scheme complements and works in conjunction with other agencies and organisations in a preventative and non stigmatising way.

Services to be Delivered

Whilst giving priority to lending toys and safety equipment to families, it could also provide a service to childminders and play groups where specialised needs are identified. In the future the aim would be to have a base where families could call in to borrow toys and equipment, to access information, attend “learning through play” sessions, etc.

Extent of Need

The Children's Services Plan highlights the need to address issues of isolation, which are more prevalent in rural areas and in families with special needs. Due to the low level of services such as public transport and day care in the rural areas the need to strengthen provision in these areas is recognised in the Children's Services Plan.

Both the Children's Services Plan, the Early Years Development Plan and the Audit conducted on behalf of the Childcare Partnership highlight the need for improved facilities for children with special needs and their families. The number of children who require multi agency planning and support because of their disability is given as 244.

Another need which is identified is the provision of an Information Service to “hard to reach” families.

There is also documented concern about the need to identify and provide services for “young carers” who may be involved in, or be affected by the health care needs of their parents or siblings. A recent estimate has shown that there may be as many as 2,000 children/young people within the County who could be defined within this group.

Effectiveness at Meeting those Needs - Research Evidence

PSS benefits from being a large organisation which has an established framework of support and proven capacity in other similar initiatives. It has established links with the National Association of Toy & Leisure Libraries and has consulted widely with, eg, voluntary agencies such as Scope, the Down's Syndrome Association, NCH Action for Children, as well as the statutory services in the formulating of the project. Support for the project has been shown by individuals and organisations representing Health Services, Social Services, Education Services, Voluntary organisations and others. There are also links with businesses in the community and the Chamber of Commerce.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This mobile project will address isolation, both in terms of rural needs and other special needs. It will improve the ability to learn and boost parents' confidence in helping their children. It will deliver health and education elements within family support and will provide outreach, information and sign posting services. It provides an universal service whilst maintaining the flexibility to target need. The submission for this project reflects good multi-agency consultation and commitment. This service complements existing services such as Health and Social Services and will work well in conjunction with other services such as Information Service, and all Sure Start Partners. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£70,734.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	to remain as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The PSS management committee will be responsible for providing the Sure Start Partnership with the necessary information in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this scheme. The Childrens' Services Plan as well as other evidence containing documents referred to above provide baseline.

Project 3: NCH OUTREACH SERVICE SOUTH DENBIGHSHIRE AND UPPER DENBIGH

Aim: To provide Outreach and Home Visiting Services.

Details of Project

NCH Action of Children provide a range of services under the Sure Start umbrella on a peripatetic basis serving the communities of south Denbighshire primarily.

The service would have three elements:

1. Drop-in provision (Health/Parent & Toddler Support) - to provide accessible health advice regarding health eating, child safety etc.
2. Parent craft groups (parenting skills/behaviour management/play) - to provide a stimulating environment which will facilitate children and parents' learning through play. Focusing upon behaviour management and experiences of new parents.
3. Home visiting scheme - to follow up with more direct support for parents attending the above provision as well as reaching those in need who cannot attend the services on offer.

Effectiveness at Meeting those Needs

NCH Action for Children have a proven capacity to deliver services for children and their families in partnership with service users and other service providers, both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This project provides Outreach and Family Support services in an enabling way which builds up the capacity of individual families and the wider community. It will provide non stigmatising effective and accessible family support within and outside the home. It will provide an information and sign posting element along with early identification of potential problems and early response. This preventative approach will minimise the likelihood of becoming involved on a statutory basis at a later date. The inclusion of a health component in this project reflects the commitment towards providing a blanket health surveillance programme and will facilitate referring on to appropriate specialist services where appropriate. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£55,671.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	to remain as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

It is proposed that services would be co-ordinated under the existing management systems of NCH Action for Children, already established within Denbighshire, with Canolfan Seion, Denbigh, providing the base. The multi agency Project Management Committee includes elected Denbighshire County Council Members, Community Groups and Service Users.

It is intended that the NCH Action for Children Project Monitoring and Evaluation System be used. This will provide a resource to assist and support staff in implementing ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

NCH will be responsible for providing the Sure Start Partnership with the necessary information in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this scheme. The Childrens' Services Plan as well as other evidence containing documents referred to above provides a baseline (level of referrals, accommodation requests, child protection concerns and registration) from which appropriate targets should be identified.

Project 4: NCH ACTION FOR CHILDREN SOUTH WEST RHYL

Aim: Support families and parents/befriending and social support

Details of Project

This proposal covers the electoral district of South West Rhyl concentrating in particular on the local authority housing estate around Rhydwen Drive and Gwynfryn Avenue. The proposal seeks to provide an intensive range of services to be provided at Rhyl Adventure Playground coupled with home visiting which would provide direct services to that community on 5 mornings each week.

Whilst NCH Action for Children is submitting the proposal it does so in the hope that this will become a multi-agency project involving the local community.

Services to be Delivered

Sure Start in South West Rhyl would use as its base the Rhyl Adventure Playground for morning provision of a range of services including outreach. Services to be provided could include:

- ⇒ Drop-in Health Clinic - to provide accessible health, advice & support.
- ⇒ Drop-in Mother & Toddler Group - to provide a safe and stimulating environment for parents to come and play with their children, get advice and support around the issues of play, behaviour and be signposted to more specialist services when appropriate.

- ⇒ Parent Support Group - to provide more intensive support to parents.
- ⇒ Group Work Programme - a rolling programme of groups looking at:
 - Parenting skills
 - Toddler Taming/Behaviour Management
 - Positive Play
- ⇒ Outreach Work - reaching those in need who do not benefit from the other services.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This project is compatible with many of the Sure Start Objectives:

- to facilitate locally based solutions in response to local needs via Rhyl Community Agency.
- to develop community capacity by the establishing of local multi-agency groups working in partnership with the community via Rhyl Community Agency.
- to provide additional services and targeted family support through locally based services within a preventative framework.
- to provide support which enhances parenting and positive child development.
- to improve the quality and extent of play within local families and groups through the involvement of parents, children and playworkers.
- to reduce health inequalities for children and families through targeted preventative services and early intervention.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£54,837.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

It is proposed that services would be co-ordinated under the existing management systems of NCH Action for Children already established in Denbighshire. The multi-agency Project Management Committee includes elected Denbighshire County Council Members, Community Groups and Service Users.

It is intended that the NCH Action for Children Project Monitoring and Evaluation system be used. This will provide a resource to assist and support staff in implementing ongoing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. NCH will be responsible for providing the Sure Start Partnership with the necessary information in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this scheme. The Childrens' Services Plan as well as other evidence containing documents referred to above, provide a baseline (level of referrals, accommodation requests, child protection concerns and level of registration) from which appropriate targets can be identified. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Project 5: WALES PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION (PPA)

Aim: To support good quality play, learning and childcare experiences

Details of the Project

Wales PPA is a well established national organisation which complements education and social services in the provision of high quality provision for pre-school children. All its provision is registered and reviewed annually and there are stringent vetting and training expectations in respect of the staff.

The Wales PPA Diploma in Playgroup Practice validated by Wales PPA and accredited by the open college has been run through Llandrillo College in Rhyl for a number of years. This year, 18 students have received their Diplomas.

Wales PPA Denbighshire currently has 21 member playgroups and 16 member parents and toddler groups.

Services to be Delivered

This project for inclusion in the Sure Start programme in Denbighshire is intended to improve and expand services for young children and support their parents. It will build on and develop existing services and includes an element of capacity building in disadvantaged areas in order to minimise social exclusion.

The Assisted Places Scheme helps families on benefits to pay for sessions - it currently pays towards two sessional costs per week.

The PPA's Special Needs Referral Scheme is designed to identify a child's difficulties early, be it learning, emotional, behavioural, physical, sensory or linguistic, in order that an appropriate level of support can be given to the child and family. We have 25 years of experience of integrating children with special needs, and their families into groups. Many of these children have gone to mainstream school with few requiring statements. It is successful and non-stigmatising. The cost of placing a child with special needs, if they require a helper, including peripheral costs averages £1,000 for a full year.

The PPA encourage parents' participation in our groups so they may learn to provide for the needs of their young children. We help parents to gain confidence to make the best use of their knowledge and resources for the benefit of themselves and their children, through formal and informal training. It is intended these groups will be run by parent committees, with appropriate support.

Cost

Any additional funds made available through the Sure Start programme would go directly into service delivery via the Special Needs Scheme and Assisted Places Scheme.

	2002 - 2003	£4,697.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Area Organisers visit all groups on a regular (at least half termly) basis to give information, assist with grant applications, advise on employment matters, training legislation and local guidelines. They work closely with Social Services. They are available to groups between visits should problems arise and extra visits can be made if necessary.

The Special Needs Co-ordinator receives referrals from referring agencies such as the Childrens Centre, Health Visitors, GP's, Parents and Supervisors. The Co-ordinator then liaises with the parents (including a home visit), the group and the referring agent in order to place the child in their local group, or if this is for any reason inappropriate, the most suitable group.

Monitoring & Evaluation

All placements are monitored and an annual report is produced which includes feedback from all parties. The PPA would provide all information as required by the Sure Start Programme. This Programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,3,4 and 5.

Project 6: MUDIAD YSGOLION MEITHRIN (MYM)

Aim: To support good quality play, learning and childcare experiences

Details of Project

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is a voluntary organisation which provides play group facilities (2 hour sessions) through the medium of the Welsh language for children, including those with special needs, aged 2.5 - 4 years throughout Wales. It also runs "Ti a Fi" groups which specifically cater for children, including those with special needs, aged 0 - 3 years and his/her parent. There are nineteen "Cylchoedd Meithrin", and eight "Meithrin Mwy", (Playgroup Plus) groups within Denbighshire. Mudiad have worked closely with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary in order to promote the social and educational development of pre-school children. They operate an inclusive policy in respect of children with special needs, including disability, working closely in conjunction with significant others in catering for their needs. They also provide an assisted placement scheme which enables children who otherwise could not attend to benefit from the provision.

This project employs peripatetic workers from within the community in order to support the work of a small number of local Ti a Fi groups, ensuring that they have a suitable programme of activities to support families in deprived areas. It would also establish a fund to maintain the assisted placement scheme.

Services to be Delivered

The visiting of new parents at home, or at child clinics, parenthood classes, etc, to inform them about the opportunities the Ti a Fi groups could offer their child and themselves.

Encouragement would be given to attending the group, possibly accompanying them to the first session or so. The peripatetic officers would also take a leading role in the running of the groups, encouraging parents and carers to read with their child, discuss parenting and health promotion issues and provide a forum for relevant speakers to attend.

The assisted placement scheme will enable children with identified special needs to benefit from this provision.

Effectiveness at Meeting those Needs

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is a well established organisation which has complemented education and social services in the provision of good quality Welsh medium provision for pre-school aged children. All its provision is registered and reviewed annually and there are stringent vetting and training expectations in respect of the staff. A new course will be implemented from September 1999, "Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin Diploma in Childcare and Education", which has been accredited by CACHE. Within its playgroup provision Mudiad implements a pre-school curriculum, "Cynllun yr Enfys". Mudiad has established positive multi-agency links as well as strong community affiliations. The project provides good quality provision at modest costs.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

By encouraging play, this project improves language skills, enhances the ability to learn, and prepares the child for formal education, thus enhancing the child's social, emotional and educational development. It also improves the parent's confidence and capacity to aid the child's learning. This project addresses local needs with local provision and aids community capacity, thus strengthening families and communities. It also provides culturally and linguistically sensitive provision which reflects the need within the community. It facilitates the inclusion of children and families who have identified special needs. It also provides an early identification of problems and has the existing links through which to refer on to specialist services. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,3,4 and 5.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£4,697.00	
Proposed	2003 - 2004		To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Audit of Need as well as other evidence containing documents referred to above provide baselines and identify the targets to be set. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin will provide the Sure Start Partnership with all necessary information.

Project 7: YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT PROJECT

(This Project is referred to as "Creche Facilities for School Girl Mothers, Project 11, Educational Unit" in the Sure Start Plan 1999 - 2001)

Aim: Befriending and Social Support.

Details of Project

To provide parents of statutory school age children an opportunity to continue with their full time education.

Services to be Delivered

The Project will fund child care places with either registered childminders or in a registered day nursery in the locality of the young parents home to enable them (the parents) to continue with their full time education.

The Project will provide advice, support and personal and social education to young people in their own premises, schools and youth clubs.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This Project is compatible with many of the Sure Start core objectives. It provides family support and befriending during a critical period for both child and parent and aids parent - child interaction. It improves confidence and capacity in parenting skills as well as in personal educational achievement. It provides the opportunity to access information about other services. By means of the monitoring element it provides families with special needs to be supported in a non stigmatising way that will minimise the need for statutory involvement. The Project enables the early identification of and the appropriate response to any potential problem.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£2,801.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

This Project will provide all the required information in respect of the Sure Start Monitoring and Evaluation requirements (see Evaluation 2000 - 01). This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Project 8: SURE START PARENT SUPPORT WORKER - 2 Half Time Posts, one based in Rhyl, the other in Ruthin

Aim: Befriending and Social Support for children and families in need across Denbighshire. Particular emphasis on priority areas.

Details of Project

This Project would enable a Parent Support Worker to work in partnership with parents to prevent family breakdown, promote child protection and prevent the need for statutory intervention.

Services to be Delivered

These posts provide intensive direct services to children aged 0 - 3 years and their families who may be in need. It provides the basis for the continuing development of individual tailored packages of care for children with complex and diverse needs. This will include practical advice, guidance and assistance to parents, supervised activities outside school hours or during school holidays of children aged 0 - 3.

Principal accountabilities include:

- work alongside social workers and Health Visitors in providing practical support to children whose names are on the Child Protection Register.
- provide intense direct services to support children and their families who have multiple and complex needs in their own homes or in the community.
- work in partnership with other relevant agencies and organisations.
- provide early identification of potential problems and refer on to specialist services as appropriate.
- be responsible for the proper management of individual cases to meet assessed needs.
- promote awareness of welfare rights and give advice to maximise income.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This Project provides Outreach and Family Support services with the purpose of building up the capacity of individual families within their own home and wider community. It will provide non stigmatising effective and accessible family support within and outside the home. It will provide an information and sign posting element along with early identification of potential problems and early response. This preventative approach will minimise the likelihood of becoming involved on a statutory basis at a later date. This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,3,4 and 5.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£21,115.00
Proposed	2003 - 2004	To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The postholder will receive direct supervision from a manager within Social Services. The postholder will provide all the information required for the Sure Start Monitoring and Evaluation requirements (see Evaluation 2000 - 2001)

The Childrens' Services Plan as well as the other evidence containing documents referred to above provide a baseline and identifies the targets to be set.

Project 9: SURE START HEALTH VISITOR

Aim: Befriending, Social Support and guidance re Health/Development issues.

Details of Project & Location

This full time post funded primarily out of the Health element of the Sure Start Budget covers the whole of the county but pays particular attention to families in the Priority Areas.

The postholder works closely with existing Sure Start Projects both in group work and 1 : 1 situations. She also offers a referral service to families experiencing behaviour management problems. Again, emphasis will be placed on families in Priority Areas.

Compatibility with Sure Start Objectives

This programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Cost

	2002 - 2003	£38,210.00	
Proposed	2003 - 2004		To be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The postholder will provide the Management Team with all the information required under the Monitoring and Evaluation of Sure Start (see Evaluation 2000 - 2001).

Project 10: DEVELOPMENT FUND

After the payment of the half time Sure Start Co-ordinator, a small fund will be left unallocated to cover publicity and promotion of Sure Start and to be called upon when a small grant could enable an existing Partner to develop its service further in accordance with the Sure Start Objectives.

Project 11: MONITORING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

In accordance with the requirements of the National Assembly for Wales, Denbighshire will make available £15,010.52 for this purpose.

Employment of Dr Elizabeth Jones of E Jones Associates to assist the Co-ordinator with the completion of the Evaluation Report 2002 - 2003:

Up to 336 hours additional to contract hours (18.5 per week) to enable part-time Co-ordinator to complete the Evaluation without neglecting other aspects of her role:

Up to 100 hours to be made available to recruit administrative staff to assist in the administering of the research and collation of results:

Up to £x to cover the costs of administration, production and circulation of Sure Start Evaluation 2002 - 2003.

Costs

	2002 - 2003	£15,010.52	} to be determined in accordance with NAW, new framework and funding.
Proposed	2003 - 2004		

Project 12: BOOKSTART

Aim: Bookstart is based on the simple premise that babies who enjoy an early introduction to books benefit educationally, culturally, emotionally and socially.

Details of Project

The project would work in partnership with the existing Sure Start programmes and local health visitors.

The member of staff would work alongside Health Visitors who currently distribute story sacks and provide a service to families who need either group or one to one input to enable them to promote reading and the use of libraries/ book loans via Team Project to their children.

This project is based upon out-reach work so it can readily target families in the priority areas which will be the priority focus of its work.

The Bookstart programme fulfills Sure Start Objectives 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Costs

2002-2003	£12,000
Proposed 2003-2004	to be maintained as above if objectives are met.

Project 13: SURE START CO-ORDINATOR (18½ HOUR POST)(AND ADMINISTRATOR 21 HOURS)

Aim: To facilitate the administration of Sure Start in Denbighshire in accordance with the 5 Sure Start Objectives stipulated by the National Assembly for Wales and the Targets as determined by Denbighshire.

These posts are based in Ty Nant, Prestatyn but have a county-wide brief. The Co-ordinator is expected to co-ordinate Denbighshire's Programme, complete the Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring tasks as required by the National Assembly and to be actively involved in both the National and North Wales Sure Start Forums.

The postholder ensures that all the Programmes meet the required standards.

The Administrators role is to support the Sure Start Co-ordinator, to ensure that all the administrative tasks are completed within the time framework required by Denbighshire and the National assembly for Wales.

The funding for this post comes out of two separate programmes, Local Evaluation and the Development Fund

Costs: Administrator 2002-2003£3,748 (Local Evaluation) £7,497 (Development Fund)
2003-2004 To be maintained if objectives are met

Costs: Co-ordinator

2002-2003	£22,090.00
2003-2004	To be maintained as above if duties performed to required standard.

Please see the figures available at the end of this report.

Sure Start Allocations 2002/2003 :		£
Allocation for 2002/2003 -		375263
Less Health element -		-38210
Balance for DCC Sure Start		337053
		Allocations
	Scheme	2002/2003
		£
	Homestart	60306
	PSS Toy Library	70734
	NCH South Denbighshire	55671
	MYM	4697
	PPA	4697
	Young Parents Support Project	2801
	Parent Support Worker	21115
	Development Fund	13094
	NCH S.West Rhyl	54837
	Coordinators Costs	22090
	Bookstart	12000
	4% Local Evaluation	15011
		337053

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS, LEAD MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: **22 November, 2001**

SUBJECT: **Passenger Transport Services**

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 Ratification of the award of contracts to the lowest available tenderer for education transport and public transport services introduced during September 2001.
- 1.2 Further to Council's resolutions No. 472 on the 19 September 2000 to adopt formally the contract letting procedure as entered into on a trial basis for 12 months.
- 1.3 Approval of a financial contribution to North Denbighshire Dial A Ride Ltd from the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) Local Transport Services Grant, (LTSG) to fund the provision of drivers to operate the service to ensure continued provision of this service.
- 1.4 Following the provision of a new bus shelter at Ffrith Beach, Prestatyn, to approve its transfer i.e. ownership and maintenance to Prestatyn Town Council.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is being asked to ratify the award of contracts for education transport and public transport services. These contracts have been awarded in accordance with agreed procedures for lettings which had initially been agreed on a trial basis.
- 2.2 Now that the trial period has been completed and the procedures have been tested, Cabinet is being asked to establish as a permanent arrangement the contract award procedures as per Council's resolution No 472.
- 2.3 Cabinet approval is also required for allocation of financial resources within the LTSG to North Denbighshire Dial a Ride Ltd. This issues has been identified within periodic liaison meetings held. This action supports the objectives of the NAfW to use an element of LTSG for community transport initiatives, and would help overcome problems of the current service not being operated due to a lack of availability of volunteer drivers.
- 2.4 The bus shelter at Ffrith Beach is one of a small number owned by Denbighshire County Council, and is in a state of disrepair due to vandalism. No funds are allocated for the maintenance of these shelters.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Gross value of local bus service contracts tendered is £598,379 per annum. Funding is sourced from the Highway Public Transport revenue support and concessionary fare budgets, LTSG and Lifelong Learning Home to School transport budget.

Education transport services amount to £2,077.52 per day, equating to £388,496 per annum based on 187 days.

A contribution of up to £8,320 be made to North Denbighshire Dial A Ride Ltd from the LTSG.

A one off payment of up to £3,500 to be made from LTS Grant for the cost of a replacement bus shelter at Ffrith Beach and thereafter maintained by the Prestatyn Town Council.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The costs arising from the new contracts must be maintained within existing budget provisions for 2001/02 in order to comply with the Council's recovery plan. There are no budgetary implications arising from the proposed contribution to North Denbighshire Dial a Ride and the cost replacement bus shelter at Ffrith Beach, as these items are subject to external funding.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Consultations have taken place with

1. Denbighshire Voluntary Groups to identify partnership opportunities in accordance with Government guidelines.

In addition discussions have taken place with:

2. Lifelong Learning ensuring compatibility with Education Policies and requirements.
3. The County Clerk is supportive of the recommendation relating to the Contract letting procedure.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

These measures are considered to represent the most cost effective means of delivering these transport services and facilities which meet the National Assembly for Wales' and County Policies.

7 RECOMMENDATION

To ratify the award of education transport and public transport services to the lowest available tenderer, for contracts introduced during September 2001 and confirm as a permanent arrangement the Contract Letting Procedure - Council's resolution No. 472 refers.

To approve payment to North Denbighshire Dial a Ride Ltd (an established non profit marketing organisation) for the provision of paid drivers to provide a public transport service within Denbighshire's passenger transport service network.

To approve the transfer of ownership and maintenance of the bus shelter at Ffrith Beach following its replacement by the County using Local Transport Services Grant.

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E. A. OWENS, LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF THE SCHOOL CATERING SERVICE TO CONTRACT SERVICES - ANNUAL SUBSIDY

1. DECISION SOUGHT

Approval to the payment to Denbighshire Contract Services of an annual subsidy of £30,000 associated with the financial implications of the Council's decision to transfer the County's school catering service to the organisation.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 In accordance with minute no.767(iii) of the 18th January, 2000 full Council Meeting when Members considered a report of the former Chief Executive on Management and Services restructuring issues, the Council decided that, with effect from April 1st 2000, the Authority's school catering service be transferred to Denbighshire Contract Services.

2.2 Given the "twin hatted" management of the service by the then Education, Culture and Information Directorate as opposed to the Client / Contractor role preferred by the Council and with the Authority resolving to transfer the service to Contract Services, the Council was informed that there would be a necessity for the payment of an annual subsidy of £30,000 to Contract Services until such time as the Schools Catering Contract was retendered.

2.3 Members approved the payment for the 2000 / 2001 financial year at the 18 January 2000 meeting, but the minute failed to state that the subsidy should be paid annually up until the date of the contract being retendered.

2.4 It is for this reason that Members are being recommended to approve the decision being sought as otherwise the service would operate unviably.

3.0 COST IMPLICATIONS

Payment of an annual subsidy of £30,000 each financial year up until the schools catering contract is retendered which is expected to be during the 2003 / 2004 financial year.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposal complies with the original intention of subsidising the service until a tendering exercise can be undertaken.

5.0 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Financial Controller, the Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) and the Senior Management Accountant discussed this matter prior to the issue being raised with me.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS

None

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

That an annual subsidy of £30,000 be allocated to Contract Services up until 2003 / 2004 financial year.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor A E Owens - Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

DATE: 22 November, 2001

SUBJECT: Revenue Budget 2001/02

1 DECISION SOUGHT

That in the light of the latest budget performance figures for the current financial year as detailed in the attached appendices, Members consider further actions to reduce the balance of overspendings on services.

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 a projected overspend at year end of £ 303k

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 on an ongoing basis with Heads of Service to agree necessary remedial action to prevent overspends in 2001/02. Budget meetings will be taking place during November and a verbal update on the results of these discussions will be provided at the Cabinet meeting.

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 note the figures in the appendices and consider necessary remedial actions to ensure the elimination of negative balances by the end of the current financial year.

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002
Summary of Pressures
PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2001

Directorate	- Year to Date -			- 2001/02 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report) £000s
	Budget Profile	Actual to 31 Oct Plus Commitments	Variance	Budget per Budget Book	Budget As at 31 Oct	Projected Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Lifelong Learning (excluding schools delegated)	7,283	7,179	-104	13,733	14,303	14,480	177	36
Environment	8,665	8,510	-155	14,683	15,198	15,248	50	19
Personal Services	11,439	11,453	14	19,294	19,579	19,673	94	81
Chief Executive	1,219	1,178	-41	1,786	2,027	2,027	0	0
Resources	2,817	3,112	295	4,447	4,243	4,243	0	0
	31,423	31,432	9	53,943	55,350	55,671	321	136
				Strategic Development Schemes			32	32
							353	168
				Capital Financing Charges - Savings			-50	-50
							303	118

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002
LIFELONG LEARNING
PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2001

	- Year to Date -			- 2001/02 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	Budget Profile	Actual to 31 Oct Plus Commitments	Variance	Budget per Budget Book	Budget As at 31 Oct	Projected Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Individual Schools Budget	21,531	20,633	-898	36,209	36,054	35,704	-350	-350
School Funds Held Centrally	3,877	3,690	-187	8,242	8,669	8,831	162	36
Non school Funding	337	308	-29	615	615	615	0	0
Leisure Services	1,764	1,783	19	2,486	2,586	2,589	3	0
Culture	1,067	1,077	10	2,030	2,057	2,057	0	0
Countryside	238	321	83	360	376	388	12	0
	7,283	7,179	-104	13,733	14,303	14,480	177	36
Total Lifelong Learning	28,814	27,812	-1,002	49,942	50,357	50,184	-173	-314

Lifelong Learning

Notes:

All re-profiling exercises still to be completed

All reserves not yet matched

Comments

Individual Schools Budgets

This is based on the latest outturn projections for each of the schools (-£350k)

School Funds Held Centrally

Special Education - Original pressure had been removed subject to County Council approval of Cabinet minutes to meet this pressure from contingency in 2001/02.

Three new pressures have just been identified:

- a) Invoice received from Conwy in respect of teaching and LSA support for pupils in Emrys ap Iwan for 1999/00 and 2000/01 (£28.6k)
- b) Cost of a place at Ysgol Gogarth, Conwy has been increased by 30% for 2001/02 without prior notice (£65k)
- c) Recoupment undercharges from Flintshire for 1997/98; 1998/99 & 1999/00 (£40k)

All the above pressures are currently under investigation and until these are completed we will not know the full extent of the problem.

Potential cost of Soulbury pay restructuring (£18.3k)

Reinstatement of Clothing grants (£23k)

School furniture requirements (£5k)

Rental of alternative school furniture store (£2.4k) - old store condemned by Health & Safety.

Delay in appointment of staff (-£20k)

Culture and Leisure

Leisure Services variance due to pressures at the Pavilion Theatre

Countryside variance due to change in terms of grant eligibility.

These and remaining balance of pressures over & above the £103k validated underfunding (£139k) to be met by savings from within Culture & Leisure in 2001/02

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002
ENVIRONMENT
PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2001

	- Year to Date -			- 2001/02 Totals -				
	Budget Profile	Actual to 31 Oct Plus Commitments	Variance	Budget per Budget Book	Budget As at 31 Oct	Projected Outturn	Variance	Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Highways and Transportation	2,500	2,458	-42	5,468	5,181	5,181	0	0
Public Protection & Community Services	3,872	3,796	-76	7,297	7,003	7,003	0	0
Economic Regeneration	614	532	-82	771	771	771	0	0
Planning Services	413	412	-1	778	823	823	0	19
Design and Construction	979	994	15	163	915	965	50	0
Support Services	287	318	31	206	505	505	0	0
Total Environment	8,665	8,510	-155	14,683	15,198	15,248	50	19

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002
PERSONAL SERVICES
PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2001

	- Year to Date -			- 2001/02 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	Budget Profile	Actual to 31 Oct Plus Committments	Variance	Budget per Budget Book	Budget As at 31 Oct	Projected Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Children and Families	2,093	2,147	54	3,454	3,704	3,852	148	111
Intake A & C M (North)	2,733	2,605	-128	4,826	4,747	4,524	-223	-157
Intake A & C M (South)	1,743	1,686	-57	2,715	3,010	2,874	-136	-137
Provider	3,244	3,388	144	5,159	5,204	5,434	230	243
Strategic Planning	1,626	1,627	1	3,140	2,914	2,989	75	21
Total Personal Services	11,439	11,453	14	19,294	19,579	19,673	94	81

Notes:

1. Budgets currently being profiled

Comments

Problem Areas as follows:

Children and Families:

Increasing numbers of Children coming into care some requiring expensive residential placements
 High demand within Fostering service

Adult Services - Provider:

Elderly Residential Services - Increase in Staff Sickness levels + reduction in income levels

Strategic Planning:

Increase in Senior Management Costs

MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002
CHIEF EXECUTIVE & RESOURCES
PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2001

	- Year to Date -			- 2001/02 Totals -				Projected Variance (Previous Report)
	Budget Profile	Actual to 31st Oct Plus Commitments	Variance	Budget per Budget Book	Budget As at 31st Oct	Projected Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Chief Executives's Dept	1,219	1,178	-41	1,786	2,027	2,027	0	0
Resources Directorate:								
Corporate Property Unit	148	178	30	814	238	238	0	0
Finance	1,615	2,028	413	1,778	2,150	2,150	0	0
I.T	745	579	-166	1,324	1,324	1,324	0	0
Personnel	309	327	18	531	531	531	0	0
Total	2,817	3,112	295	4,447	4,243	4,243	0	0
Total Chief Executive's & Resources	4,036	4,290	254	6,233	6,270	6,270	0	0

Notes:

1. Budget profiles under review to reflect anticipated spending patterns for the year.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR R W HUGHES, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM

DATE: 22 November 2001

SUBJECT: LLANGOLLEN CULTURE AND LEISURE FACILITIES

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To approve the restructuring of culture and leisure facilities in Llangollen as outlined in Option 5 by refocusing, refurbishing and re-launching the Old Chapel, Castle Street, Llangollen to provide a new integrated Culture, Learning and Information Centre that will benefit both the local community and visitors to Denbighshire.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Old Chapel formally the Ectarc Centre comes back into Denbighshire management responsibility from Autumn 2001. The building provides an ideal location and opportunity to provide a new and innovative cultural service that will benefit visitors and the local community. The new vision for the centre involves the relocation of the library and the one stop shop to the first floor of the centre together with an IT facility for business advice, training and homework club to provide a new learning and information service which will continue to be managed by Economic Regeneration and the Countryside Services staff. A social history trail and display will run throughout the building. The ground floor would incorporate a gallery space to sell local, regional and national fine art, a craft shop stocked by Ruthin Craft Centre, the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre and the Countryside Services staff. This would be backed up by a new Cultural Tourism Plan with destination marketing and IT provision for people to design their own visit/stay/walks in Denbighshire etc.

2.2 Culture and Leisure have a significant number of facilities in Llangollen, the main issues to be addressed with this rationalisation are:

- The library will not conform to the Disability Discrimination Act 2004 in terms of disabled access to the first floor.
- Countryside Warden Service Office is a wooden facility on the main car park which has poor heating and staff facilities
- The One Stop Shop does not provide adequate facilities for confidential information sharing in addition to inadequate secure cash handling facilities and lone worker issues.

2.3 A full options appraisal has been undertaken which is as follows:

Option 1

Move Library and One-Stop-Shop into the ground floor of Old Chapel. Leaving upstairs as meeting performance space.

Issues

The dangerous steps at the front of the building would need to be replaced with a ramp. Built in display removed and alteration to ceiling required. Shelving and Carpeting needed.

Advantages releasing current Library for capital receipt for County.

Disadvantages Significant cost with little external funding continuation of separate service provision.

Capital cost: £247,200 estimate cost to DCC £209,800. Revenue cost: £10,000. External funding would attract WDA money for external work of £37,400 approx.

Option 2

Move Library and One-Stop-Shop into upstairs of Old Chapel, retaining display/exhibition downstairs. Countryside to rear office.

Issues

Steps to be replaced by ramp. Shelving required. Additional staff downstairs required for the management of the ground floor exhibition area.

Advantages (as above)

Disadvantages Increased revenue cost, continuation of separate services minimal external funding.

Capital Cost: £150,075

Revenue Cost: £26,000

External Funding: would attract WDA funding for external work £37,400 approx.

Option 3

Maintain service as both locations.

Issues

The steps would need to be replaced and a lift put into Library. Additional staff would be needed at Old Chapel. No capital receipt for Library Planning Permission would be needed for a new lift

Advantages: Nil

Disadvantages: There would be a lack of clarity for the purpose and focus of the Old Chapel, continue separate service provision minimal sustainability for the future.

Capital Cost: £114,350

Revenue Cost: £25,000 per annum approx

External Funding: would attract WDA funding for external work.

Option 4

Sell Old Chapel. Maintain Library in current building.

Issues

Need for lift and Planning Permission at Library reduction of cultural/heritage resource provision in town. No space for One-Stop-Shop

Advantages: lowest cost option

Disadvantages Grade II listed building with limited use and important to town's heritage, likely public resistance to sale. No improvement to integrated service no long term sustainability.

One Stop Shop would not be addressed.

Capital Cost: £45,000 for lift

Revenue Cost: Nil

External Funding: Nil

Option 5

Create new Cultural, Tourism and Learning Centre. Move Library and One-Stop-Shop and Computer Suite upstairs retaining flexible use for recitals and performances. Move TIC into ground floor coupled with new fine art and craft retail gallery. Countryside in rear office and social history trail throughout building.

Issues: not perfect to have Library upstairs, but good lift access and wide easy stair route. A ramp would be needed, cabinets removed, ceiling and floor improvements opening up of existing windows wheelchair access would be needed to computer suite.

Advantages: New 'national first' cultural tourism facility with improved services for both local people and visitors to the County, shared facilities for sustainable service, cross departmental working, rationalisation of facilities.

Disadvantages Highest capital cost, although it realises maximum investment from external sources.

Capital Cost £279,000 estimated cost to DCC £169,000

Revenue Cost: met by commercial rents from existing TIC and Countryside Offices

Extended Funding: Approximately £110,000 from WDA, ACW, WTB towards scheme.

Examination of the options has resulted in the recommendation to pursue Option 5 to create and integrate Cultural Tourism and Learning Centre. The consequence of this rationalisation would be to:

- Free up the library for possible disposal realising a capital receipt.
- Move Countryside Services from inappropriate office accommodation in market street car park. If storage could be found for equipment and vehicle this would free up the facility for more appropriate use.
- Free up the One Stop Shop Office
- Enable the existing TIC shop to realise revenue through commercial rent to support the new integrated facility.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The capital costs are estimated to be £279,738. An estimated £110,000 is anticipated to be available in grants from WAD, WTB and the Arts Council of Wales. Leaving a residual

capital of £169,738 to Denbighshire County Council. The revenue costs can be maintained within budget with potential income from the rent of the shop and from the car park.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 This project is expected to commence in the latter part of 2001/02 and be completed early in 2002/03. The costs will therefore straddle these two financial years. It is anticipated that the element of costs falling in 2001/02 can be accommodated through slippage, with the 2002/03 costs forming part of the rollover into that year which will be financed from the Council's general capital resources for 2002/03. It should be noted that the external funding of £110,000 identified is estimated at this stage.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Initial consultation has been undertaken with Llangollen Town Council regarding the ideas. The Town Council has welcomed the review and has expressed a keen interest in being involved in discussions on any final decisions. Further discussions need to be held with the Town Council and the Llangollen Tourism Association now that further details have been worked up.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

No policy implications have been identified.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To agree in principle the restructuring of culture and leisure facilities in Llangollen as outlined in Option 5 by refocusing, refurbishing and re-launching the Old Chapel, Castle Street, Llangollen to provide a new integrated Culture, Learning and Information Centre that will benefit both the local community and visitors to Denbighshire.

7.2 Subject to external funding being available and the outcome of consultations.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 18

REPORT BY: CHAIR OF RESOURCES POLICY REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: MOBILE PHONE - CRITERIA FOR ENTITLEMENT

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To approve specific criteria for the purchase of mobile phones, as detailed in this report's Recommendation.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

At a meeting of the Resources Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2001, Members considered a report by the Head of ICT that provided suggested criteria to be followed when ascertaining the entitlement to use of a mobile phone. Following consideration of this report Members resolved that a recommendation be made to Cabinet to approve the criteria as detailed in this report's Recommendation.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Based on this criteria there would be a requirement for approximately 20 emergency contact officers to receive mobile phones at a costing of £2,952.in line rental, plus the additional call charges.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The costs associated with providing mobile phones to officers must be maintained within existing budget provisions for individual services.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

The ICT Department has, through SOCITM, contacted various other Welsh Authorities who say that they base acquisition on the individual Head of Service/Manager's ability to manage their own budget and identify the need for mobile phones; if a mobile phone is required and budget is available, then one is purchased. No other authority appears to have a formal policy relating to the acquisition of mobile phones.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approve:-

- (a) the following criteria, in relation to appropriate category of staff, for purchase of mobile phone;
 - (i) Health and Safety - Lone workers etc. (Managers have a responsibility to ensure that safety systems are made available in order to reduce the hazards of working alone or in a "dangerous" environment);
 - (ii) Emergency Contacts List - The Emergency Planning Officer has identified 95 posts as essentially contactable in an emergency - this list is available from Emergency Planning;
 - (iii) Senior and Executive Officers (Budget holders);

- (iv) Vehicle monitoring and effective communication e.g. refuse collection, highways maintenance;
 - (v) Officers who spend a substantial amount of time away from the office and who need to be contactable at all times;
 - (vi) Officers who spend occasional periods out of the office but still need to be contactable at this time (shared/group mobile phone);
 - (vii) Any other exceptional circumstances that a Head of Service/Manager sees as a justifiable requirement, with the agreement of the Head of ICT. However, it should be noted that it is NOT the responsibility of the Head of ICT to decide which Officers should have mobile phones.
- (b) that all mobile phones be obtained through Denbighshire County Council's corporately agreed contract;
 - (c) that personal use of mobile phones must be monitored and recharged by Heads of Service; and
 - (ch) that where possible, there should be group use (office allocation rather than officer allocation).

CEO~DR/WH