

**CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Thursday, 22nd November, 2001 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT**

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

Observers: Councillor R.J.R. Jones.

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Leader congratulated Councillor R.W. Hughes on the formal receipt of her MBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

The Leader welcomed Sally Ellis, Corporate Director of Personal Services to her first Cabinet meeting.

**1. URGENT MATTERS**

The Leader gave notice of the following items which in his opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972:-

- (i) Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales Draft Recommendations Concerning the Boundary Between Denbighshire and Wrexham;
- (ii) Joint Council for Wales Seminar - item to be taken as last item of Part I;
- (iii) Syniad Joint Council for Wales Seminar on 11.12.2001 - Additional Item;
- (iv) Land Fronting Lairage Market, Glasdir, Ruthin - Additional Item, and
- (v) Prestatyn Golf Course - Additional Item.

**2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 6 November 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Cabinet Minutes 23.10.2001 Item 12 - The Acting Chief Executive updated Members on discussions he had with Chris Ruane MP and Ann Jones AM with regard to the public meeting called by them to discuss Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn. After consultation with the Leader and Lead Members it was agreed the Acting Chief Executive attend the public meeting as otherwise Denbighshire County Council would have been the only public body not represented. The outcome of the public meeting was that the setting up of a Trust should be explored by local residents.

Item 7 Corporate Inland Flood Response Plan - Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for Welsh Language had congratulated officers on the excellent report produced.

***RESOLVED*** that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 November 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Leader.

**3. RECRUITMENT**

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

- (i) Sc 5 Part-time Accommodation Support Worker - Personal Services: Childrens' Services;
- (ii) Sc 5 Property Officer / Technician - Resources Directorate: County Property Unit;
- (iii) Sc 2 Childcare Information Assistant - Lifelong Learning: Education/Culture;
- (iv) Sc 6 Cyberskills Adviser - Lifelong Learning: Education Services;
- (v) SO 1 Staffing Officer - Lifelong Learning: Strategy and Resources, and
- (vi) Sc 6 Data Programmer/Analyst - Lifelong Learning: Education.

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

#### **4. NORTH WALES VALUATION TRIBUNAL - ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT APPOINTMENT PANELS**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking nominations of a Member and 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. After discussion, Members agreed Groups should provide Member nominations with the Corporate Director of the Environment as the officer nomination.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed Groups should provide Member nominations and the Corporate Director of the Environment the officer nomination, 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.

#### **5. EMERGENCY PLANNING REVIEW**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Denbighshire County Council response to the August 2001 Cabinet Office discussion document "The Future of Emergency Planning in England and Wales". The Leader asked Members for their comments.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language queried transfer of emergency planning throughout Wales to the National Assembly for Wales. Councillor K E Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT expressed his concerns if the transfer went ahead and suggested the direct link with the Home Office be maintained to ensure continuity of funding.

**RESOLVED** that Members approved the Denbighshire County Council response attached to the report.

#### **6. WLGA STRATEGIC REVIEW REVISED MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the response be recommended to Council on the WLGA's Strategic Review.

Members' views were surveyed as part of the WLGA Strategic Review examining the purposes and function of the WLGA during the summer of 2001. The initial paper did not receive substantial support at the WLGA Co-ordinating Committee on 26.10.2001, principally because of the proposal to create an executive group within the WLGA. As a result, the secretariat had been asked to submit a further paper for discussion and consultation.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property commented on the paper and suggested to members that this was the way forward as all Lead Cabinet Members would be invited to discuss topics and meetings would be held if required. Councillor E A Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance also welcomed the paper and said Cabinet Members should be given the opportunity to comment and discuss items.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved and recommended to Council the draft response as a basis for responding to the WLGA Co-ordinating Committee.*

**7. LGA EDUCATION EXECUTIVE CLIENT SIDE GROUP**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' nominations to forward to the WLGA for the LGA Education Executive Client Side Group. The Leader nominated Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT.

***RESOLVED** that Members nominated Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT to be the Welsh Local Authority member representative on the LGA Education Executive Client Side Group.*

**8. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOODLAND FORUM**

(Typographical error - Officer nomination to read Mr. Michael Hughes).

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' retrospective approval of the nominations of Councillor D.M. Morris and Mr. Michael Hughes to represent the WLGA on the National Assembly Woodland Forum.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed the retrospective nominations of Councillor D.M. Morris and Mr. Michael Hughes to the WLGA for the National Assembly Woodland Forum.*

**9. MEMBERSHIP OF FINANCE WORKING GROUPS IN 2002**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' Member/Officer nominations for the WLGA Finance Working Groups in 2002: the Distribution Sub Group; the Expenditure Sub Group; the Capital Sub Group and the Consultative Forum on Finance.

The current representation for Denbighshire was Councillor W.R. Webb on the Expenditure Sub-Group and the Financial Controller on the Distribution Sub-Group.

Members discussed the role and agreed the Acting Chief Executive discuss with the Chief Executive Designate whether he should be nominated as a Denbighshire representative on these groups. It was also agreed Denbighshire's current representatives be renominated.

***RESOLVED** that Councillor W.R. Webb and the Financial Controller represent Denbighshire on the WLGA Finance Working Groups and the Acting Chief Executive to make further nomination of the Chief Executive Designate if appropriate.*

**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 be approved as listed.*

**11. TECHNOLOGY PARTNER**

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the ICT Department to continue discussions with particular IT service companies into the possibility of forming innovative partnership arrangements. The Department needed agreement in principle to form a partnership with outside private sector organisations in order to progress the ICT Strategy and ensure delivery of best value service. Councillor Wells also took the opportunity to congratulate the ICT Department on the results of the recent Best Value Review. Councillor E W Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value concurred

with Councillor Wells' sentiments and said the involvement of everyone at an early stage in the Best Value Review process had proved to be beneficial.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Cabinet Member Training for queried whether both service and maintenance of the IT would be outsourced. The Head of ICT said no decision had been taken but ICT needed more skills which would evolve from a partnership.

**RESOLVED** that Members approved preliminary investigations with outside companies, with the intention of forming an innovative partnership.

## **12. SURE START PLAN 2002-2003**

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services Members' presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' endorsement of the Sure Start Plan for 2002-2003, as required by the National Assembly for Wales. Councillor Roberts detailed the Plan to Members.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance said she was pleased to see new partnerships being incorporated and stressed the need to maintain the refocusing. Both the Director and Board needed to ensure new projects were introduced. Councillor Owens expressed concern also for the Social Workers and the pressure the Service faced and said it was important that the Social Workers used the programme.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism stressed the need to ensure that the most disadvantaged areas were made aware of grants available as they were less likely to reply to advertisements for the schemes.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Cabinet Member for the Welsh Language mentioned some of the various services and in particular the Toy and Equipment Library and asked whether those services were situated where there was greatest need. Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT said criteria were laid down for the use of the funds with key geographical areas mentioned. The Corporate Director Personal Services responded by referring to a modest development budget element which could be accessed for the benefit of those areas of identified need not addressed by the implementation of the Plan. This would be highlighted at the evaluation stage of the Plan.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value said Members were not always aware of all the funds available and suggested a list / directory of grant aid be made available. Councillor E.A. Owens said a list/directory could be made available once resources had been identified for its production. Members agreed that a report on the practicalities of establishing a Directory of Grant Funding be made to a future Cabinet meeting.

**RESOLVED** that Members endorsed the Sure Start Plan 2002-2003.

## **13. PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking ratification of the award of contracts to the lowest available tenderer for education transport and public transport services introduced during September 2001; 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, 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. 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.

After discussion it was agreed that "to Prestatyn Town Council" be inserted after Ffrith Beach in the third recommendation.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed:

- (a) to ratify the award of education transport and public transport services to the lowest available tenderer, for contracts introduced during September 2001 and confirmed as a permanent arrangement the Contract Letting Procedure - Council resolution No 472 refers;
- (b) to approve payment to North Denbighshire Dial A Ride Ltd (an established non profit making organisation) for the provision of paid drivers to provide a public transport service within Denbighshire's passenger transport service network, and
- (c) to approve the transfer of ownership and maintenance of the bus shelter at Ffrith Beach to Prestatyn Town Council following its replacement by the County using Local Transport Services Grant.

**14. TRANSFER OF THE SCHOOL CATERING SERVICE TO CONTRACT SERVICES - ANNUAL SUBSIDY**

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the payment to Denbighshire Contract Services of an annual subsidy of £30,000 until 2003/2004 when the school catering contract was retendered, associated with the financial implications of the Council's decision in January 2000 to transfer the County's school catering service to the organisation.

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

**15. REVENUE BUDGET 2001/2002**

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' further consideration of actions required to reduce the balance of overspendings on services. Councillor Owens detailed the appendices to Members:-

- Schools Delegated Budget projected underspend of £350k still leaves schools balances at a fairly low level;
- Lifelong Learning variance had been reviewed and revised down to £18k overspend;
- Environment had an overspend of £50k on office accommodation which would be contained within base, and
- Personal Services had considerably improved the projected overspend to £18k.

The final projected total overspend at year end was now projected at £18k but with the winter period ahead care would need to be exercised to keep the overall spending within budget.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property welcomed the latest paper and the improved figures.

The Leader, Councillor E.C. Edwards congratulated the Director of Resources and the Financial Controller and staff on their work. Directorates were also complimented on their endeavours to manage within established budgets.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the figures in the appendices to the report.

**16. LLANGOLLEN CULTURE AND LEISURE FACILITIES**

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the restructuring of the culture and leisure facilities in Llangollen as outlined in Option 5 by refocusing, refurbishing and re-launching of the Old Chapel, Castle Street, Llangollen to provide a new integrated Culture, Learning and Information Centre to benefit both the local community and visitors to Denbighshire. The Assistant Director of Culture and

Leisure said Llangollen Town Council had given their support to Option 5 at their meeting earlier in the week.

Councillor W.R. Webb reminded Members that neither the SME Adviser nor the Community Partnership Manager had a base in the centre of Llangollen and asked that the Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure look at the options to ensure a base for the two officers was included in the plans.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed in principle the restructuring of culture and leisure facilities in Llangollen as outlined in Option 5 by refocusing, refurbishing and re-launching of 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, subject to external funding being available and the outcome of consultations.

## **17. MOBILE PHONE - CRITERIA FOR ENTITLEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report by the Chair of the Resources Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated) seeking Members approval of specific criteria suggested by the Head of ICT for the purchase allocation of mobile phones as detailed in the report.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed:-

- (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).*

## **18. JOINT COUNCIL FOR WALES**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' nominations to attend the Joint Council for Wales Seminar on the Introduction to

the Greater London Provincial Council Job Evaluation Scheme to be held on 11 December 2001 at The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells. The County Clerk said this was an important and timely Seminar.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor I.M. German, Councillor G. Williams and 2 officers from Personnel attend the Seminar on the Introduction to the Greater London Provincial Council Job Evaluation Scheme to be held on 11 December 2001.

**19. LAND FRONTING LAIRAGE MARKET, GLASDIR, RUTHIN**

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' approval to place the above land on the open market.

**RESOLVED** that Members authorise officers to place on the open market land to the front of the Lairage Market.

At this juncture (11.15 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

**20. RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN DENBIGHSHIRE AND WREXHAM**

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy detailed the various points in the Draft Response, and reminded Members the response was required by the Local Government Boundary Commission on 23.11.2001. Members discussed various aspects of the report and agreed to strengthen / add to the response in particular as regards to tourism.

The Financial Controller detailed further discussion with Deloitte and Touche on the financial aspects of the LGBC Draft Report.

Members requested that the Council's previously stated position on the financial aspects be re-emphasised.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed the response be amended and be forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and to Council for approval.

**21. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**22. CAPITAL PLAN 2001/02**

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Capital Plan 2001/02. The updated plan took account of progress on existing schemes and included additional projects approved by Cabinet during the year. In particular the updated plan also included a provision for capitalisation of fees associated with the PFI Project.

Councillor Owens also indicated that the report included an outline of the Capital Plan for 2002/03 and 2003/004.

**RESOLVED** that Members approved and recommended to Council the proposals for the management of the capital plan in 2001/02 as detailed in the report.

**23. FORMER LIFEGUARD EQUIPMENT FACTORY, RUTHIN**

The Deputy Leader, Councillor W.R. Webb submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the purchase of the former Lifeguard Equipment Factory in Ruthin.

Members discussed the report in detail.

***RESOLVED** that in view of the fact that the Capital Working Group had not yet met to consider this item it was agreed that the item should stand adjourned to 9.00 a.m. on 27.11.2001, pending a recommendation from the Capital Working Group. Later that morning Council could be advised of the outcome.*

**24. PRESTATYN GOLF CLUB**

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' approval to instruct specialist valuation consultants to open negotiations with Prestatyn Golf Club including ensuring the Council fulfils its obligation to obtain best value.

***RESOLVED** that Members authorise officers to employ consultants to open negotiations with Prestatyn Golf Club, for the sale of land included in the two leases, subject to the realignment of the northern boundary and establishment of the National Cycle Route and to establish the Club's additional requirements for the repositioning of holes to facilitate the National Cycle Route. A further report on the outcome of the negotiations, will be submitted to Cabinet.*

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

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Reconvened meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 27th November 2001 at the Independent Group Room, Council Offices, Ruthin.

**PRESENT**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors I.M. Geman and E.W. Williams.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Corporate Director of Resources and County Clerk.

**1 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

***RESOLVED** under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

**2 CAPITAL PROGRAMME GROUP REPORT**

The Director of Resources presented the report of the CPG following its meeting of 26th November 2001.

The report detailed the bids considered and the recommendations either to approve or defer for further clarification together with an updated table of applications outcomes and estimated net capital payments.

The CPG recommended approval of the application in respect of the former Lifeguard Equipment Factory Ruthin and also an additional application in respect of school furniture procurement.



Members considered the report and the appendices.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet recommend to Council acceptance of the applications for Capital Funding in respect of the former lifeguard equipment factory Ruthin and school furniture procurement.

The meeting concluded at 9.25 a.m.

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CABINET 04-12-2001

AGENDA ITEM 31

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

Directorate: Environment Service: Economic Regeneration

Post Title: Trainee Economic Development Officer (EUROPE) Salary Grade: 4-6

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

Filling this job vacancy is essential to safeguard the achievement of the Council's key objective to maximise external funding opportunities. It does this in two ways. Firstly, it enables the recruitment and subsequent training of an individual into an essential and highly specialized area of activity for which there is a scarcity of fully skilled labour. Secondly, it provides an officer whose priority will be to develop expertise in how various sources of external finance (such as those available through EU Objective One and the National Lottery Distributing Bodies) can be used together to fund projects to ensure that the maximum benefit is obtained for the county with minimal local financial input. This is a particularly complex area of work which needs to be adequately resourced to avoid the risk of grant clawback. No suitable applications were received in response to internal advertisement.

Cost Implication \*

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

\* Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

There is a small overspend projected for the Directorate at year end but this should be contained within the overall base as a result of remedial actions in hand.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 26/4/01

Signed: [Signature] (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 26.11.2001

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

\_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA ITEM: 3ii

CABINET 04.12.2001

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

Directorate: Social Services Service: Provider - Dolwen

Post Title: Day Care Asst 23 hours and Domestic Assistant 16 hours  
Salary Grade: Manual Grade IV DCA/ Manual Grade 1 Domestic

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

These posts have been advertised internally with no response from staff. Minimum Standards require these posts to be filled, we would therefore request that the committee allow these posts to be externally advertised as soon as possible.

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 latest year end projection for the Directorate is a small overspending which should be contained through remedial actions in hand.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 21/11/01  
Signed: [Signature] (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 22/11/01

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date:

Approved    Refused  
           

Comments/Reasons

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Director of the Employing Directorate.

AGENDA ITEM: 3iii

CABINET 04-12-2001

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

Directorate: Social Services Service: Provider - Llŷs Nant  
Post Title: Day Care Asst 20 hours Salary Grade: Manual Grade IV

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

This post has been advertised internally with no response from staff. Minimum Standards require this post to be filled, we would therefore request that the committee allow this post to be externally advertised as soon as possible.

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 latest yeay end projection for the Directorate is a small overspending which should be contained through remedial actions in hand.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 21/11/01

Signed: A.E. Roberts (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 22/11/01

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date:

Approved  Refused

Comments/Reasons

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Director of the Employing Directorate.

CABINET 04-12.2001

AGENDA ITEM: 3iv

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning Service: Countryside

Post Title: Access Development Officer Salary Grade: Scale 4

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

This is a partnership with CCW, intended to pave the way for implementation of the open access provisions of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act. The post will be advertised internally, but as it is a short-term, 12 month contract, it is unlikely to attract internal applicants. CCW grant of £10K secured towards the cost of the post. The net cost to the Council will be contained within the £15K budget allocation made for open access work in Countryside Services.

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 latest projection for the current year for Countryside Services is a £12K overspend. Measures are being considered to contain this pressure.

Signed: Sioned Bowan (Corporate Director) Date: 23.11.01

Signed: Chris Thomas (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 23.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved  Refused

CABINET 04.12.2001

AGENDA ITEM: 3V

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Service: Education Services

Post Title: Clerical Officer

Salary Grade: Scale 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

This is a post required to assist with the heavy workload in the Special Education Department dealing with the Statutory Assessment Process under the 1998 Education Act.

The post has already been advertised internally - however, we did not receive any applications.

Approval is required 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

Budgetary provision exists for this post in 2001/02. It should be noted that the Directorate's latest Revenue budget projection shows an overspend of £18K for 2001/02. This overspend takes account of the assumption that this post will be filled.

Signed: Lionel Bowen (Corporate Director) Date: 23.11.01

Signed: K. Jones (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 25.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

Please return this form to the Director of the Employing Directorate.

CABINET 04.11.2001

AGENDA ITEM: 3vi

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning Service: Education

Post Title: Education Social Worker Salary Grade: Point 24-32  
Dependent on experience

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

This is a jointly funded post between Rhyl High School and the Education Department to help meet the needs of the school regarding attendance issues. Attendance is a key issue for action for Rhyl High School due to the social nature of the area. The current ESW staffing is fully occupied meeting the needs of the authority across the county. There is no capacity to undertake the specialised support needed in Rhyl, 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

Budgetary provision exists for this post in 2001/02. It should be noted that the Directorate's latest Revenue budget projection shows an overspend of £18K for 2001/02. This overspend takes account of the assumption that this post will be filled.

Signed: Shiraz Bowen (Corporate Director) Date: 23.11.01

Signed: Kendall (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 25.11.01

TO: CABINET

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date:

Approved    Refused  
           

Comments/Reasons

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Director of the Employing Directorate.

REPORT BY: LEADER

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2001

SUBJECT: **SPORTLOT: CAPITAL GRANTS : INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING PANELS**

**1. DECISION SOUGHT**

To consider inviting Political Groups to submit nominations for membership of the Regional and National decision-making Panels which are responsible for the SPORTLOT capital awards and for overseeing the SPORTLOT Community Chest scheme.

**2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

An invitation has been received from The Sports Council for Wales for the County Council to submit nominations for membership of the National and Regional SPORTLOT Panels, which are responsible for the SPORTLOT capital awards and for overseeing the SPORTLOT Community Chest scheme. With one third of the membership coming up for change each year, there are normally three vacancies on each Panel. Existing members who are due to stand down may be considered for reappointment. For Cabinet's assistance, the Sports Council for Wales Guidance for Nominations is **attached hereto**. It is suggested that nominations be sought from Groups for Cabinet's further consideration for submission to the Sports Council for Wales by the closing date of Monday 31 December 2001.

Denbighshire County Council currently has no serving member on either the National Panel or the North Wales Regional Panel.

**3. COST IMPLICATIONS**

There are no cost implications, as expenses incurred in official travel, attending Panel meetings and other duties for the Council, will be reimbursed at the current approved standard rate published in the Sports Council for Wales' Members' Handbook.

**4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

There are no cost implications currently from this proposal.

**5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT**

The Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning has been consulted and has confirmed the desire for the Council to be represented on the National and Regional Panel.

**6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE**

In line with discussions in the Lifelong Learning Directorate, to move on with some urgency on projects linked with SPORTLOT funding.

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet seek nominations from Political Groups for membership of the National and Regional SPORTLOT Panels and for those nominations to be considered by Cabinet for submission to The Sports Council for Wales by their closing date of Monday 31 December 2001.



## **SPORTLOT : CAPITAL GRANTS : REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PANELS GUIDANCE FOR NOMINATIONS**

- 1 Nominations for membership of the National and three Regional SPORTLOT Panels are invited to replace one-third of the membership of the existing Panels, who are due to stand down, but who may be considered for reappointment. Nominations are invited, using the accompanying form, to be received by the Sports Council for Wales by **Monday, 31 December 2001**

### **THE PANELS**

- 2 Panels consist of up to 12 members, including two-three Council members

- 2.1 **National Panel**

Considers projects of national significance to Wales and/or where the total cost of the project exceeds £250,000.

- 2.2 **Regional Panels**

Consider projects of local significance costing up to £250,000 and cover the following areas:

**North Wales**

Anglesey; Conwy; Denbighshire; Flintshire; Gwynedd; Wrexham

**South West Wales**

Carmarthenshire; Ceredigion; Neath & Port Talbot; Pembrokeshire; Swansea

**South East Wales**

Blaenau Gwent; Bridgend; Cardiff; Caerphilly; Merthyr Tydfil;  
Monmouthshire; Newport; Powys ; Rhondda Cynon Taff; Torfaen;  
Vale of Glamorgan;

### **MAKE-UP OF PANELS : SPECIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT**

- 3 Panel members will be selected from the nominations submitted to the Sports Council for Wales. Chosen nominees will be invited to join a Panel based on their individual expertise and experience. Those members that come with a wide range of experience, ie wear a number of different hats, will be particularly favoured. Members are not appointed to be representative of any particular organisation, sport, local authority or geographical area.
- 4 All appointments are governed by the over-riding principle of appointment on merit, taking account of the need to appoint a balance of skills and back- grounds meeting as much as possible of the following specification:
  - 4.1 an understanding of sport, its development and how it is organised regionally/nationally;
  - 4.2 previous experience of a range of sports and sporting interests;

- 4.3 an understanding of the voluntary sector at local and community level and particularly the disadvantages, ie ways of improving access and opportunities for all groups;
- 4.4 experience of grant making;
- 4.5 experience in financial matters and appraisal, business planning, facility management and design.

In addition, the nominees short-listed for each of the Panels will be selected to ensure the very obvious requirements of a geographical and organisational spread of membership with a range of backgrounds (ie local authority members, leisure officers sport, other professions). The Council is also keen to ensure representation on its Panels of women, people from the ethnic minorities and people with disabilities

## **NATURE OF THE COMMITMENT**

- 5 Panel meetings are usually held three times a year on a Friday with additional meetings arranged on an exceptional basis if the business of the Panel demands and the Chairman sees fit. Excluding travel time, meetings can last on average up to three-four hours but, occasionally, longer. Additionally, each Panel member is invited to at least one additional day's training per year.

## **EXPENSES**

- 6 Expenses incurred in official travel, attending Panel meetings and other duties for the Council, shall be reimbursed at the current approved standard rate published in the Council's Members' Handbook. Members are expected to stay at the National Centres when Council business is reasonably near Cardiff or Port Dinorwic.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- 7 Members will be appointed for a three year period. Panel appointments are organised on the basis of one-third of the Panel membership standing down each year. Members are eligible for re-election for a second term of office, at the discretion of the Sports Council for Wales. However, the presumption is normally against this approach with the exception of those cases where there are smaller numbers of potential nominees for recruitment, eg professional and specialist officers.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

- 8. All SPORTLOT Panel members will be appointed by the Sports Council for Wales. The over-riding objective will be the discharge of the SPORTLOT funds in a consistent, fair, clear and justifiable manner. In undertaking these responsibilities, members must be conscious of the need for propriety and to protect the reputation of the Sports Council for Wales and SPORTLOT. Members should do nothing for which they cannot account or justify.

- 9 All members must declare in writing any direct or indirect pecuniary interests in matters before taking up position on any of the Panels. In addition, in any situation other than of a pecuniary nature, ie kinship, membership of an association, direct involvement in an application, it is required that members declare an interest at the meeting in question and withdraw from participation at that time within the meeting.

These guidelines conform with the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments (OCPA) guidance on appointments to Executive Non-Department Public Bodies : April 1996.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**Agenda Item No: 5**

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

**DATE:** 4 December 2001

**SUBJECT:** Sale of Alcohol to Under 18's

**1 Decision Sought**

- 1.1 To appraise Members of a new duty imposed on local authorities under the 1964 Licensing Act by virtue of amendments brought under Sections 30 and 31 of Criminal Justice and Police Act 2000 concerning the sale of alcohol to the under 18's and to approve actions to be taken by officers in order to enforce the provisions of the act.

**2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

- 2.1 The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 was given Royal assent early in 2001. Sections 30 and 31 amend the powers under the Licensing Act 1964 relating to issues concerning the test purchasing of alcohol by a person under 18. It also creates a duty on local authorities to enforce provisions concerning the sale of alcohol to under 18's. The legislation applies to both on licence sales and off licence sales. The relevant sections need to be brought into effect by a commencement order and this is now believed to be imminent, with the effective date brought about by the Act being 1st December, 2001.
- 2.2 Interim guidance has been issued by the Local Government Co-ordinating Body on Food and Trading Standards (LACOTS). In summary this indicates that the Home Office are anticipating enforcement to be a joint function with the Police and it is recommended that each Local Authority should liaise with Police in their own area.
- 2.3 This liaison should lead to a clear understanding as to which service carries out which function. As we have a pan North Wales Police Force, it is certainly appropriate for this agreement to be brought throughout North Wales and officers are working with police officers in order to accommodate this.
- 2.4 There has been no indication of any specific funding being allocated for this function. However, it is thought that it may be appropriate that the function of enforcement relating to off licences would be compatible with the County's current duties in connection with under age sales (cigarettes). The provision in relation to "on licences" is a different matter and considered best dealt with as currently, by the Police. It is understood from meetings with the Police that this is the way they too see the situation.

**3 Cost Implications**

- 3.1 No costs have been identified nor hypothecated within the act or amendment thereto and accordingly it is expected that any costs will have to be borne by the service concerned (other than those recoverable under actions taken through the courts).

**4 Financial Controller Statement**

- 4.1 It will be necessary to report back when any anticipated costs are identified to enable them to be considered as part of the budget setting process.

## **5 Consultation Carried Out**

- 5.1 Consultations are currently being entered into with the Police and neighbouring local authorities in order to ensure that a pan North Wales Approach is taken to this very important matter.

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

- 6.1 Crime and Disorder - The amendments to the act give a positive way forward to attempting to reduce the sale of alcohol to the under 18's.
- 6.2 By reducing the sale of alcohol to the under 18's, the health of youngsters will be better safe guarded.

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 Authorisation be granted to Officers of the Public Protection and Regulatory Services Department to be authorised to enforce the legislation within Denbighshire County Council area and take such actions as are necessary including court actions (in consultation with the County Clerk in order to secure compliance with the legislation.
- 7.2 Officers to be authorised to liaise with North Wales Police, together with the North Wales Trading Standards Authorities, in order to agree a consistent enforcement protocol and approach across the North Wales area in the enforcement of the legislation.

ED-KE

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor D M Morris, Lead Cabinet Member: Environment and  
Councillor K E Wells, Lead Cabinet Member Education and ICT

**DATE:** 4 December 2001

**SUBJECT:** Play Project 2000 - Open Access Play Facilities

**1 Decision Sought**

1.1 To seek approval of Members to :-

- i) Consult on the report prepared on behalf of Denbighshire by Play Space and Safe Consultancy.
- ii) To refer the matter for full discussion following the receipt of consultations to both the Environment Scrutiny Committee and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee prior to recommendations being made to Cabinet and Council to implement new policies or amend existing policies as outlined in the report.

**2 Reason For Seeking Decision**

- 2.1 Funding was sought and approved by the National Assembly for Wales to carry out research to undertake a qualitative and quantitative research study on **open access** play equipment, **open access** play opportunities and **open access** play within Denbighshire. The research was due to commence on 1st August, 2000 with the completion date being the 31st October, 2000.
- 2.2 However there was some serious slippage in the work carried out by the consultants and accordingly the results of the study have only just been completed.
- 2.3 The task required was very extensive, extending to the inspection of approximately 62 playground sites, one adventure playground with the inspections covering the following/taking into account the following.

Play Equipment and Services

- Site approaches and Facilities, Environmental Features.
  - Recommendations on remedial actions required with an urgency and priority status.
  - Risk assessment of all faults/safety concerns identified.
  - National Audit Commission Playground Category Status detailing actions required to meet the appropriate category requirements.
  - Play Value.
  - NPFA Six Acre Standards Evaluation.
  - Future development of each site recommendations.
  - Comprehensive digital catalogued photo library of the sites, equipment and play Facilities, faults etc.
  - Current level of finance, management and maintenance.
  - Planning of play spaces and developments. An assessment of Denbighshire's Planning Policy in association with Play Spaces and Future Development.
- 2.4 There was also a necessity on the part of the consultants to carry out sample views of various persons including children, either for preparation and distribution of questionnaire forms and analysis of data collected and preparation of a full and summary overview of report findings.
  - 2.5 Community Councils, Voluntary Organisation and Housing Associations were also contacted in order to seek their views and aspirations for the future including liaison, review and collation of existing studies, the preparation of surveys, the collection of analysis and data collected working with Denbighshire's Technical Services Department to distribute the various information.
  - 2.6 As will be seen from the above, the report was to be very conclusive and very far reaching. Regrettably, the report was produced very late in the day and this in itself has presented difficulties for officers from both Lifelong Learning and Environmental Services in planning a way forward on both outdoor play and the organisation of play and facilities for young persons within the County.

- 2.7 Notwithstanding that, the report has now been received and the summary of the full report is attached at **Appendix A** for the information of members. Regrettably, at the time of preparing this report, the summary is in English only, however the full report has been sent for translation and will be distributed bilingually to the Group Rooms and to any Member who should specifically request a copy of the full report.
- 2.8 It is now necessary to consider the way forward following the presentation of the report, which gives a detailed analysis of the playgrounds equipment etc. within Denbighshire, makes a number of recommendations and also suggests various policies which may be put into place in order to secure the future of play within the County.
- 2.9 It is considered that given the importance of the subject matter, the report should be the subject of a formal launch whereby Town, Community Councils, Schools and Members of the Public will be consulted on the recommendations therein. This would be followed by consideration being given by the appropriate Scrutiny Committees to the report in detail and then being referred back to Cabinet prior to Council considering the policy implications.

### **3 Cost Implications**

- 3.1 There is a significant cost implication embodied within the report, in terms of the cost of replacing/repairing/updating and maintaining the various items of play equipment and play areas as detailed within the report, which will need to be financed in the main potentially as a capital cost.
- 3.2 The National Assembly for Wales (NAW) has given a commitment to funding some of the costs in promoting play and this will assist with some of the revenue costing.

### **4 Financial Controller Statement**

- 4.1 Detailed proposals will need to be subjected to the Councils Capital Projects evaluation process.

### **5 Consultation Carried Out**

- 5.1 The consultants have carried out a range of consultations thus far with Members of the Public, Young persons, Town and Community Councils. Schools etc.
- 5.2 Further consultations will be carried out if this report is accepted prior to the report formally being accepted as outlined above.

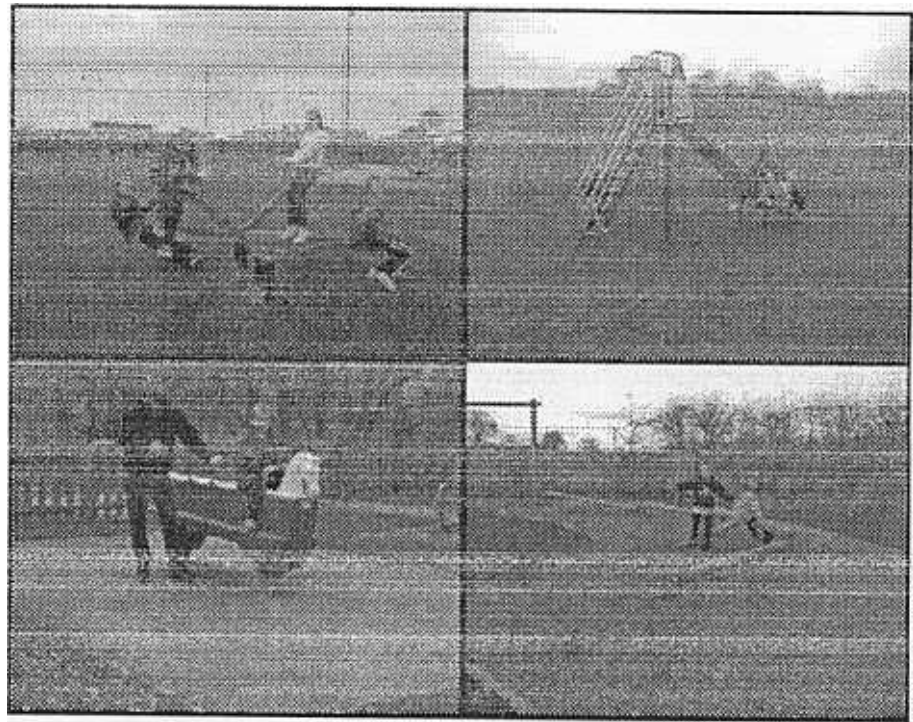
### **6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate**

- 6.1 The provision of play facilities within the County will add to the commitment to the younger element within the County, improving play facilities and development and at the same time reducing opportunist crime.

### **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the Cabinet accepts the report.
- 7.2 Officers be authorised to launch the report and enter into a public consultation exercise on the contents of the report, following which to report back to a joint panel of the Lifelong Learning and Environmental Services Scrutiny Committees prior to reporting back to Cabinet and Council on the findings.

PLAY PROJECT 2000  
**OPEN ACCESS PLAY**  
**FACILITIES**  
SUMMARY REPORT  
FOR DENBIGHSHIRE



NORTH WALES PLAY AND PLAYING FIELDS  
ASSOCIATION



CYNGOR  
*Sir Ddinbych*  
**Denbighshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

Researcher  
Andy Wilson-Chalon  
Play Space & Safe Consultancy

September 2001



## **1 The Full Report is presented as 6 Sections:**

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### **0 Open Access Play Facilities ~ General**

- ❖ Research Study Findings & Recommended Actions

### **1 Open Space Strategy ~ Guide to the Funding System**

- ❖ Provision at new housing developments
  - Designed for adoption by Denbighshire County Council.

### **2 Open Space Strategy ~ Contribution Scales**

- ❖ *Provision at new housing developments*
  - Designed for adoption by Denbighshire County Council.

### **3 Open Space Strategy ~ Schedules**

- ❖ *Existing & Proposed Provision to meet Standards*
  - Designed for adoption by Denbighshire County Council.

### **4 Open Space Strategy ~ Standards**

- ❖ *Standards of Provision*
  - Designed for adoption by Denbighshire County Council.
  - Designed for adoption by Town and Community Councils.

### **5 Open Space Strategy ~ Best Value**

- ❖ *Implications & recommendations for Best Value.*
  - Designed for adoption by Denbighshire County Council.
  - Designed for adoption by Town and Community Councils.
  - Designed for adoption by Housing Association & Voluntary Organisations.

**Section One contains the Survey & Research findings & recommendations**

**Sections Two to Six contain a model Open Space Strategy for adoption / amendment as required.**

These Sections assumes the Councils will adopt the format though may wish to modify the contents.

Thus they represent best practise UK wide and not the status quo.

Though easily edited to reflect the Councils 'decision' having compared the status quo against best practise.

Reproduction of the 'edited' version is facilitated by the provision of an electronic copy of the Report.

## **2 Main Focus**

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Rather than present a 'snap shot' in time the focus has been on providing the ways & means to regularly review & update.

Significant in this respect is **Best Value** requirements whereby **User** responses should dictate the level & style & content of provision.

Thus a concentration on devising the context, framework, and process rather than recommend specific provision at specific locations.

### 3 Recommendations (in report order)

- Recommendation 1** Denbighshire County Council should be encouraged to ensure that 'joined up' corporate strategies & policies exist referenced against the Unitary Development Plan that fully acknowledge & account for the DETR principles of 'Best Value' in the context of a community plan for PLAY, SPORTS, ARTS, & RECREATION provision.
- Recommendation 2** The Welsh Assembly should investigate the means of ensuring all school buildings and grounds are practically available outside normal school hours to local community groups for PLAY, SPORTS, ARTS, & RECREATION provision
- Recommendation 3** Denbighshire County Council should provide regular training to Town and Community Councils in the frequent / visual inspections of play areas
- Recommendation 4** Denbighshire County Council should include Town and Community Council owned & maintained play areas within their own quarterly / operational inspections of play areas
- Recommendation 5** Denbighshire County Council should include Town and Community Council owned & maintained play areas within their annual independent inspections of play areas
- Recommendation 6** Denbighshire County Council should provide Town and Community Councils with training in 'objectively' ascertaining local views on play facilities; this to include a 'format & procedure' that can be adopted county-wide in line with the requirements of Best Value.
- Recommendation 7** The Welsh Assembly should provide encouragement to all unitary authorities in Wales to adopt recommendations 3 to 6 above.
- Recommendation 8** Denbighshire County Council should invite all major housing associations operating in the county to attend a 'seminar' on the new 'OPEN SPACE STRATEGY'. The objective to both involve & inform
- Recommendation 9** The Denbighshire Play Forum should take the lead to devise & promote a users survey undertaken by users that will form a key input into Denbighshire County Council OPEN SPACE & PLAY PROVISION STRATEGY annual review
- Recommendation 10** Denbighshire County Council, as a matter of urgency should review its management, maintenance & inspection policy & procedures & take measures to ensure 'practise' conforms to 'policy'
- Recommendation 11** Denbighshire County Council for the remainder of the current financial year should as priority 1 rectify faults identified in the detailed safety audit. As priority 2 only develop play areas where there is a firm 'local' commitment to be fully involved in both development proposals & subsequent 'care' of the facility.
- Recommendation 12** It is recommended the Council formally adopt a 'defensible' policy specific to the use of safety surfacing.
- Recommendation 13** It is recommended the Council formally adopt a policy for the provision of fencing, self-closing gates, and safety barriers
- Recommendation 14** It is recommended the Council formally adopt a policy for the provision of ball, wheel & social / meeting areas
- Recommendation 15** Denbighshire County Council should in consultation with users, Town & Community Councils, Voluntary Organisations et al develop a set of standards for outdoor & indoor 'supervised' open access play provision.
- Recommendation 16** Denbighshire County Council should extend holiday play scheme provision to include holiday construction schemes for 10-15 year olds.



## Dyserth Community Council Area

1998 POPULATION: ~ 2,341

### DESCRIPTION:

Consists essentially of Dyserth Village with no other significant housing areas in the Community Council area.

### ACCESSIBILITY:

Approx. one third of Dyserth village (to the north & south) fall outside the catchment areas of the two existing designated Play Areas

### COMMENT:

King George V Playing Field is an ideal location for a NEAP. LEAP category play equipment has recently been removed for safety reasons.

## Recreation Open Spaces:

Ref:	Name	Category	Priority	Amenity Value	Cost
DN03	Maes Glas	(o) Leap		5	£500
	Minor Repairs		2		£500
CO08	King George V Playing Field	(o) Leap		1	£50,500
	Develop as NEAP		3		£45,000
	Provide Wheel Play		2		£2,000
	Provide Ball Play		2		£2,000
	Provide Meeting Area		2		£1,500
	<b>NEW LOCATION</b>				
	Provide additional LEAP				£35,000

### Notes:

The above example (limited to Play Areas) represents the format that is recommended for adoption & use.

This can be extended to all Open Space Recreation provision by adopting the Key presented earlier. All the play area mapping data is now available on the County Council's GIS Mapping System Via the GIS mapping System it is possible to:

Switch on /off hatches & fills & UPRN annotations by making the appropriate 'shape' file visible or invisible.

Add play areas or other facilities.

Change their status by altering the appropriate database table to include the updated information.

## 4 NEXT ACTIONS (Recommended):

**4.1 Set up the procedures required to commence the process of annually 'Consulting' with Users, Town & community Councils, Voluntary organisations et al as to their responses to existing & planned facilities.**

**4.2 Utilise future Play Project funding to achieve this.**

Andy Wilson-Chalon

Play Space & Safe Consultant

For North Wales Play & Playing Fields Association

September 2001

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** COUNCILLOR A E ROBERTS, LEAD MEMBER FOR PERSONAL SERVICES

**DATE:** 4 DECEMBER 2001

**SUBJECT:** BEST VALUE: HOUSING RENTS

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To approve the Housing Rents Best Value Review . 'Options For Further Research' (Appendix 1).

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

A new Project Team has been established to carry out a second Best Value Review of Housing Rents as required following the Audit Commission Inspection of the first review.

The Project Team has completed the Baseline Information Gathering and produced the Performance and Improvement Summary in accordance with the Best Value Toolkit. The Team has then Challenged the Service Delivery Options and produced the attached Options for further research subject to approval by the Cabinet.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

Cost implications are in terms of staff time and administration.

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

There are no current cost implications from the review. Any long term effects on the HRA budget will need to be considered once identified.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

The Project Team included Members, Officers form relevant Departments, 2 Tenant Representatives and an "External Challenge" representative from North Wales Housing Association. The Audit Commission Best Value Inspectorate have also been involved during the process. Further consultation is proposed in the Options.

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

Part of the Best Value programme and the Council's Performance Plan. The work will also influence the Housing Strategy and Operational Plan and policy development issues in relation to the possible transfer of the Council's Housing Stock.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

That the Cabinet approves the further research options identified.

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HOUSING SERVICES  
BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS - CHALLENGE**

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	<b>OPTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b>
Cease carrying out all or part of service.	Provision of Housing is a statutory function. Rent collection and arrears chasing comply with corporate policies on financial efficiency and Debt Collection Charter.	Possible to review service methods but not abandon collection.	Loss of income. Need to be fair to those tenants who pay regularly and promptly.	Review collection methods.
Externalise collection of arrears chasing - apply to current tenants and/or former tenants.	Possible approach if current review fails to deliver improved service could cause confusion with wider discussion of Stock Transfer of Housing. Possible link with Local Housing Associations.	Could provide cheaper collection service. More focussed contractor could reduce arrears. Contractors could concentrate on former tenants issues.	Time needed for recent changes in staffing to achieve results. Loss of control over collection may breach Debt Collection Charter.	Consider passing more former tenants arrears cases to agency. Consider Pilot Scheme on FTAS on a one year contract.
Consortium with other Councils.	Other authorities have similar housing stock and generally lower arrears.	Efficiency of joint working and use of best practice.	Neighbouring Authorities have different computer systems (except Gwynedd). Time needed for recent changes in staffing to achieve results.	Seek further information from neighbouring Authorities. Continue consultation on best practice. Make the most of User Group on Academy computer system.

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HOUSING SERVICES  
BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS - CHALLENGE**

OPTION	COMMENTS	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	OPTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH
Internal Reorganisation within Denbighshire.	This has already been implemented with transfer of the Housing Rents Section from Revenues to Housing Services and the employment of new staff.	Better focus on Rent Collection as part of Housing. Links with Housing Estate Officers and appointment of Rents Officers with 6 areas.	Less contact with Revenues and Housing Benefits.	Keep under review. Establish `register' of joint evaluations with Revenues - e.g. Payment Methods, Customer Satisfaction, Joint Training Events.
Review processes on full scope of Best Value Programme for Housing Rents.	Include:- Rent Collection Methods of Payment Access to Officers Arrears Chasing Overpayments Computer Systems Advice Services Legal Services	Review of each part of service will identify areas for improvement.	Limited time is available and detailed challenge of every item could divert effort from major goals.	Develop Procedure Manuals for each part of the process. Prioritise on the Basis of the Effect on Business and the Biggest Weaknesses.

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HOUSING SERVICES  
BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS - CONSULT**

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	<b>OPTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b>
Involve Tenants, Members of Staff and other Landlords in Best Value Review.	2 Tenants, 5 Members, Relevant Staff and a Housing Association Representative included in Best Value Project Team.	Close involvement of those with most interest in review.	Limited number of people, especially tenants, to be a representative sample.	Extend consultation with Denbighshire Tenants and Residents Association.
Wider survey of all tenants.	Survey was completed as part of first Best Value Review last year.	Information from wider group of tenants.	Further survey without any additional information or choices available. Confusion with major consultation on Stock Transfer.	Review previous survey and other contacts with tenants.



**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HOUSING SERVICES  
BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS - COMPARE**

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	<b>OPTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b>
Use Statutory Performance Indicators to compare with other services.	Only 3 Statutory Performance Indicators on Housing Rents in Wales.	Consistent definition for all Local Authorities in Wales.	Limited range of Performance Indicators.	Use Statutory Performance Indicators and adopt Local Indicators.
Use `Housemark` system as basis of comparisons.	Need to enter Denbighshire County Council information on Housemark System and then draw down comparative data.	Wide range of comparators available. Good Practice information available.	Lack of personal contact with other sites may prevent consistent collection of data.	Develop Local Performance Indicators using Housemark as basis.
Join Benchmarking Club on Rents.	Need to identify suitable club. No consistent pattern evident in published information.	Personal contact for consistency of data and good practice.	Time consuming. May not use the most relevant Performance Indicators.	Try to identify suitable club.

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HOUSING SERVICES  
BEST VALUE REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS - COMPETE**

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	<b>OPTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b>
Prepare specification and seek tenders.	Council Policy/ (copy attached). Previous review included consideration of “staff bid” for whole of Revenues. But no interest identified.	Clear decision on future provision. Clear specification and possibly reduced costs.	Delays while tenders prepared and contract agreed.	Defer 2 years until outcome of current review and of Stock Transfer known.
Partnering Arrangements.	No obvious partner.	Share costs and good practice.	Delay in identifying partner and confirming arrangements.	Defer 2 years until outcome of current review and of Stock Transfer issues.
Retain in House.	Consider for all or part of service.	Clear policy for immediate future. Opportunity for new structure to settle down and improve service.	No evidence that service is Best Value.	Review again in 2 years.

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member of Personal Services

**DATE:** 4 December 2001

**SUBJECT:** HOUSING MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

To extend the contracts for Repair and Maintenance of Housing Stock and for Servicing and Maintenance of Gas Appliances for one year.

**2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

1. The two major contracts for responsive Housing Repairs are for General Maintenance and Gas Servicing.
2. The first was allocated to Denbighshire Contract Services in 1998 following voluntary competitive tendering.
3. The second was allocated to P H Jones Ltd, Malpas in 1998 following voluntary competitive tendering.
4. Both contracts were for a period of four years commencing in October 1998 with an option to extend once only for 12 months by mutual consent.
5. Both contracts have been generally satisfactory and it has not been necessary to impose any penalties.
6. Work would need to commence immediately if it was decided to seek new contracts by voluntary competitive tendering from October 2002.
7. This decision is affected by the current discussions on possible transfer of the Council's housing stock. A Best Value Review of Housing Maintenance has been deferred until 2002/2003. It is, therefore, logical to consider an extension of the contracts until October 2003 to allow the position to be clarified.
8. The Contractors have indicated they are willing to agree to this extension, subject to formal approval by their Boards.

**3 COST IMPLICATIONS**

Prices for the extended contract period would be fixed in accordance with agreed inflation indices and would be affordable within the Housing Revenue Account.

**4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

The proposals in this report are not expected to have an adverse impact on the projected balances for the Housing Revenue Account.

**5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Contractors and staff have been consulted and report made to Housing Options Working Party. The County Clerk advises that should Stock Transfer proceed it will be necessary to secure National Assembly approval for the arrangement with Contract Services.

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

Consideration of Housing Stock Transfer will not be seriously affected either way by temporary extension (subject to National Assembly approval). Best Value Review of Housing Maintenance can be completed without constraints.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) That in accordance with Schedule 1, Document 4, Item 1.8 of the agreement for the Repair and Maintenance of Housing Stock, the Contract Period be extended for a further 12 months from 1st October 2002.
- (ii) That in accordance with Contract Conditions Item 32.1 of the agreement for Annual Servicing and Maintenance of Gas Fired Heating and Hot Water Installations, the Contract Period be extended for a further 12 months from 5th October 2002.

PS-PQ

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CABINET MEMBER:** COUNCILLOR RHIANNON HUGHES, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM

**DATE:** 4 DECEMBER 2001

**SUBJECT:** DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

**1. DECISION SOUGHT**

1.1 To agree a Denbighshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan Framework Document (copy attached), and to recommend to full Council that it be adopted as Council policy.

**2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

2.1 All local authorities are required to prepare a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) to meet commitments made by the UK Government under the International Convention on Biological Diversity which emerged from the 1992 Rio Convention. The purpose of the LBAP is to conserve and protect wildlife, and in particular to identify national and locally important habitats and species for which specific action plans are drawn up.

2.2 The Framework Document explains the LBAP process and identifies key issues and stages, as well as listing important target species and habitats in Denbighshire. Central to the LBAP process is the creation of a successful local partnership to carry the initiative forward. Such a partnership has been formed in the Denbighshire Biodiversity Advisory Group, which has played a key part in drawing up the Framework Document. The Group will subsequently be involved in the production and implementation of priority habitat and species action plans which will follow.

**3. COST IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Inevitably there will be cost implications to take the LBAP process forward but at this stage it is not possible to quantify what these will be. Details of costs will emerge as specific habitat and species plans are drawn up, but costs will be shared by all the partners involved, including the Council. In addition there are several sources of external funding available, all of which will be explored (e.g. CCW, Objective 1, Heritage Lottery Fund, etc). For example, CCW already provide grant for the Countryside Service to carry out biodiversity work, including preparation of the LBAP Framework Document.

**4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT**

4.1 In the absence of a detailed analysis of anticipated expenditure, it is not possible to quantify the financial impact for Denbighshire County Council. However, Denbighshire's share of the costs arising from this initiative will need to be contained within existing budget levels in order to comply with the Council's Recovery Plan.

**5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

5.1 The Denbighshire Biodiversity Advisory Group has been set up by the Countryside Service to guide preparation of the LBAP, provide specialist advice on priority habitats and species, and to coordinate implementation. This is a broadly based group involving a range of environmental organisations together with individuals with specific expertise. Current membership includes CCW, Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, British Trust for Conservation, Environment Agency, Rhyd Environmental Association, Wales Biodiversity Group, Botanical Society of the British Isles, and the adjoining Councils of Flintshire, Conwy and Wrexham. The group also has

representation from a number of Denbighshire departments, including Countryside, Planning, and the Policy Unit.

5.2 The views of the Lifelong Learning and Environment Policy Review and Scrutiny Committees have also been sought. The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee have endorsed the Framework Document, but at the time of writing this report the views of the Environment Scrutiny Committee are still awaited. Their views will be reported to Cabinet at the meeting. The Denbighshire Local Agenda 21 Steering Group have also been consulted and have endorsed and welcomed the draft LBAP Framework Document.

5.3 The LBAP is intended to be County policy and will require formal approval and adoption by Full Council following the agreement of Cabinet.

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

6.1 Conservation of biological diversity is an important component of Local Agenda 21, and quality of life in general. Preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan is also a commitment in the Council's Countryside Strategy. Current advice on the preparation of Community Plans also suggests that LBAP's should be integrated into this process as part of the Council's role in promoting economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION**

**7.1 To endorse the Denbighshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Framework Document, and to recommend its adoption by the County Council.**

# Denbighshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan - Framework Document

## Draft

Bioamrywiaeth Cymru



Biodiversity Wales



Countryside Service,  
September, 2001

# Preface

The framework document sets out in summary the background to biodiversity planning in the UK and the government's commitment to the Biodiversity Convention at Rio. It explains the purpose of preparing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Denbighshire and highlights the most threatened habitats and species in the county for which action plans are required. The key issues affecting biodiversity in Denbighshire are summarised and the next key stages in the LBAP process are put forward. The importance of partnerships is emphasised and the role of the Denbighshire Biodiversity Group and Local Agenda 21 is described. The LBAP will set priorities for action for wildlife conservation in Denbighshire and recommend how the action plan targets will be delivered. Biodiversity is also a global issue and a key measure of sustainability.



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## 1. BACKGROUND TO BIODIVERSITY

In 1992, the UK Government attended the "Biodiversity Convention" at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and signed up in 1994 committing the government to developing a national strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, bringing biodiversity more into the public and political domain than previously. This was followed by the production of the UK Action Plan as required by the Convention. Biodiversity is defined as the variety and richness of life forms, also encompassing genetic variation, and the diversity of species and ecosystems. Biodiversity is a global issue, requiring local action. In Denbighshire, this means conserving not only its rare and threatened habitats and species, but also its diverse natural heritage across the whole county and local distinctiveness. Biodiversity also provides an indicator of the health of the environment and is a key test of sustainability. As part of this process, all local authorities are required to produce a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

The past 50 years in particular has seen a dramatic loss of wild plants and animals and their associated habitats. One of the aims of the LBAP is to try and halt this decline and assist species recovery, thereby maintaining a healthy environment, now and for future generations. It is important to recognise that everyone can contribute to this process and the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity can only be achieved through local action and with the involvement of local communities. The purpose of the LBAP is to translate national wildlife priorities into local action and to identify and recommend action for locally valued habitats and species also.

### **Key events since the signing of the Rio Convention are summarised below:-**

*Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan. Jan 1994* - Setting out national priorities and targets.

*Biodiversity Steering Group* - Established to prepare a detailed programme of action.

*Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report. Dec 1995* - Endorsed by governments in May 1996.

*UK Biodiversity Group 1996* - Replacing UK Steering Group and providing UK Biodiversity Programme and guidance and advice on National Action Plans for Habitats and Species with clear objectives and costed targets.

*Wales Biodiversity Group 1996* - Formed with specific responsibility for Wales.

*CROW Act 2000* - Ministers and Government Departments now have a statutory duty to have regard to conservation of biodiversity in the course of their functions.

*NAW Sustainable Development Scheme* - This was adopted by NAW in Nov 2000 and a draft action plan is now circulating. Initial sustainable development indicators have been developed including a biodiversity indicator. It is hoped that biodiversity indicators will be developed to link in with best value. If the effectiveness and efficiency of local authorities is measured through best value according to sustainable development indicators set by NAW then biodiversity outcomes as potential measures of sustainable development should become a major factor determining policy.

*Community Strategies* - Local authorities have a duty to produce in partnership an overarching strategic framework for all other plans and strategies with the aim of improving the economic, social and environmental well being of their communities. The strategy will identify how the NAW's priorities relate to local priorities and how they can be implemented at a local level. The community plan will underpin applications to NAW and other bodies for funding.

*Millenium Report 2001 - 'Sustaining the Variety of Life;5 Years of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (DETR)* - Will be used to inform NAW policy making in this area.

## **2. WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?**

The Millenium Biodiversity Report summarises the reasons for protecting and enhancing biodiversity on this planet -

“The diversity of our wild species, the extent and quality of their habitats and the sustained health of their populations affect everyone. We rely on biodiversity for many economic benefits and for our health and well-being. The moral and spiritual reasons for conserving biodiversity cannot be readily quantified, but its aesthetic qualities - the richness and beauty of wild places and creatures - are highly valued. Not least, we owe it to future generations to leave a world no less rich than the one we now inhabit”.

## **3. PURPOSE OF A LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP)**

While certain actions and initiatives are already in place to protect wildlife (eg European designations, SSSI's, County Wildlife Sites, protected species legislation), previously there has been no national or local programme for setting priorities and delivering targets. The LBAP provides a basis for this through partnerships.

The main purpose of the LBAP process is that plans are inclusive and target-led. More specifically the reasons for producing a LBAP are:-

- 1) To ensure that national habitat and species action plans are translated into effective action at the local level.
- 2) To establish targets and action for threatened habitats and species of each local area.
- 3) To develop effective local partnerships to ensure that the programme for biodiversity conservation is maintained long term.
- 4) To raise public awareness and community involvement of the need for biodiversity conservation locally.
- 5) To consider opportunities for local action.
- 6) To identify available resources for implementation.
- 7) To provide for monitoring of the effectiveness of actions and to assess whether targets are being achieved.

## **4. BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL AGENDA 21**

The LBAP process is a partnership approach which should enable resources and effort to be targeted effectively. The successful implementation of the LBAP can only be achieved through partnerships. The ideal forum for the establishment of a Biodiversity Partnership is the Agenda 21 and is seen as the best way to develop and take forward Denbighshire's LBAP. The Agenda 21 forum will bring on board not only the voluntary sectors, statutory environmental organisations and educational establishments, but also land managers, developers including industry and commerce, and those in the public and private sectors with an influence on land use and planning. This also includes liaison with adjoining local authorities and other departments within the Council. Integration within the Local Agenda 21 process is important as actions through the LBAP should look at wider global threats to biodiversity and the impact of these can be reduced locally through changing attitudes and behaviour.

Initially, the setting up of the Denbighshire Biodiversity Advisory Group (Appendix 5 lists current members) will look more specifically at the identification of priority habitats and species for action, identify realistic targets and identify further data needs. The development of the draft framework document has been guided by this Biodiversity Advisory Group for further consultation with the Local Agenda 21 Steering Group and eventually for wider public consultation. Appendix 6 lists a range of voluntary environmental organisations and individuals in Denbighshire, some of whom have provided

advice in drawing up the list of priority habitats and species. The preparation of the Denbighshire LBAP by a wide partnership of interested individuals and organisations should increase ownership and provide a framework for individual members to integrate the relevant parts of the Local BAP into their own strategies, plans and programmes as well as providing the basis for encouraging community action. It is essential to the success of the LBAP process that it is embraced by a wide partnership.

## **5. PRIORITY HABITATS AND SPECIES OF CONCERN WITHIN DENBIGHSHIRE**

### **Identification of Priority Habitats and Species in Denbighshire**

The Countryside Service has undertaken an audit of the most threatened habitats and species in Denbighshire. This audit has enabled provisional lists of habitats and species of national and local priority concern to be produced. Distribution maps have been produced showing the occurrence of these species according to their presence/absence within tetrad squares (2x2km square). Out of a total of approximately 46 national priority habitats 23 have been identified as occurring locally (see Appendix 2). The percentage occurrence of these habitats in Denbighshire is shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 also gives a list of local priority habitats currently being considered. Of approximately 300 national priority species 35 occur in Denbighshire (see Appendix 3). These lists are provisional and as more information comes to light they will be amended.

The criteria for selecting local priorities include significant population in a regional or national context, declining locally, locally rare or have local threats to their survival. The provisional list of local priority species is shown in Appendix 4. Specialists have been consulted on all these lists. This process is supported by the establishment of Local Species Biodiversity Groups for Mammals, Birds and Amphibians and Reptiles (represented by groups/individuals including local biological recorders with specific local knowledge, CCW and local authorities).

The selection of habitats and species for which action plans will be produced in the first tranche will be guided by Denbighshire's Biodiversity Advisory Group. Some species are now thought to be extinct in Denbighshire, and Statements will suffice rather than full action plans.

### **Data requirements**

It is recognised that data collation and identification of priority species is an ongoing process. Further action is required to improve quality of data and for monitoring implementation of the proposed actions. In particular,

- Identify further data requirements.
- Improve IT systems for the handling of information and data.
- Improve networking and exchange of information.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing a Local Records Centre.

### **Format of Habitat and Species Action Plans**

The format of action plans is designed to collate the following information:

- Information on national and local status
- Factors causing loss or decline
- Current and recent action
- Links to other Plans
- Conservation Aims and Objectives
- Achievable targets
- Ways to increase awareness.

The plans for species thought extinct should include searches of old localities (including herbarium specimen information) and suitable-looking localities in the vicinity to see if they are still hanging on.

## **6. KEY ISSUES AFFECTING BIODIVERSITY WITHIN DENBIGHSHIRE**

A range of land uses and activities impact on biodiversity and have caused a decline in the variety of habitats and species within Denbighshire. However, some activities have actually increased opportunities for wildlife and increased biodiversity locally. The key pressures and threats to wildlife are outlined below:-

### **Development including mineral extraction**

There has been extensive loss of habitats and species in the built-up areas along the coast and at the north end of the Vale of Clwyd, and also as a result of quarrying activities, often with little regard to wildlife impact in the past. Many opportunities have been lost to integrate wildlife conservation into schemes and to create new wildlife habitat. However, more recently there have been increased opportunities to re-create habitats and mitigate losses through planning conditions and management agreements. Such measures need to be encouraged more widely. The increased awareness of the Local BAP and greater scrutiny of development proposals by the planning authority, in addition to the wider use of conditions and management agreements, can help secure biodiversity objectives. There is various national and European legislation and government guidance which supports biodiversity objectives. Although the Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan(UDP) will be in place in autumn 2001 and does not presently incorporate the LBAP it does have protective policies for SSSI's, Wildlife Sites and Protected Species. The review of the UDP will need to address this situation.

The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, 1994, 'seeks to improve the quality of human life without undermining the quality of the environment', and should prevent destruction and damage, but also take opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Biodiversity is one of the key measures of sustainable development and proposals to increase sustainable development in Denbighshire including Objective 1 applications need to take account of the LBAP.

### **Agriculture**

Denbighshire is largely a rural county. The majority of the land use in Denbighshire is agriculture with farmers and landowners managing a large proportion of the countryside. Biodiversity within the countryside is, therefore, very much dependent on farming practices and agricultural policy.

Traditional, un-intensive farming is of particular importance in the maintenance of wildlife habitats. However, agricultural intensification and mechanisation including ploughing, increased use of fertilisers and chemicals and re-seeding, overgrazing, changes in agricultural practices and decline of traditional techniques (eg hay meadows, hedge-laying and stone walling), increased field size, particularly over the past 50 years, has resulted in major losses and fragmentation of habitats and species. Habitats particularly affected include heathlands, wetlands, acid and calcareous grassland, hedgerows and ponds. More recently the situation has improved with the incorporation of environmental objectives and the introduction of financial incentives to encourage farming practices more sympathetic to wildlife. The recent Hedgerow Regulations control the removal of species-rich hedgerows if they meet certain criteria. However, the funding of agri-environment schemes is still limited, and conservation is still largely dependent on the goodwill of farmers and landowners. There is currently no Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Officer(FWAG) in this area to provide wider nature conservation advice to farms. Further, although Wildlife Sites have been identified resources do not allow such areas to be targeted for action or advice, nor any specific incentives to safeguard and manage such sites and to encourage the use of traditional management techniques which favour biodiversity. On land in Trust ownership and Countryside Sites including Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) managed by local authorities and also SSSI's with management agreements, biodiversity objectives are more guaranteed. It is important to ensure that the proposed actions in the Plan can be implemented by farmers and landowners.

### **Forestry**

The most important type of woodland for biodiversity are the semi-natural broadleaved woodlands and in particular those of ancient origin, now largely confined to steep-sided valleys and slopes and wet hollows. Broadleaved woodlands have suffered from neglect and lack of management, overgrazing preventing natural regeneration, planting up with conifers and non-native broadleaves and the decline

of traditional management techniques (eg coppicing), resulting in a reduction in overall biodiversity. However, the establishment of Coed Cymru with an Officer in Denbighshire, and the increase in woodland management grant schemes by the Forestry Commission is securing the greater protection and management of Denbighshire's native woods. In spite of these initiatives farmers need additional encouragement to secure wider woodland conservation and management. Past large-scale afforestation in the uplands has directly reduced the extent of heathlands, wetlands and acid grasslands. However, guidelines prepared by the Forestry Commission encourage the retention and opening up of some of the more important wildlife habitats, and Design Plans for conifer sites owned by Forest Enterprise, eg Clocaenog Forest incorporate extensive proposals to retain and increase biodiversity.

## **Coastal areas**

The Denbighshire coast includes a long stretch of unspoilt and largely intact sand dunes, which is of special value for wildlife, as recognised by the recently proposed European designations (SPA and SAC) for this area. Development pressures along the coast have been highlighted, but other pressures include flood defence and the development of hard sea defences and land uses which prevent a policy of allowing natural retreat, resulting in the loss of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. The impact of global warming resulting in higher sea levels has yet to be fully assessed. It is important that flood defence plans and the Shoreline Management Plan integrate biodiversity objectives for these areas and are more sensitive to wildlife needs.

## **Transportation**

New roads and existing road improvements have had a significant impact on wildlife. With the increased emphasis on existing road improvements rather than on new roads, this impact should lessen. It is important that Transportation Strategies integrate LBAP objectives and sustainable transport. The contribution that roadside verges make to biodiversity needs to be recognised more fully by the highway authority in the development of their grass maintenance plans. In particular, these plans should encourage more appropriate management and the designation of roadside nature reserves.

## **Recreation and Tourism**

While recreation and tourism will inevitably impact on wildlife, particularly where sensitive sites are overused for amenity and education purposes, mitigation measures and recreation/access management can ensure this is kept to a minimum by taking account of habitat action plans. Sustainable tourism also will help to ensure such impacts are kept to a minimum and will be encouraged by support for eco business ventures as in the tourism and recreation industry. The provision of access to the countryside also provides opportunities to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues amongst the wider public. There are considerable opportunities to enhance the wildlife value of green spaces within and on the edge of urban areas, particularly in the coastal zone of Denbighshire, where such sites can combine access and biodiversity opportunities.

## **7. AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT**

There is a need to explore ways of increasing awareness within all sectors of society, in addition to those with a more direct influence on biodiversity, as the successful implementation of the Habitat and Species Action Plans will depend on a wider understanding of the biodiversity issues. This can be achieved through education, the media, the development of a biodiversity web site and participation in biodiversity events. Particular attention needs to be given to involving local community groups effectively in the LBAP process. Community councils will be contacted to play a role in the LBAP process. One way to encourage the involvement of the general public is through encouraging action in gardens and by promoting the conservation of flagship species, encouraging the view that we can all contribute in some way to the conservation of our wildlife.

Other measures to increase awareness should include the provision of in-house training to raise awareness of the role of local authority functions and services in conserving local biodiversity, and the development of working groups eg 'officer group' or 'landowners/farmers group' with a view to including those who make major land management decisions.

## **8. KEY STAGES IN LBAP PROCESS**

1. Endorsement of LBAP Framework Document by Local Agenda 21 Steering Group and Denbighshire County Council, including also internal consultation within Council.
2. Undertake further consultation with Biodiversity Partnerships (Advisory Group and Local Agenda 21 Steering Group) to progress the development and implementation of a Denbighshire LBAP, select priority species and habitats for which action plans will be written in first tranche and to monitor the effectiveness of local action.
3. Prepare priority habitat and species action plans.
4. Prepare a specific action plan to address general awareness issues and involvement in biodiversity conservation.
5. Draw up and implement a programme of action.
6. Promote the LBAP through the Local Agenda 21 process and generally, highlighting the main objectives and action programme and involving government departments, local businesses and industry, land managers, education establishments and the public.
7. Undertake a wider public consultation on the LBAP.
8. Ensure that other plans and strategies, eg UDP, Environment Agency Local Plans (LEAP'S), Economic Development Strategy, Transportation Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Agenda 21 Strategy and developing Community Strategies fully integrate biodiversity objectives.
9. Encourage organisations and individuals with an influence on land use and land management to undertake a review of their own policies and actions to incorporate biodiversity objectives and targets for habitats and species.
10. Monitor and review the effectiveness of action plans in delivering targets, investigate ways to undertake this monitoring effectively.
11. Review and update the LBAP including Habitat and Species Action Plans, and incorporate appropriate initiatives and policies developed at the national and international level.

## Appendix 1 - Tables of Priority Habitats in Denbighshire

### COVERAGE OF UK PRIORITY HABITATS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Habitat Type	Area in Denbighshire (ha)	Percentage of Denbighshire
Upland oakwood	310	0.4%
Lowland beech and yew wood	18	0.02%
Upland mixed ashwood	1,700	2%
Wet woodland	210	0.3%
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	area not known	
Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows	area/length not known	
Cereal field margins	2,400	2.9%
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	4,400	5.5%
Lowland meadows	46	0.05%
Lowland calcareous grassland	170	0.2%
Upland calcareous grassland	74	0.09%
Lowland dry acid grassland	1,100	1.3%
Lowland heathland	410	0.5%
Upland heathland	4,900	5.8%
Fens	74	0.09%
Purple moor-grass and rush pasture	69	0.08%
Lowland raised mire	<10	
Blanket bog	1,200	1.4%
Limestone pavements	<10	
Coastal sand dune	52	0.06%
Coastal vegetated shingle	<10	
Saltmarsh	35	0.04%
Standing open water	area not known	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,168</b>	<b>20.5%</b>

### SIGNIFICANT HABITATS IN DENBIGHSHIRE IN A WELSH CONTEXT

Habitat type	% of Welsh total
Upland mixed ashwood	10%
Cereal field margins	4%
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	5%
Lowland calcareous grassland	17%



Upland calcareous grassland	3.7%
Lowland heathland	3.4%
Upland heathland	7.1%

## **Appendix 2 - UK Biodiversity Priority Habitats in Denbighshire**

ancient and/or species rich hedgerows  
cereal field margins  
upland oak woodland  
upland mixed ashwood  
wet woodland  
lowland wood pasture and parkland  
purple moor-grass and rush pasture  
fens  
upland heathland  
lowland heathland  
lowland calcareous grassland  
upland calcareous grassland  
limestone pavements  
lowland meadows  
lowland dry acid grassland  
lowland raised mire  
blanket bog  
coastal and flood plain grazing marsh  
coastal sand dune  
coastal vegetated shingle  
coastal saltmarsh  
mudflat  
saline lagoon (potential)

### **Local Priorities:-**

ponds of high ecological value  
linear aquatic habitats (including rivers and canals)  
urban areas (including green spaces, parks and gardens)  
buildings

## Appendix 3 - UK Biodiversity Priority Species in Denbighshire

<b>Mammals</b>	water vole brown hare pipistrelle bat lesser horseshoe bat european otter red squirrel dormouse
<b>Birds</b>	skylark bullfinch corn bunting song thrush black grouse nightjar spotted flycatcher tree sparrow grey partridge linnet reed bunting common scoter
<b>Amphibians</b>	great crested newt natterjack toad
<b>Fish</b>	allis shad (possible) twaite shad (possible)
<b>Invertebrates</b>	pearl bordered fritillary fresh water pearl mussel silver studded blue ashworth's rustic chalk carpet square spotted clay a water beetle ( <i>Bidessus minutissimus</i> ) a leaf beetle ( <i>Cryptocephalus decemmaculus</i> )
<b>Vascular Plants</b>	floating water plantain juniper
<b>Mosses</b>	slender green feather moss
<b>Lichens</b>	orange-fruited elm-lichen

#### Appendix 4 - Local Biodiversity Priority Species in Denbighshire (provisional)

<b>Mammals</b>	grass snake
brown long-eared bat	slow worm
whiskered bat	
brant's bat	<b>Fish</b>
noctule bat	bullhead
daubenton's bat	river lamprey
natterer's bat	brook lamprey
grey seal	sea lamprey
harbour porpoise	atlantic salmon
	grayling
<b>Birds</b>	
little tern	<b>Invertebrates</b>
teal	bordered gothic moth
tree pipit	broad-bordered bee hawk moth
lesser redpoll	light feathered rustic moth
twite	sword grass moth ( <i>Xylena exsoleta</i> )
hawfinch	The forester moth
lesser spotted woodpecker	belted beauty moth
yellowhammer	Portland moth
merlin	crescent dart moth
kestrel	shore wainscot moth
snipe	brown argus butterfly
red grouse	grizzled skipper butterfly
grasshopper warbler	large heath butterfly
yellow wagtail	small pearl bordered fritillary butterfly
curlew	sandhill rustic moth
willow tit	a crane fly ( <i>Molophilus pusillus</i> )
marsh tit	a mayfly ( <i>Ephemerella notata</i> )
green woodpecker	a winter gnat ( <i>Trichocera maculipennis</i> )
water rail	a pollen or sap beetle ( <i>Meligethes solidus</i> )
sand martin	silken fungus beetle ( <i>Atomeria impressa</i> )
whinchat	The vernal colletes bee
stonechat	a sand wasp ( <i>Pohlonia affinis</i> )
woodcock	
lesser whitethroat	<b>Vascular Plants</b>
ring ouzel	Italian lords and ladies
barn owl	Slender tufted sedge
lapwing	Yellow sedge
cuckoo	Stemless thistle
	Early marsh orchid
<b>Amphibians</b>	Bird's-nest orchid
palmate newt	Small teasel
smooth newt	Portland spurge
common toad	Broad-leaved cottongrass
	Small cudweed
<b>Reptiles</b>	Autum felwort
common lizard	Field gentian
adder	Stinking hellebore
<b>Vascular plants</b>	<i>Bryum elegans</i>

Hutchinsia	<i>Bryum creberrimum</i>
Welsh hawkweed	<i>Thuidium recognitum</i>
Pale St John's wort	<i>Platydicta confervoides</i>
Ivy-leaved bellflower	<i>Platydictya jungermannioides</i>
Tree mallow	<i>Eurhynchium schleicheri</i>
Purple gromwell	<i>Amblystegium humile</i>
Floating water plantain	
White horehound	<b>Lichens</b>
Welsh poppy	<i>Collema fragile</i>
Spring sandwort	<i>Dictyonema interruptum</i>
Upright chickweed	<i>Dirina massiliensis f. massiliensis</i>
Bog myrtle	<i>Lecanora agardhiana</i>
Narrow-leaved meadow-grass	<i>Lecanora sublivescens</i>
Solomon's-seal	<i>Lobaria amplissima</i>
Spring cinquefoil	<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>
Small white orchid	<i>Lobaria scrobiculata</i>
Reflexed saltmarsh-grass	<i>Lobaria virens</i>
Mountain currant	<i>Melaspilea ochrothalamia</i>
Small-leaved sweet-briar	<i>Phlyctis agelaea</i>
Cloudberry	<i>Poeltinia cerebrina</i>
Stone bramble	<i>Thelocarpon magnussonii</i>
Almond willow	<i>Physconia perisidiosa</i>
Wild clary	<i>Ramalina fraxinea</i>
a whitebeam	<i>Parmelia tiliacea</i>
Limestone woundwort	<i>Leconora sublivescens</i>
Teesdalia	
Narrow-fruited cornsalad	<b>Fungi</b>
Spiked speedwell	<i>Comatricha alta</i>
Bithynian vetch	<i>Licea bryophila</i>
Rigid buckler fern	<i>Licea pedicellata</i>
Limestone fern	<i>Lycogala conicum</i>
Hybrid shield fern	<i>Physarum psittacium</i>
a hybrid horsetail	<i>Stemonitis foliicola</i>
Variegated horsetail	<i>Peronospora gei</i>
	<i>Cordyceps entomorrhiza</i>
<b>Bryophytes (Mosses)</b>	<i>Cordyceps forquingnonii</i>
<i>Barbilophozia kunzeana</i>	<i>Geoglossum fallax</i>
<i>Cololejeunea rossettiana</i>	<i>Geoglossum glutinosum</i>
<i>Poltrichum longistetum</i>	<i>Spathularia flava</i>
<i>Seligeria pusilla</i>	<i>Stephensia bombycina</i>
<i>Tortula marginata</i>	<i>Tuber borchii</i>
<i>Pottia starkeana var starkeana</i>	<i>Tuber excavatum</i>
<i>Weissia controversa var crispata</i>	<i>Tuber rufum</i>
<i>Weissia longifolia var angustifolia</i>	<i>Hyalospora polpodii</i>
<i>Grimmia laevigata</i>	<i>Milesina murariae</i>
<i>Grimmia ovalis</i>	<i>Puccinia chrysosplenii</i>
<i>Discelium nudum</i>	<i>Coprinus picaceus</i>
<i>Funaria muhlebergii</i>	<i>Cortinarius amethysteus</i>
<i>Funaria pulchella</i>	<i>Cortinarius infractus</i>
<b>Fungi</b>	
<i>Gomphidius roeus</i>	
<i>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</i>	

<i>Hygrophorus agathosmus</i>	
<i>Hygrophorus hypothejus</i>	
<i>Lepiota brunneincarnata</i>	
<i>Lepiota ignivolvata</i>	
<i>Lepiota xanthophylla</i>	
<i>Leucocoprinus marriagei</i>	
<i>Leucocoprinus pilatianus</i>	
<i>Leucocortinarius bilbiger</i>	
<i>Marasmius bulliardii</i>	
<i>Marasmius scorodonius</i>	
<i>Melanophyllum eyrie</i>	
<i>Melanophyllum heamospermum</i>	
<i>Mycena pearsoniana</i>	
<i>Mycena pelianthina</i>	
<i>Suillus collinitus</i>	
<i>Suillus laricinus</i>	
<i>Tricholoma acerbum</i>	
<i>Tricoloma sejunctum</i>	
<i>Xerula pudens</i>	
<i>Geastrum fimbriatum</i>	
<i>Geastrum minimum</i>	
<i>Geastrum pectinatum</i>	
<i>Geastrum striatum</i>	
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	
<i>Hymenogaster hessei</i>	
<i>Hymenogaster olivaceus</i>	
<i>Hymenogaster vulgaris</i>	
<i>Lycoperdon echinatum</i>	
<i>Lycoperdon mammiforme</i>	
<i>Melanogaster broomieanus</i>	
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	
<i>Guepiniopsis chrysocoma</i>	
<i>Ramaria abietina</i>	
<i>Ramaria botrytis</i>	
<i>Ramaria flava</i>	

## **Appendix 5 - Current list of members of Biodiversity Advisory Group**

Countryside Council for Wales

Forestry Commission

Forest Enterprise

Farming Rural Conservation Agency

British Waterways

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Bruce Ing

Rob Whitehead

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Botanical Society of the British Isles (Local Recorder)

British Trust for Conservation

Environment Agency

Rhyl Environmental Association

Wales Biodiversity Group

Denbighshire County Council (Countryside Service)

Flintshire County Council

Conwy County Borough Council

Wrexham County Borough Council

## **Appendix 6 - List of Voluntary Environmental Organisations and Individuals**

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Rhyl Environmental Association

North East Wales Reptile and Amphibian Network

Local Species Biodiversity Groups (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians)

Clwyd Badger Group

County Recorder - Mammals

Recorder - water voles

Recorder - fungi

Recorder - invertebrates

Vincent Wildlife Trust

BSBI - recorders

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Butterfly Conservation Society

RSPB

Wales Raptor Group

Woodland Trust

Liverpool Museum

Dyserth Field Club

Local Conservation Groups

Friends of the Earth



REPORT TO CABINET

**CABINET MEMBER:** COUNCILLOR RHIANNON HUGHES, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM

**DATE:** 4 DECEMBER 2001

**SUBJECT:** SPORTLOT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME - ROUND 2

**1. DECISION SOUGHT**

1.1 Cabinet approval to submit a bid for SPORTLOT capital grant to refurbish Rhyl Leisure Centre.

**2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION**

2.1 Members may recall that Cabinet agreed that a bid be made for SPORTLOT grant under the recently introduced Community Investment Programme in June this year (Min 162). Five projects were put forward at this time in priority order, which were: Rhyl Leisure Centre Refurbishment; Llangollen Leisure Centre All-Weather Pitch; Dawson Drive Playing Fields Changing Rooms, Prestatyn; Ruthin and Denbigh Leisure Centre Upgrading of Changing Facilities; and St Asaph Leisure Centre - Upgrading of All-Weather Pitch.

2.2 Regrettably, along with many other Welsh local authorities we were very disappointed to learn that all our projects failed to be awarded grant in the first round. However, officers have since met with senior Sport Council for Wales officials to discuss in detail why the bids were unsuccessful and how they could be developed to satisfy the Sports Council criteria and project evaluation methodology (which were not made entirely clear at the time).

2.3 On the 12 October an invitation to bid for round two of the programme was received from SPORTLOT, with a deadline of 20 December for submissions. It is envisaged that around £10 - 12m will be awarded across Wales in this round. The maximum grant available is up to 80%, which represents very good value for money for the Council

2.4 Following our discussions with the Sports Council, and the findings of a special Community Investment Programme conference held in Brecon in September, it is recommended that only one project should go forward in round two. This should be a modified version of our original top priority scheme to refurbish Rhyl Leisure Centre, and to link this with supporting measures to enhance access particularly for two target groups - women and girls and the socially excluded. However, the project will clearly also benefit school and other community users

2.5 Appendices 1 and 2 attached reproduce the proformas which must be submitted to the Sports Council for Wales in respect of any bid. These provide an outline of the project, including objectives, costs and funding arrangements.

**3. COST IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The appendices show the estimated capital cost of the scheme to be £948k. The proposed funding arrangements are for £728k to be provided by SPORTLOT, with a £220k contribution from the Council's capital fund which can be spread over 2002-03 and 2003-04. Members will note that this does not reflect the possible maximum 80% grant rate. The reason for this is that bids for projects involving less than the maximum SPORTLOT grant will receive more favourable consideration than those which are set at the 80% level. However, this clearly still represents excellent leverage of funds in favour of the Council.

3.2 The revenue implications of the capital works are largely neutral. The only significant extra cost relates to the proposed creche, which it is estimated will cost approximately £12k

p.a. However, the projected additional income which is likely to be generated by increased usage of the refurbished leisure centre, and other income generating opportunities offered by the new facilities will offset this, and may even produce a small net surplus.

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

The Capital Plan presented to Cabinet on 22 November 2001 and Council on 27 November 2001 included details of indicative capital resources and payments in 2002/03 and 2003/04. The level of known resources for 2002/03 is expected to be sufficient to meet existing capital commitments together with block allocations of a similar level to those approved by Council for 2001/02. Detailed spending plans for 2002/03 however, have not been formalised at this stage, and approval of this project would impact on the level of resources available for other new capital schemes which Council may wish to approve.

A formal application will need to be submitted to the Capital Programme Group in order to comply with procedures agreed by Council at its meeting of 15 May 2001.

In view of the very tight deadline it is suggested that if Members are supportive of the principle of the bid, a meeting of the Capital Programme Group should be convened as soon as practicable. If the Group is also supportive, then Cabinet on 20 December 2001 could consider a further report leading to the submission of a provisional bid to Sportlot, subject to formal authorisation by Council at its next meeting on 15 January 2002.

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

5.1 The views of Rhyl Members, High School, Town Council, Denbighshire Sports Council, and Rhyl Sport and Education partnership have been invited. The Lifelong Learning Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee have also been consulted. Colleagues in Education, Design Services and the Corporate Property Unit have also been involved in the project.

5.2 At the time of writing this report the views of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, High School, Town Council and Denbighshire Sports Council have been made known. All four bodies have expressed their support for the project. The High School also comment that they have concerns about joint financing for the crèche. It is accepted that the crèche will be largely for the use of the community and not for the school, and that the costs can be excluded from our joint financing arrangements.

5.3 As this project requires a capital contribution from the Council, the proposal will be submitted to the next Capital Programme Group. However, it may not be possible for the Group to consider the application prior to the Cabinet meeting.

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

6.1 The principal impacts relate to 'quality of life' issues. The provision of high quality sport and recreational facilities and opportunities is a key component of this. In addition, this project will target our most deprived communities and will form part of local crime reduction and health improvement strategies. Investment in refurbishing the physical fabric of our properties will also help achieve Asset Management objectives.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To approve the principle of a bid for Sportlot Community Investment Programme Funding for refurbishment and improvement of Rhyl Leisure Centre and to consider the bid further at the next Cabinet meeting following a meeting of the Capital Programme Group.

## SPORTLOT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: ROUND TWO

### PROJECT OUTLINE

1. **Project Title:** Rhyl Leisure Centre : Community Access Project
2. **Project Location:** Grange Road, Rhyl

Please note that whilst the Leisure Centre is in the Rhyl South-East Ward it serves a much wider catchment area, including the adjoining Rhyl West and South-West Wards, which are two of the most deprived areas in Wales (ranked 1 and 49 respectively in the Welsh index of Deprivation).

3. **Project Description:**

Rhyl Leisure Centre is Denbighshire's busiest Leisure Centre (244,317 community users in 2000/01). It is a dual-use facility serving both the High School and the wider community of Rhyl and beyond.

It is the County Council's wish to enhance community access to this facility, particularly for two target groups : women and girls and the socially excluded (whilst still ensuring that the needs of the school are met). There are a number of barriers to participation which the project seeks to address, many of which involve the refurbishment and remodelling of this run down centre to create a more welcoming, safer and usable facility. These include:

- refurbishment and remodelling of wet and dry changing areas to provide high quality facilities for users, including separation of school and community changing where possible, and full disabled provision.
- development of a crèche to enhance opportunities for women to use the centre.
- refurbishment of toilets, including provision for the disabled.
- installation of CCTV to create a safer environment for users.
- upgrading of all-weather pitch lighting to meet current standards, and renewal of worn out fencing.
- external works to improve parking and access to the site, including signage, new footpaths, and lighting of access and parking area.
- remodelling of reception area and internal accesses to create a welcoming environment which is accessible to all, including separation of school and community access.
- provision of a new multi-purpose activity room/teaching space for coach education and related use.
- new and upgraded fitness, gym and other essential equipment
- refurbishment of sports hall, including replacement of solid floor, new ventilation, and upgraded lighting.
- development of a new outdoor 110m all weather athletics facility, incorporating a 4 lane track, jumping areas and floodlighting.

#### 4. Estimated Costs:

**Building and Site Works:** (including refurbishment, renovation, decorations, renewals, fixtures and fittings, equipment, etc) **£835,000**

**Fees (12%):** **£113,000**

**TOTAL :** **£948,000**

#### 5. What the Project will achieve:

In addition to the physical works, the project involves a range of complementary and supporting measures designed to enhance participation amongst the target groups, and to realise sports development benefits from the investment. These include:

- reprogramming use of the sports hall and ATP, with particular emphasis on creating space for womens and girls sport, and to allow a wider range of sports to take place.
- outreach work in West and South-West Rhyl to break down the barriers to sports participation and to encourage residents to access the leisure centre.
- working in partnership with a range of local clubs (eg athletics, swimming, football club, etc) to develop performance and to enhance junior participation through use of the leisure centre facilities.

(See Outline Sports Development Plan for further details)

#### 6. Priority Criteria:

The Councils emerging Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation emphasises the need to invest in upgrading its worn out leisure facilities, including Rhyl. Rhyl Leisure Centre is seen as a 'flagship' site given that it is the Councils busiest centre and serves the largest population.

Although overall sports participation rates in Denbighshire are good, this masks areas of poor participation in communities such as West Rhyl. This project will help to address these deficiencies in the Rhyl area.

The Leisure Centre serves two of the most deprived Wards in Wales, and the project is designed to target enhanced participation amongst residents of these areas, especially young people. This will also help to reduce health inequalities and contribute to local crime reduction strategies.

In addition to targeting the socially excluded, the project also has a strong emphasis on the development of womens and girls sport which will help achieve local and national objectives to increase participation rates amongst these groups

Refurbishment and development of facilities at the leisure centre, coupled with reprogramming and other sports development proposals will widen the range of sporting opportunities offered by the centre and help raise performance standards. For example, the new outdoor all weather athletics track will be the first such facility in Denbighshire.

There is a strong community commitment to the project. It has been drawn up in consultation with the local community and has the full backing of the High School, Rhyl Town Council and Denbighshire Sports Council.

## APPENDIX 2

Sports Council for Wales  
Cyngor Chwaraeon Cymru

### **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME : SUMMARY SHEET**

Name of local authority \_\_\_\_\_ Denbighshire County Council \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Tony Hughes \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PROJECTS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY** (You may include up to five projects)

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Earliest start date</b>
<b>1</b>	Rhyl Leisure Community Access Project	£948,000	October 2002
	<b>TOTAL</b>	£948,000	

**FUNDING PROPOSALS/FORECAST** (confirmation of funding is not required at this stage).  
Please provide a comment to support your case, if you are seeking consideration of an award in excess of 80%:

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	<b>2001/02</b> £	<b>2002/3</b> £	<b>2003/4</b> £	<b>£ TOTAL</b>
Please specify source of funding:				
Sportlot (77%)	---	200,000	528,000	728,000
Denbighshire C.C.	---	100,000	120,000	220,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	---	300,000	648,000	948,000