

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 20th December 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 (Deputy Leader), K.E. Wells and E.W. Williams.

Observers: Councillors M.L.I. Davies, M.M. Jones, R.J.R. Jones and P. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

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

(The Deputy Leader opened the meeting, the Leader being engaged elsewhere on County business).

1 URGENT MATTERS

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

- (i) Regional Flood Defence Committee for Wales - for information - Item 19, and
- (ii) WLGA Review of Appointments to Outside Bodies - Item 20.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 4 December 2001 (previously circulated) were submitted.

The County Clerk informed Members of nominations received:-

- (i) Item 4 of the Minutes of 4 December 2001 - Sportlot - Councillor N. Hugh Jones nominated
- (ii) Item 4 of the Minutes of 22 November 2001 North Wales Valuation Tribunal - Councillor C.H. Williams nominated.

The County Clerk detailed representation received from Councillor N. Hugh Jones suggesting that item 8 - Housing Maintenance Contracts be discussed by Resources Scrutiny Committee. Members were in agreement with the County Clerk that this was an operational matter and should be raised by Councillor Hugh Jones with the Chair of Personal Services Scrutiny.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 December 2001 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3 URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2006

The Deputy Leader welcomed Sian Eirian and Deian Creunant, Urdd Gobaith Cymru to the Cabinet.

Sian Eirian thanked Members for the opportunity to give a presentation on the Urdd which was Wales' foremost youth movement, with opportunities for youth of all ages. The Urdd had over 50,000 members with a £4m turnover and employed over 170 members of staff, with two residential centres at Llangrannog and Glanllyn. The annual Eisteddfod attracted 14,000 competitors during the week and 100,000 visit the festival. Market research undertaken showed that 41% of visitors to the Eisteddfod stay in the area whilst 55% used local services. This could contribute up to £1.5m to the local economy. The site costs were at least £.5m for each eisteddfod and the Urdd hoped to use the site at the Royal International Pavilion for the Eisteddfod in 2006.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader, said he was pleased the Urdd were considering Llangollen for the 2006 Eisteddfod. Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said Denbighshire was the Cultural County of Wales and the eisteddfod should be welcomed.

The Acting Chief Executive thanked the Urdd for their presentation and suggested Council should give serious consideration to inviting the Eisteddfod to Llangollen in 2006 once Cabinet had been made aware of the financial obligations.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value asked whether the Urdd had made any decisions on location and asked whether, if located in Llangollen, the eisteddfod would be known as the Denbighshire Eisteddfod, the Denbighshire and Wrexham Eisteddfod or the Llangollen Eisteddfod.

Sian Eirian said no decisions on location had been made but as the costs of staging the event were so high, purpose built venues would be under consideration. The festival would be known as the Denbighshire Eisteddfod.

The Deputy Leader thanked both Sian Eirian and Deian Creunant for their informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received and that a report on the financial implications be prepared for consideration by a future Cabinet.

4 RECRUITMENT

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

- (i) SO 1 Conveyancing Assistant - Chief Executive's Department: County Clerks
- (ii) Sc 4 Temp. Administration Asst. Denbighshire Key Fund - Environment: Economic Regen.
- (iii) PO 4 Project Manager - Resources: ICT
- (iv) Sc 2 Job Share Receptionists 2 Posts - Environment: Support Services
- (v) SO 1 Access Officer - Environment: Planning Services
- (vi) Sc 4 - SO 1 Planning Officer - Environment: Planning Services
- (vii) Sc 2 Support Officer 18.5 hours - Personal Services: Admin Section
- (viii) Sc 4 Temporary Welfare Rights Assistant - Personal Services: Strategic Planning
- (ix) Manual Grade 4 Day Care Assistant 23 hours 2 Year Contract - Personal Services: Dolwen
- (x) Modern Apprentices x 3 - Environment: Planning Services

RESOLVED that the external advertisement of the above mentioned posts be approved, with proviso that 4iv Sc 2 Job Share 2 Receptionists to be essential Welsh speakers.

5 DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL (NEWVOL) APPLICATION FOR CORE FUNDING 2002/2003

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking approval of core funding for Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (Newvol) for 2002/2003.

The Acting Chief Executive suggested that consideration should be given to a rolling contract for future years.

RESOLVED that Members agreed that core funding costs of the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council in 2002/2003 be included in this year's budget round and that the precise figure be determined at a later date once the inflationary figure has been finalised.

6 REPRESENTATION ON THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of a recommendation from County Council of 27.11.2001 that Cabinet reconsidered the nominations for 3 Members to represent DCC on the Court of the University of Wales.

RESOLVED that Members agreed the nomination of three Members, politically balanced, represent Denbighshire on the Court of the University of Wales.

7 FOOT AND MOUTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' confirmation of the previous Council decision to allocate funding to regeneration projects and approve new grant allocations to the second tranche of financial assistance to individual applicants.

The Head of Economic Regeneration undertook to supply Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value with the numbers of businesses involved in the Corwen Tourist group application.

The Head of Economic Regeneration also asked Members to consider the allocation of any unused monies from the £30k set aside for appeal costs. He suggested that if unused monies were available at the end of February 2002, the monies could be allocated to the retail and farm environmental grant projects.

RESOLVED that Members agreed:-

- (a) *the original group allocations be confirmed and that the Chamber of Trade application detailed in the report be refused;*
- (b) *the treatment of individual applications as outlined including the separate treatment of priority and non priority businesses be approved and delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources for implementation, and*
- (c) *any unused monies from the appeal costs be allocated to the retail and farm environmental grant projects.*

(The Leader chaired subsequent items.)

8 REVENUE BUDGET 2001/02

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of further actions to reduce the balance of overspendings on services.

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

9 MODERNISATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the purchase, as a single tender, of the software Seagull Jwalk which would enable the Finance Department to upgrade its Financial Information System for Denbighshire (FISDEN).

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the purchase, as a single tender, the software package Seagull JWalk and that Finance Department develop and deploy.

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 appointments be approved as listed.

11 EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the Early Years Development Plan 2001/2002 for submission to Full Council and the National Assembly for Wales. Approval of the Plan by Council was a statutory requirement. Councillor Wells suggested the document be read in conjunction with the Education Strategic Plan.

Councillor E.A. Owens urged Members to endorse the report and thanked the staff who had worked on the Plan, in particular Morfydd Roberts, Sandra Welsby, Steve Hatton and Margaret Burton.

Councillor G.M. Kensler asked how nursery schools were financed. The Corporate Director for Lifelong Learning said early years funding was not a statutory requirement and was dependent on voluntary funding and it was hoped early years funding would increase the following year. The Corporate Director was pleased to see the document reflected good practice of inclusion dependent on pupil need.

Members agreed with Councillor Kensler's suggestion that "where practicable and desirable" be added on page 12, paragraph 3.4 after 'moving towards inclusive education'.

***RESOLVED** that Members, subject to the above addition, approved the Early Years Development Plan 2001/2002 for forwarding to Council for approval.*

12 YSGOL BRO CINMEIRCH CP - TRANSFER OF CONTROL AGREEMENT

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the Transfer of Control Agreement in respect of the community facilities at the school (attached to the report) between the County Council / Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch and Llanrhaeadr Yng Nghinmeirch Community Council. The Agreement would enable the Management Committee to submit bids to the appropriate grant aided bodies for any improved facilities required at some future date and also identify the cost and management of the facilities. The County Clerk informed Members that the agreement would run from 1990.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed to adopt the draft Transfer of Control Agreement in respect of Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch and for the Agreement to run for 21 years retrospectively from 1990.*

13 ON-STREET PARKING CHARGING - RHYL

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to include Rhyl Town Centre in the area to be considered for the charging of on-street parking. The Rhyl Transportation Study had recommended a parking strategy for the town.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance said on-street parking charging would have an impact on capital planning and would need to be considered in the short and long term as part of the capital planning process.

***RESOLVED** that Members approved the report and noted that following a Rhyl Members meeting proposals to introduce on-street charging be amended to include Rhyl town centre.*

14 CLAIMED PUBLIC FOOTPATH, BERWYN RIDGE PATH (MAINLY IN DENBIGHSHIRE BUT PARTLY IN POWYS - COMMUNITIES OF LLANDRILLO AND LLANRHAEDR Y M (NORTH))

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to authorise the County Clerk to make a joint Definitive Map Modification Order with Powys County Council to add the route shown on the attached plan as a public footpath to the County Council's Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way subject to clarification being obtained as to certain issues.

RESOLVED the County Clerk be authorised to make a joint Definitive Map Modification Order with Powys County Council to add the above route as a Public Footpath subject to further discussions with the applicant and the Countryside Council for Wales to ensure that it can reasonably be argued that the right of way has been brought into question and that the route claimed follows a defined line on the ground.

15 ESTABLISHMENT OF A WLGA TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON TRADING STANDARDS

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' nomination of one Elected Member and one officer to serve on a Task and Finish Working Group to be established by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on Trading Standards.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value nominated the Lead Cabinet Member for Trading Standards serve on the Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed to participate in the WLGA Task and Finish Group on Trading Standards and the Elected Member for Trading Standards be nominated to serve on the Group together with the Public Protection Manager.

16 FFORDD DERWEN, RHYL - RESURFACING WORKS

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of actions taken by the Head of Highways and Transportation in respect of works procurement for the reconstruction / resurfacing of Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl and approval of the single tender action.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value queried the quality of tarmac used on housing estate and main roads. The Acting Chief Executive suggested Councillor Williams could gain clarification of the quality of tarmac etc from a technical officer which should allay any of his concerns that the best technical procedures were adopted at best cost.

Members discussed in detail the road near Plas Tir Morfa and the need for a safe traffic system to be adopted outside this special school. The Head of Highways undertook to take on board the issues raised by Members. In reply to a query from Councillor E A Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, the Head of Highways said Local Authorities were not legally allowed to paint the speed limit on the tarmac in urban areas, this was only allowed for example near boundaries or derestricted areas. It was agreed that this issue be further examined as provision elsewhere in Wales and England suggested that the regulations could be interpreted differently. Additionally, Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value suggested the Head of Highways seek to have suitable locations in Denbighshire used as a pilot scheme for painted speed limits in urban areas.

The Acting Chief Executive said the issue was two separate items - one being the introduction of traffic calming measures and the second was to reconstruct the road to allow the traffic calming measures to be undertaken.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism reminded Members of the importance of the concerns Tir Morfa School had.

RESOLVED that Members noted and approved the actions taken by the Head of Highways and Transportation including the single tender to ensure essential works take place in respect of procurement for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl as a necessary addition to the existing Transport Grant-funded traffic calming scheme. Additionally, Members agreed that the issue of painted speed limits in urban areas be further examined with suitable locations for pilot schemes in specific areas.

17 CONSULTATION POLICY - SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for recommendation to Council the Consultation Policy for

Social Services designed for managers and staff who are arranging consultations with service users, carers, the wider public, voluntary organisations, health services, the private sector as well as other external groups and organisations.

RESOLVED that Members approved for recommendation to Council the Consultation Policy for Social Services.

18. PROPERTY REVIEW

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) and asked Members to note clarification on the way in which operational property assets are managed within Denbighshire, and to agree the allocation of additional resources to improve the operational management of the property portfolio. The Leader stressed the importance of the Review to Members.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property said a division was required between the operational and corporate side of the Authority's property section. Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value asked whether the Property Review Group was to be dissolved and Councillor Webb said the Property Review Group would remain in situ. Councillor Williams expressed concern that details of the Authority's property sales had not been presented to Cabinet for some time. The Corporate Director of the Environment agreed to provide the necessary details and to provide details of the operational and strategic officers to Councillor G.M. Kensler.

The Acting Chief Executive reminded Members that the officer members of the Property Review Group had been unable to work to capacity on this owing to PFI commitments.

The County Clerk informed Members of representations received from Councillor N. Hugh Jones regarding costs.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the changes to the operational management of the Council's property as set out in the report and approve the additional resources suggested, subject to the additional costs being met by additional revenue receipts being generated by the effective management of the portfolio. Members additionally agreed an update on property sales be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

19. REGIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE FOR WALES

(This item was raised as an urgent item, notice having been given by the Deputy Leader at the commencement of the meeting).

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council informed Members of correspondence received by the WLGA Director of a letter forwarded by the Public Appointments Unit at the National Assembly for Wales containing an advertisement for a member to the Regional Flood Defence Committee for Wales.

RESOLVED that Members noted the information.

20. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(This item was raised as an urgent item, notice having been given by the Deputy Leader at the commencement of the meeting).

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report from the WLGA seeking any further amendments concerning Members and officers who represented the WLGA on outside bodies and seeking nominations for vacancies which emerged from the review of appointments.

The County Clerk reminded Members that Cabinet had agreed to nominate Ian Miller as a replacement for Huw V Thomas on the Consultative Forum on Finance.

RESOLVED that Members noted the report.

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, 9 and 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

22 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Councillor E.C. Edwards, Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the Business Development Grant applications detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report. Both applications are for amounts in excess of the grant application figure for which the Head of Economic Regeneration in consultation with the Leader had delegated powers.

Members discussed the report and appendices in detail.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance suggested a monitoring and scrutiny process be established to consider such grant applications. The Head of Economic Regeneration reminded Members that delegated powers existed to approve grant applications to a maximum of £15,000 and he was reluctant to ask that this sum be increased.

Councillor E.W. Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Best Value suggested local Members could have an opportunity to comment on pertinent applications. This would also be a safeguard.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Cabinet Member for Training suggested the Corporate Director of Resources and the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance should agree the applications before consideration by Cabinet.

The Corporate Director of the Environment suggested financial vetting of the business plan would enable Members make a decision whilst the issues of delegated authorities could be reconsidered in the future. The Head of Economic Regeneration agreed with the above suggestions made by the Corporate Director of the Environment.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed the Business Development Grant applications detailed in the Appendices to the report be further considered by the Corporate Director of Resources, the Corporate Director of the Environment in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance and the Leader and a further report on process be presented to a future Cabinet.*

23 WAIVER OF GRANT CONDITIONS - WEST RHYL GROUP REPAIR SCHEME PHASE 5/2

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a request from the owners of a property in the West Rhyl Group Repair Scheme, to waive the Council's right to reclaim the grant aid paid to the owners in respect of works carried out.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance queried the decision sought. Members discussed the issue and agreed further information was required.

***RESOLVED** that Members agreed to defer the report.*

24 LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME CARE - LIMITED EXTERNALISATION

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a further limited externalisation Home Care to be achieved through voluntary redundancy. Eleven members of staff have expressed an interest in leaving the service, equating to approximately 165 hours per week.

The County Clerk informed Members of representations received from Councillor N. Hugh Jones on the consultation process. The County Clerk said the consultation process had been covered within the report.

The Financial Controller said if the externalisation programme proceeded, a saving of £90k would be made over a three year period.

Councillor D.M. Morris said he had received calls from staff regarding the care of the clients in particular. The Corporate Director of Personal Services said both staff and trade unions had been consulted at every opportunity on the possibility of externalisation. The Acting Chief Executive informed Members that staff had regularly been consulted over the past two years.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree to a further programme of externalisation subject to:-

- (a) consultation with clients;
- (b) capacity of the independent sector to take on the work, and
- (c) key issues raised in the recent survey being resolved.

25 APPROVAL OF DIRECT PAYMENTS SUPPORT ORGANISATION

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' approval of the appointment of an organisation to provide a Direct Payments Support Service in Denbighshire. The Direct Payments scheme would enable Social Services to make cash payments to certain categories of disabled service users and carers instead of providing the service directly which would enable the disabled service users to use the payments to meet their own care needs.

RESOLVED that Members recommended that subject to satisfactory financial health checks and approval of financial procedures, the contract be offered to the Penderels Trust, who will be asked to provide a service including an office base. The recommendation was supported by the Direct Payments Management Committee following presentations from the three tendering organisations.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon.

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Service: Culture and Leisure

Post Title: Football Development Officer

Salary Grade: Sc 6

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

The existing postholder has successfully applied for another post. This is a partnership funded initiative with the Football Association of Wales. It is an important sports development position which has been in Leisure Services since 1996. An extensive sports development programme and other related commitments have been developed over this time, and it is important that these be maintained by filling this vacancy. The post has been advertised internally and externally, which is a requirement of FAW funding. Retrospective approval for external advertisement is sought.

Cost Implication

- 1 The additional spend for this post (full year effect) can be contained within the Service budget. The programme and other initiatives managed by the postholder generate significant revenue income.

Financial Controller Statement

The Department is currently reported to be on target to come in within budget at year end. At this time of year the possible effects of severe weather conditions on service costs always need to be borne in mind.

Signed: _____ (Corporate Director)

Date: _____

Signed: *[Signature]* (Cabinet Lead Member)

Date: 3/1/02

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet)

Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

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

Directorate: Lifelong Learning

Service: Countryside

Post Title: Administration Assistant (Loggerheads)

Salary Grade: Scale 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part must be completed for all posts)

This is the only administrative post at the busy Countryside Offices in Loggerheads Country Park. The post offers reception and administrative support for 14 staff. The internal vacancy procedure did not result in any applications and therefore permission is sought to recruit externally.

Cost Implication

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

* Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

The Department is currently reported to be on target to come in within budget at year end. At this time of year the possible effects of severe weather conditions on service costs always needs to be borne in mind.

Signed: _____ (Corporate Director)

Date: _____

Signed: [Signature] (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 3/1/02

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet)

Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

Directorate: ENVIRONMENT Service: SUPPORT SERVICES

Post Title: SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER-OBJECTIVE ONE Salary Grade: P.O.1

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

The post has been advertised internally but no applications were received. The post is vital in ensuring the effective financial management of the Objective One grant application and claims process. The establishment of financial procedures, implications, and monitoring systems, with Project Managers, is essential to the financial success of projects and subsequently the Council's retention of grant moneys. This post will be funded entirely (100%) from Objective One grants.

Cost Implication *

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

This is a key post in the financial administration of Objective One. The filling of the post is recognised as crucial by both Central Finance and the Economic Regeneration Unit. The post is 100% financed by Objective One and consequently does not adversely impact on revenue budgets and delivery of the Recovery Plan.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 2-1-02
Signed: [Signature] (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: Jan 2nd 2002
TO: CABINET
Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet) Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

Directorate: Environment Service: Economic Regeneration
Small Towns & Villages

Post Title: Co-ordinator Salary Grade: SO1

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT

(This part **must** be completed for **all** posts)

This post is jointly funded by the Welsh Development Agency and the European Union to co-ordinate the delivery of the Small Towns & Villages Initiative in the Dee Valley area. Failure to fill the post would lead to reduced draw down of grant aid not only to fund the post itself but also for regeneration projects from both public and private applicants in the Dee Valley area. This is a fixed term post until September 2003.

No 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 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

There are no cost implications for the department from filling this post.

Signed: [Signature] (Corporate Director) Date: 7- -02

Signed: [Signature] (Cabinet Lead Member) Date: 07.01.2002

TO: CABINET

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

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

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

Directorate: Environment
Service: Public Protection & Regulatory Services.
Post Title: Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety)
Salary Grade: PO1 (scp 33-36) £22,341 - £24,072

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

The post has been advertised internally and there have been no applications received.
The post concerned is in relation to a function which is very specialist.
There are no internal members of staff who meet the specified standards of competence required for this post.
The post is a very important one as it affects the day to day operation of the County Food & Safety Enforcement Programme.
It is considered that the post should be advertised on a national basis because of the need to appoint without delays being encountered which would affect the Council's statutory duties.

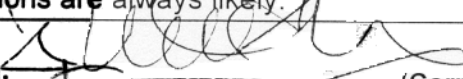
Cost Implication *

This will be contained within existing budget.

* Delete as appropriate

Financial Controller Statement

The Directorate is currently projected to come in within budget for the current financial year, however at this time of year budget pressures resulting from severe weather conditions are always likely.

Signed:  (Corporate Director)

Date: 3-1-02

Signed:  (Cabinet Lead Member)

Date: 3.1.02

TO: CABINET

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Cabinet)

Date: _____

Approved Refused

Comments/Reasons

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: REGIONAL TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To nominate a Council representative to be a member of the North Wales Regional Tourism Partnership.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Wales Tourist Board has established a Regional Tourism partnership which will co-ordinate expenditure for the Board in North Wales. Each of the six North Wales Local Authorities have been invited to nominate members plus one Local Authority member for Snowdonia National Park. Seven private sector representatives have already been selected with the possibility of more to be co-opted..

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

None

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Any costs to the Council resulting from this proposal will need to be contained within the relevant service budget.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The nomination is one for the Cabinet

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

An involvement with the Partnership will assist the Council's developing Tourism Strategy, Economic Regeneration Strategy and Objective One Strategy.

7 RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Councillor R W Hughes, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Leisure be the Council's representative on the Regional Tourism Partnership.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: VASTERNORRLAND

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve a letter of agreement covering future relations and project development between Vasternorrland and Denbighshire County Council.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

A Council delegation visited Vasternorrland in October 2001 and as a consequence Vasternorrland have written to Denbighshire proposing a letter of agreement defining future relations. This is attached.

The delegation comprised Councillors David Jones, Elwyn Edwards, Rhiannon Hughes and Don Holder with Iwan Prys Jones and Gareth Evans. A full report of the delegation's activities is attached but the main points are as follows.

1. Vasternorrland has a similar Governmental structure to Denbighshire with the Commissioner in place of the Leader and an Executive acting as a Cabinet. An additional report also contained as an appendix provides information on Local Authorities generally in Sweden. There are clear benefits from continuing a dialogue in relation to the governance and management of Local Authorities.
2. The delegation explored the way in which Vasternorrland provided support for businesses. Their small business support structure and the forms of grant were presented to the delegation in some detail and there are clear parallels both with forms of assistance and with the difficulties between the two areas. There are clear benefits to be gained from co-operating in this area, possibly leading to future European project work.
3. There is a significant investment by Vasternorrland in culture and tourism. Vasternorrland is particularly enthusiastic about developing European project work in this area and building upon links they already have through Pleiades with the Economic Regeneration Unit and with a project they are developing currently with Llysfasi College. Their investment in libraries, galleries, museums and art centres is an attempt to reduce outward migration by increasing the quality of life for its citizens. As Denbighshire has a similar outward migration problem there are clear benefits to be gained from developing project work in this area.
4. The European Union Cohesion Strategy was explored in some depth. This is the work being undertaken in order to provide a strategy post 2006 - post Objective One - for the European Union. Vasternorrland, in common with Denbighshire wishes to retain its Objective One status and there is a significant commonality of interest in exploring this area further.
5. The delegation considered the cost implications of developing European project work and they have concluded that the work is valuable, likely to produce significant budget benefits for the Council and recommend that an allocation of resources needs to be made in order to allow this work to continue. The delegation are mindful also of the District Auditor's view that the Council is not providing adequate match funding for Objective One projects and an allocation needs to be considered if this wider area of European work is to be realistically driven forward.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

There will be cost implications arising out of developing further links with Vasternorrland and there will also be budgetary benefits in the medium to long term.
£20,000 allocation for 2002/03 - see 7 below

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposal will need to be considered as a bid for additional funding when agreeing the 2002/03 budget.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

I have consulted all members of the delegation regarding the contents of this report and it is approved by all of them.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

There are benefits across all corporate areas arising from the report, wherever Council services are eligible for European Funding.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- (i) That the Cabinet approve the signing of a letter of agreement with Vasternorrland County Council.
- (ii) That the Cabinet agree for a small allocation of funds, £20,000 in the 2002 budget year to take such co-operation forward.
- (iii) That the Cabinet agree a visit by Vasternorrland to Denbighshire early in 2002.
- (iv) Strategic areas for further work include lifelong learning particularly
enterprise
education
Culture and tourism
Small and Medium Size Enterprise development
- (v) Building on the success of Pleiades, the Tourism Manager be asked to contact the Tourism Manager of Vasternorrland to develop a new inter-regional submission for a European tourism project.

Report of Denbighshire County Council delegation to Vasternorrland County Council 30th September 2001 to 2nd October 2001

The delegation comprised Councillor David Jones, Chair of the County Council, Councillor Elwyn Edwards, Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rhiannon Hughes, Lead Member for Tourism, Culture and Leisure and Councillor Don Holder, Lead Member for Members Training together with Iwan Prys Jones, Corporate Director for Environment and Gareth Evans, Head of Economic Regeneration.

30th September 2001

The delegation were met by Kerstin Nygrén, Vasternorrland County Councillor for Culture and Tourism, Benny Eriksson, County Councillor representative for Human Resources and Ulla Norgren, Vasternorrland County Councillor with Soren Oberg, Chief Executive of the County Council, Christer Nylen, Director of Regional Development and Ilona Novak, International Project Co-ordinator and also Joao Pinheiro, Councillor from Sundsvall Community Council. The two delegations reviewed co-operation to date and both delegations noted the progress being made with a European Inter-regional project between Vasternorrland, Murcia, Finland and Llysfasi and Yale Colleges focusing on the role of education in rural regeneration. The project was due for completion during 2002 and it was agreed that local presentations would be made by participants both in Denbighshire and in Vasternorrland. The delegations also agreed that discussions should lead to the signing of a formal declaration of areas of interest between the two Councils which would pave the way for future developments. This should be taken forward in the context of the European Union's Cohesion Policies which were the framework for the European Structural Funds after 2006.

At the first meeting, Joao Pinheiro made a formal presentation on behalf of his Council on the history and development of Sundsvall. This had been rebuilt in the late 19th century following a fire and a wooden town had been replaced by a stone town where wood pulp and aluminium were now the key industries. It was the largest town in Vasternorrland with 90,000 people, an important and developing networked University and an important service and retail centre for the County.

Both Vasternorrland and Sundsvall were losing population and a strategy involving an investment in culture, communication and education had been developed. The FE College was being promoted to be a University networked with other FE Colleges in Vasternorrland, roads were being improved, the airport expanded and IT systems developed. It was important if young people were to be retained in Vasternorrland for cultural services to be developed and consequently partnership arrangements were in place involving the County Council, the Municipality, the regional government and to sustain both the theatre and chamber orchestra. Further partnerships were taking forward the development of a new football stadium. Again Sundsvall was the only team north of Stockholm to play in the Swedish Premier league. The team was an important promotional point for Sundsvall and Vasternorrland and providing it with adequate facilities was an essential feature of Sundsvall's strategy for regeneration. The refurbishment of the stadium involved a partnership whose funding was coming a third from the public sector, third from the private sector and a third from the European Union. The stadium was a major feature in commercial redevelopment of a site in Sundsvall. Further investment using European money was going into the extension of the town's cultural centre to provide a major point for future film activity.

Councillor Pinheiro also emphasised the importance for Sundsvall of International work within the European Union. They saw working within Europe as providing a learning opportunity so that new ideas could be implemented locally. Currently the Council is concentrating on tackling senile dementia and providing innovative approaches for mentally handicapped adults.

Sweden's first International casino had been opened in Sundsvall this Summer. This would add to the attraction of the town.

Following these presentations the Denbighshire delegation met alone and considered the key points that were required from their visit. There was broad agreement with the need to formalise links with Vasternorrland and to have identified priorities. It was also agreed that the way in which Vasternorrland was developing new assets using European funding was an important way forward which Wales and Denbighshire should follow. Gareth Evans indicated that there were some difficulties with securing

capital resources out of the Objective One funds. The delegation felt that Denbighshire should play a stronger role in making representations to the National Assembly about the inadequate strategies being pursued in Wales so that in some examples no industrial property of a style appropriate to attract inward investors were being built at the moment in North west Wales. At a time when the grant regime was attractive to International investment the lack of appropriate sites and premises was unfortunate. It was agreed to take this matter up further with the National Assembly.

1st October 2001

On the first full day of the visit, the delegation paid an informal visit to the main cultural facility in Sundsvall. This was a series of four former warehouses linked with atriums to form a library, record office, museum and art gallery as well as being a major community meeting point for the town. Nearby was a film studio which had been funded from the European Structural Funds and had been developed as a catalyst to attract film making to the town. We then paid a site visit to the construction site for the town's new football stadium. This stadium was a private / public sector initiative again assisted with European funding which was to provide a home for the Sundsvall football team, the only team north of Stockholm to be in the Swedish premier league. The European funding was in place in order to permit the commercial potential attached to the project to be realised.

The main visit of the morning was to the Sundsvall Campus of the mid Sweden University and in particular to the Fibre Science and Communication Centre where Professor Lars Wagburg explained the work of the University and of his Centre. The Mid Sweden University was a network University with four campuses in Vasternorrland. We were shown a brand new building - a major investment in the area by the State together with formidable research equipment. He emphasised that research work for the fundamentally important timber and paper industries in Vasternorrland is the key note of the Centre's work and significant private sector investment had been made available to the College for research purposes. There were intensive joint research projects between the Centre and Swedish timber companies. The University had rapidly expanded especially at under-graduate level but was currently facing problems because of a dip in the numbers of potential undergraduates available. There were also difficulties with attracting new students because the difference in wages for qualified and unqualified employees had become blurred. Christer Nylen explained to us that the networked University was an ambitious project and it had expanded rapidly for the last ten years. Its aim now is to become a research based University and the 30,000 students there provided an excellent resource for local businesses.

The Professor explained that the basis for the Fibre Science and Communication Centre was the fibre science communication network, an organisation both within the University and extending beyond the University which provided the basis for co-operation across long distances. The facilities at Sundsvall were voted "best student city of the year" two years ago and it was essential to provide quality accommodation to attract new students. The Centre's role was to ensure that the talent available within the community was properly exploited so that entrepreneurial and leadership qualities were available to move the forest industry forward. Four Chairs have been established in the Fibre Science and Communications Centre and Professor Wagburg held the Chair of Fibre Chemistry. He said that the industry while it was slowly losing manpower was becoming ever more efficient. Employees were now working with hyper modern equipment and some of the technology was more advanced than that in the latest jet fighters. As employment fell it was necessary to devise new uses for wood fibre to promote increased employment and he saw his role as developing synergies between fibre chemistry, bio technology and electronics.

In Denbighshire there are close parallels with the links between the University of Wales at Bangor and the North East Wales Institute with the developing optronic cluster and proposed centre at St Asaph. There a network is slowly developing a centre for the creation of new employment based on the intensification of work amongst an existing cluster of businesses.

In the afternoon the delegation travelled to Harnosand, the County capital and to the headquarters of Almi. Almi is a business support organisation. Almi is owned by the State and in each County there are subsidiary companies, 51% owned by the mother company and 49% by the locality. The Leader of Vasternorrland County Council (the Commissioner) is the Vice Chair of the company and it effectively acts as the Swedish Regional Business Development Agency. In a discussion with Almi the two principal topics were business

support and the impact of the structural funds on Vasternorrland for which purpose a senior official specialising in European funds from the County Administrative Board joined the discussion.

95% of Swedish businesses of which there were 600,000 employed less than 10 people. There were also large numbers of self employed. In Vasternorrland there were 18,000 registered businesses and of these only 25 employed more than 200 employees. A very large proportion of the companies exported their goods. Almi operated custom designed advisory services and financial support structures for companies with an interest and a potential to grow. A discussion ensued on this point and there was common agreement that business support agencies were often clogged up dealing with businesses which had neither the capacity nor the interest to grow and it was seen as essential to focus attention on those with a propensity for growth. Some 90% of Almi's officials have SME experience and they ran a broad range of business support and business development programmes offering general advice, specific sectoral advice and advice on exporting and on management issues. They provide strategic marketing advice and export development advice and were increasingly involved in offering support for start-up businesses.

They operated a revolving fund which had 450 million Euros in it. This was managed centrally with regional delegation for up to 500,000 Eros.

They gave special loans for start-up businesses owned by women but offered higher interest on their loans because of the higher risk. They had developed a chart.

They contacted companies by going around knocking on doors and the use of exemplars - the same system as used by our business support officials in Denbighshire. They were able to offer business loans between 5,000 and 125,000 ECU's to a maximum 30% of the total capital requirement.

Almi were not the only people offering business support in Vasternorrland. There were Agencies offering grants for retail especially in small rural settlements where the retail provision was difficult to sustain. They co-operated closely with the County Council and it appeared to the delegation that there was a system very similar to that in Wales where several agencies offered business support but the whole was co-ordinated by a Business Connect provision which brought everybody together to share information and common experiences. **The delegation felt that there was some similarities between business support systems but the challenges were very similar as Vasternorrland and Wales were both focusing on the development of entrepreneurial skills, start up businesses and there was much to learn by continued discussions between relevant officials working in the same area.**

A presentation on the Structural Funds was given by P-G Hanell the Head of the County Government Office dealing with Structural Funds. The Treaty of Accession providing for Sweden's entry into the European Union gave them access initially to Objective Six status and subsequently the Objective One on the basis of low population density - this is different from all other Objective One regions such as Wales where the criteria is low GDP. The basic population is 0.4 per sq. kilometres so the whole of Vasternorrland is in the southern forest County's Objective One region. It comprises five counties with a population of 450,000. The programme is centred around development strengths and knowledge pursued growth. They are targeting 8,000 new or preserved jobs, 1,000 new enterprises, 2,000 enterprises carrying out increased training, 20,000 employees in skills development. They have 357m Euros from Europe matched equally by similar sums from the public and private sector. They need to spend 222,000 Euros a day between 2000 and 2006, A small part of the programme is reserved for Samish development. This is for a small ethnic minority whom we would call the Lapps.

Within business development the key measures are lifelong learning and competence development, agricultural, forestry, fishery and rural development, the life environment and Samish development.

The Swedish programme had had a slow start up of project implementation which was causing the programme administrators considerable concern. Once approvals had been granted considerable time had lapsed before projects were implemented which placed strains on the ability to implement the programme given the n+2 rules (the requirement for commitment to be spent within two calendar years). **The delegations discussed this and agreed that it was very similar to our areas where significant time could elapse before capital projects could be implemented once approvals had been given. There was no enthusiasm for taking capital projects forward too far without project approval because of the costs and**

risks involved. **On revenue projects the time required to appoint appropriate staff, to train them and to get them bedded in properly was a considerable difficulty.**

Within their entrepreneurship programme, they were focusing considerable resources on schools providing opportunities for pupils to work / visit enterprises in school time. **The Leader considered that this fitted in very well with his vision for youth and it was agreed that within Denbighshire we should pursue a project application of this kind.**

They explained that they had a complicated Objective one application process.

It goes as follows.

Application to Secretariat

Sent to Programme Authority.

Evaluated and returned to Secretariat for decision by a regional decision group.

They have a Monitoring Committee as in Wales and a Programme Authority which in Wales would be the Welsh European Funding Office. The decision group was based regionally and consisted of 13 representative, 5 drawn from the municipalities, 2 from the County Council, 5 from the County Government and 1 from the Regional Authority.

We indicated that currently whereas they had only two tiers in their decision making process we had six in some instances and instead of having representatives of the key players our Programme now consisted of representatives from a vast range of organisations. We explained the 'thirds principle' and the gender balance rules for Partnership arrangements. **It is no understatement to say that our Swedish friends were completely baffled by the Welsh approach and believed that their own process were already significantly over complicated and deterred applications. There are clear lessons for Wales to learn from this. In Sweden the overriding concern is the need to spend the money before the European Union calls it back. In Wales the integrity of the process and the exhaustive attempts to secure an inclusive membership of decision making groups appears to take precedence over everything else.**

They asked specifically for information about venture capital schemes and the securing of Objective One funds for this. I agreed to contact Finance Wales and provide Almi with a response.

Following the visit to Almi Lennart Backlund, Vasternorrland's Economic Development Officer took the delegation on a visit to a rural small enterprise which was thriving on export orders. The company were using proven technology to heat buildings using temperature differentials below ground and above ground. A thriving export business including Icon projects in Wales, the business thrived on the constant need for improvements in energy efficiency in Scandinavia. With grants and assistance with property development the company has grown steadily over the past five years and is now looking to expand into even larger premises.

To begin the discussion Councillor Rhiannon Hughes made a presentation on the development of Ectarc, Llangollen and gave an update on its restructuring, its Board changes so that the Board now represented a wide range of FE, Youth and Local Authority and other interests and spoke of its development in moving towards new Youth projects. She explained new sources of funding, the support of the National Assembly for Wales and Christer Nylen indicated that Vasternorrland would be interested in resuming links with Ectarc.

Gareth Evans indicated that both Vasternorrland and Denbighshire had comprehensive access to the European Structural Funds, were members of Interreg IIIa areas and also had access to Leader Plus. They were well placed therefore to look for programmes involving other regional partners so as to expand knowledge and understanding of European Programme work outside the main Structural Funds. Lennart Backlund explained that Vasternorrland had recently completed a rural tourism programme involving Roscommon in Ireland and he was anxious to develop new projects of a similar kind. There was considerable satisfaction amongst both delegations with the success of Pleiades and resulting tourism products in both Counties. Special cultural projects were a priority in both counties and the management of culture and innovation in rural areas featured also as priorities. Christer Nylen summarised Vasternorrland's position thus. They wished to participate in partnerships dealing with culture and tourism,

SME developments and education but also emphasised young people. However it was essential to focus on specific areas of activity as these descriptions were too broad. Councillor Rhiannon Hughes suggested that perhaps the development of the twinning concepts involving schools provided a way forward and Ilona Novak indicated that Vasternorrland was particularly interested in the concept of twinning but not as it is generally practiced. They favoured intensive discussions between areas on a broad range of regeneration topics. They had such a development with Hungary which had taken 5/6 years to mature. It was essential for politicians to be actively involved and the theme had always had to be a concrete field of operational activity which the Authority dealt with. In Vasternorrland the areas which participated in such relationships tended to be restricted to Scandinavia and Denmark and she felt that a letter of agreement between the Councils outlining areas of co-operation and leading to specific project areas would be a good step forward. Working in teams with active political involvement represented a good step forward.

There was general agreement to these remarks and it was agreed that they would be followed up by further work by Gareth Evans and Christer Nylen so that a formal letter of agreement could be drafted.

Various other areas of consideration were also looked at, the strategic importance of education, looking at private / public partnerships where Vasternorrland had many strengths - this was seen as particularly difficult because of the ineligibility of most private investments for European Funding - more focus was given to the place of vocational experience within schools together with innovative developments in this regard and Ilona Novak explained that within Vasternorrland schools they were now educating young people to run businesses. Schools were combining young people and entrepreneurs and there was a special school in Harnosand focusing on this. The Denbighshire delegation agreed that this was a particularly important area to look at in future. Christer Nylen explained that there were several examples in Vasternorrland where schools in particular locations were well advanced in developing entrepreneurs. As the West Wales and Valleys Objective One Programme highlighted this area for priority treatment and as there was a clear deficiency in Wales of entrepreneurial activity this should be highlighted for further work. This fitted in well with the Leader of Denbighshire's vision for young people. A Vasternorrland County Councillor suggested that SME related activity was easy to combine with other issues, for example tourism and Gareth Evans pointed out that the two areas which in practical terms it would be possible to co-operate initially were tourism (which included culture) and education because of earlier schemes such as Pleiades and the current scheme between Vasternorrland, Llysfasi and Yale. Anders Huldts said that from the Pleiades project there was unfinished business in relation to SMEs. It was necessary to provide more focus on the creation of businesses., there was a big need for education to inspire young people to wish to run businesses and it was natural to combine tourism, SME development and education.

We agreed further that as a first stage, Carolyn Brindle would talk to Anders and revive the structural arrangements that were in place for Pleiades between Vasternorrland and Denbighshire.

The delegation visited an open air museum of buildings, from Sweden and from further afield. The buildings and their contents had been fully interpreted by their owner who was a noted Swedish artist. The museum was an important tourism resource with a developing reputation and the artist was searching for a Welsh building. He had travelled extensively in Wales and the delegation promised to try to help him. A formal meeting of the two delegations was held in the County Council Offices in Harnosand. The delegations were led by Christer Nylen who outlined the history of co-operation between the two Councils.

For the last visit of the day, we visited Harnosand's new library. The County capital is a town of some 18,000 people but the library is a work of art. The County Council, Harnosand Municipality and Mid Sweden University all came together and pooled their library resources centralising services and creating a fully insulated glass walled building combining community facilities - local library, restaurants, academic facilities, complete range of academic reference books and also study rooms, conference rooms, seminar rooms. With 8,500 sq m of space the library has become a focal point for the regeneration of the community. The site and the building is owned by a State Body which owns education property and the building is leased by the three partners so that they did not have to find the capital for the construction. The building has been sited next door to the Regional Centre of Government in Harnosand and adjacent to the University Campus and also close by to the city centre and shopping district. Since its construction in 1998 it has become the most well visited library in the County of Harnosand. It has become the meeting place for the community and its 36 publically available computers are complemented by a range of private computers also available for academic studies. One of the partner librarians described it as "unique, new

and beautiful" and the Denbighshire delegation could not better that description. The library is an icon for co-operation between three agencies and was nominated library of the year for 2001. It has 350,000 volumes of which 120,000 are in stock but the stacks are also open for public investigation.

The librarian summed up the building as a means of removing barriers between residents and the world of higher education but also to create within Harnosand a Centre of academic excellence. The Denbighshire delegation were mightily impressed both by the building but also by the further evidence of the existence of real partnerships which delivered concrete results for the community.

That evening in Härnösand the Chairman of Denbighshire County Council hosted a dinner for the representatives of Vasternorrland County Council. The Commissioner and the Chief Executive together with members attended and Vasternorrland proposed that during the evening there should be informal discussions on regional partnerships within the European Union's Programmes together with a formal presentation on the 2nd Cohesion Report by Ulrika Aberg, Vasternorrland's International Co-ordinator. The Chair of Denbighshire County Council thanked Vasternorrland Members and officials for the hospitality and the time they were spending with the delegation. He outlined some of the benefits he could see from further close working together - on a Local Authority level, on a regeneration level and on a political level making representations to Brussels. Vasternorrland's County Council's Commissioner, responded and indicated that we could learn even more working together than working separately. Councillor Elwyn Edwards explained that he felt the two Councils were very well matched. We had learnt a lot in three days and it was quite clear that there were areas of co-operation ranging from general European Programme Policies through to Culture and Tourism and SME development where we could actively work together. We had definitely come to Vasternorrland to build on the relationships already established from previous Programme work.

Councillor Rhiannon Hughes said that Denbighshire's priorities embraced culture, tourism, education and the environment and it was clear that links had already been established in some of these areas. Iwan Prys Jones said that he felt the economic structures and in particular the business support and entrepreneurial structures were very similar in Vasternorrland and in Denbighshire with a heavy emphasis on indigenous SME development. Ulrika Aberg felt that we were not starting from scratch but building from proper co-operation and that we should start with 1,2 or 3 projects.

There was a general agreement that it was important to co-operate on a regional level and that such co-operation should be on the operational level. We have got to start with where we are and that is basically with a successful Pleiades project and with the successful developing Vasternorrland / Llysfasi / Yale link. Tourism and education were clearly important in any future project work.

Ulrika Aberg was then invited to make a formal presentation on the Cohesion Report. This is the document that will establish perimeters for the European Structural Funds after 2006. She explained Vasternorrland's position. Under the Treaty of Accession Vasternorrland was receiving Objective One designation because of low population levels and not because of low GDP. Vasternorrland was anxious to work with others to preserve its access to structural funds in the changed situation after enlargement, if the whole Authority could not be protected then certain sectors such as lifelong learning, environment and energy, education, SME development, culture and tourism could perhaps be afforded further access to European Structural Funds. They were working closely with the conference of peripheral maritime regions of Europe in order to lobby the Commission as regards policy post 2006.

Gareth Evans responded and explained that in Wales the situation was different and that it was possible that the CPMRE were a little in advance of what was happening in Wales. Councillor Elwyn Edwards said he was a member of the Key Local Government in Wales which was considering Cohesion matters. For Denbighshire it was becoming clear that one period of Objective One funding would not significantly affect GDP and deprivation and therefore there was common ground with Vasternorrland in that both Councils wished to continue access to structural funds. In Denbighshire one of the wards was the poorest ward in Wales and it was inconceivable that it should be deprived of structural funds because the community was enlarging.

Therefore it was agreed that on Cohesion the two Authorities would keep in touch, would exchange information and would seek a common lobbying forum in which to take matters forward. It was agreed that it would remain a major issue in future discussions between the two Councils.

2nd October

On the final full day of the visit the delegation was led by Anders Huldt of the Mid Swed Tourism Board. He led the delegation into rural northern Vasternorrland into the high coast area and to a number of attractions. He explained the recent improvements in transport infrastructure in Vasternorrland especially the building of the high coast bridge, the second longest suspension bridge in the world and the new Botnia Express Railway line nearing completion. These significant investments had cut travelling time from Stockholm to Vasternorrland considerably and improved north south traffic. The High Coast Area was a World Heritage Site because of the remarkable and continuing uplift of the land following the melting of the ice after the ice age. This was leading to new and developing landscapes as sea water bays were replaced by fresh water lakes. The importance of farming to the tourist environment was emphasised. Farming kept the views open. Without farming Vasternorrland would be a dense coniferous forest and the decline in agricultural prices was having a significant impact on farming numbers with increasing difficulties for tourists. This point was noted by the Welsh delegation especially given the agricultural circumstances back home.

Anders Huldt then presided over a seminar at which members of the County Regional Government and the Municipalities in Vasternorrland gave papers. The seminar was based on the needs of the high coast area, how the high coast area had originated and the response of the Municipalities to the regeneration difficulties they faced.

Anders Huldt explained that the Mid Sweden Tourist Board was owned by the public sector; seven municipalities and seven chambers of commerce together with the County Council formed the Board which dealt with marketing, strategic development and tourism information. It was seen as a positive force for a region with declining employment and population. It took on the task of co-ordinating development and marketing of tourism in Vasternorrland. Tourism development originated in the environmental cultural values of Vasternorrland and its main marketing targets were Scandinavia and central Europe. Tourism was dependent on the weather and the general economy of Europe. Following a period of having significant public and private investment there was now a lot of interest by tourist businesses in the high coast area. European Union funding was very important from the Board's view points.

Max Erikson from the Vasternorrland County Administration explained that he was the Project Manager for World Heritage submission which was achieved in December 2000 for the high coast. The development of the topography as the ice receded has created a unique environment and the process created shingle which eventually evolved into soil which gave the basis for today's agriculture. There was quite a lot of good agricultural land in Vasternorrland. The problems with farming were nothing to do with the quality of the land.

With the need in future for tourism it was thought that explaining how the land was formed would be a useful tourist product in its own right therefore a lot of work had been done to analyse the interesting features, work with the Municipalities to gather resources and to prepare facilities to provide easier access to visitors. Quite often the most interesting features were remote and inaccessible and it was essential to provide easy visitor access to them. The heritage buried in the land was also important and properly explaining it for visitors was an important task. In Vasternorrland archaeological remains in the land were chronologically inverted as compared with other areas. The older remains were higher up slopes while the more recent remains were to be found on the bottom of slopes and settlements had had to move several times as the land rose and sea water and fishing receded. There were close synergies between his work and those of the Mid Swedish Tourism Board. There followed presentations from the Municipalities of Örnsköldsvik and Kramfors. Örnsköldsvik was a town of 55,000 with a heavy industrial history and with 75% of its production exported - 3.5% of the total Swedish export. It was busily engaged in varying its economy by developing itself as a new knowledge centre for business and education. The Botnia line would reach the town in 2008 and so they had a vision 2008 which they were working on. There was a good basis of co-operation within the city. It had recently been voted the City Centre of the Year and a new golf course and a new University building were under development. Its industrial heritage and its

entrepreneurial tradition had created also an important drive for innovation. It was an inventive city but there had been poor co-operation between companies before 1998. Then a meeting of eighteen businesses had got together and the private sector had offered to help the Municipality to achieve its objective. The process of co-operation took a long time to get under way and to involve. Discussions took place over a whole with common evaluation eventually reaching a common ground. A lesson learnt had been that achieving the common ground was very important and that it was important to take time. As a result the town now had a focus on companies moving from manufacturing into knowledge based work and also was challenging the elderly owners to ensure succession with indigenous owners. A one stop shop for companies had been established within the Municipality enabling companies to reach all the services of the Municipality through one access point.

The vision was identifying education as a major target area. Qualified vocational training providing schools for specific employment purposes which were then closed down once those end results had been realised had been established.

Tourism initiatives called "Experiences" were designing new tourism products. They had three tourist groups, one for each river valley. Two were working well and their vision for 2008 was "to inspire other people to do things for themselves". Ice hockey was important and they had one attraction which attracted 450,000 visitors annually.

The second presentation was from Kramfors. They emphasised the need to secure concrete results before the end of the present Structural Fund Programme in 2006. The Leader of the Council did not think that new members would come in on time and that this provided opportunities for further programmes of European funding. Kramfors had 21,200 and 1,700 sq k. They were hoping to develop a world heritage museum on the Skule mountain and they promoted tourist opportunities heavily. They were developing a concept called "a stroll through time" and had a site where it was possible to achieve this because of the arrangements of archaeological remains and where now looking for private investment.

They has good communications, trains to Stockholm had been cut from 6 to 4 hours and flights took an hour. Car journeys were longer at 7 hours. The Municipality supported tourism and maintained four seasonal TICs and also two other visitor centres. They had a concept called "Attractive Kramfors" with EU funding over three years and with 100 companies to market Kramfors to raise self-confidence and in Kramfors jobs in traditional industries were in steep decline.

In an extensive discussion afterwards which ranged over a wide variety of Local Authority functions including the provision of toilets where Kramfors had experimented with new structures which had apparently repelled vandals, the Leader of Kramfors was asked to comment on his priority for the future. He explained that his priority was delivering results. Something concrete had to be done and he focused on outward migration. It was necessary to convince people he said that European Funding and local and national action could actually achieve results so that the constant seepage of people from the communities could be stopped. This he saw as the overriding aim of the present strategies. Without this it was difficult to see how the communities could continue to have confidence in their political leaders. **The Denbighshire delegation were impressed by the force of his arguments and his commitment to achieving specific goals.**

Subsequent to the formal meeting the Head of Economic Regeneration had a long informal discussion with Anders Huldts about a possible tourism project.

They agreed that it had to involve a combination of the private and the public sector.

They also agreed that it should involve marketing.

They also agreed that it should involve some form of cultural / heritage exploitation.

And they also agreed that it should be a bottom - up project stemming from the needs and opportunities identified by the community.

The final site visits took the delegation to a culture hall in the centre of Harnosand where artistic bequests are kept and displayed and to the County Museum just outside Vasternorrland. This is an open air museum, the centrepiece of which is a brand new and large facility where aspects of the history of Vasternorrland are

displayed in an impressionistic way. The museum had a great impact on the delegation, especially the realisation of the heavy usage of the museum by local people. Tourism is very important in the summer but out of season it is an important facility for local people who throng there to its restaurants and to the many buildings which explore aspects of Vasternorrland's heritage.

In conclusion the consequences of the visit are:

- 1. An agreement by Vasternorrland to visit Denbighshire in early March.**
- 2. There will be a letter of agreement signed by the two Councils providing a framework for further co-operation.**
- 3. Strategic areas for further work include lifelong learning particularly
enterprise
education
Culture and tourism
Small and Medium Size Enterprise development**
- 4. The first projects to be developed will be vocational training in schools**
- 5. Carolyn Brindle will be asked to correspond with Anders Huldt regarding a tourism project and development of a new network for submission to European Programmes as defined above.**

Appendices 5A and 5B not available in Electronic form

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: CABINET SUB GROUP FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN

1. Decision Sought

1.1 For the Cabinet to agree to the setting up of a Cabinet Sub Group to develop and co-ordinate the strategic and planning framework for children's service in the context of the community strategy and the Assembly's previously reported changes to partnership funding.

2. Reason for seeking decision

2.1 Members will recall that the Assembly announced its intention last year to replace the following children's funding strategies: Sure Start, National Child Care Strategy, Gest Funding, Children and Youth Partnership Funding, Play 2000 and the Youth Access initiative with one single fund (Children and Young People's Support Fund) and with a new partnership structure to replace the existing ones.

2.2 Members will also recall the Llais Ifanc initiative, previously reported on, which seeks to develop the voice of young people in policy development both nationally and locally and derives largely from the Extending Entitlement Initiative. The extending entitlement main aims will be to enthuse young people (11 -25yrs) seize opportunities for learning, focuses on service improvement and the promotion of equal opportunities.

2.3 The Assembly has now indicated its intention that there should be strategic local children and young people's partnerships whose function it is to improve services for children and young people by taking a cross agency approach (LA services, Health, Independent Sector Voluntary Sector and Children and Young people themselves) for service planning. The main functions are as follows:

- Creating a shared vision among partners for services to children and young people
- Jointly determining objectives
- Developing joint action plans and targets for achieving the objectives
- Providing a forum for actively engaging young people in the identification of local needs and demand.
- Establishing links with the overall community strategy framework
- Identifying the means for implementing the framework and managing and reviewing implementation.

The following areas would be represented on the partnership as a minimum requirement;

Education and Training, Social Care, Childcare,
Youth Services, Culture leisure and Sports Amenities,
Housing, Health, Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention,
Transport, Environment and Economic Development.

2.4 Reporting to this strategic partnership will be the sub partnerships: those relating to the Extending Entitlement initiative (11 -25yrs) and those relating to the Children and Young People's support fund.(0 -25yrs)

2.5 The Assembly envisages that the first local Frameworks should cover the period from 2003. The framework will cover 5 years and will be updated on an interim basis (annually) and a full-scale revision at the end of the 5 year period

Comment

- 2.6. These are clearly wide ranging proposals seeking to bring the current complexity of service planning arrangements for children under the one framework.
- 2.7 The purpose of the proposed Cabinet Subgroup is to provide a central co-ordinating and policy development Group to do two main things
1. Assist with the Council's input into the partnership development as the Council will have the lead facilitating role.
 2. Provide a Children's service policy development group with an overall remit for all Children's services provided by the County Council. The Cabinet Subgroup will need to look at the existing policy development structure for Children's services and ensure that it is both rational and enables the County to play its role in the cross agency approach required by the partnership

The Subgroup therefore will:

- Oversee the Council's strategic policy framework developing policy in conjunction with the scrutiny committees for approval by Council
- Provide a strategic and co-ordinated approach in relation to the various Assembly specific funding streams.
- Examine the existing structure of Children services policy groups and to recommend an appropriate structure.
- Make the necessary preparations for the partnership framework in which a joint policy cross agency development framework will be evolved.

It will be assisted by key policy officers from the main directorates and the work of the Subgroup will be reported on to Cabinet.

- 2.8 The opportunity to create this Cabinet Subgroup remedies the deficit in strategic planning created when the committee structure was revised, namely the disbanding of the Children's Services Panel.
- 3. Cost Implications.**
- 3.1. The costs associated with the setting up of a subgroup will be those of servicing meetings.
- 3.2 There is funding available from the Assembly to assist with some of the developmental costs (see attached appendices for the initial funding allocation which would need to be discussed with the Subgroup).
- 4. Financial Controller Statement**
- 4.1 The proposed Cabinet Subgroup gives the opportunity to improve the focus of services to Children and Young People and thereby gives the opportunity to improve the budgetary control and financial management of the services involved. The issues for consideration by the sub group should include budget performance and the financial impact of any service development proposals considered.
- 5. Consultation**
- 5.1 The Cabinet Members for Personal Services, Culture and Leisure, Education and ITC and Environment have been consulted.
- 5.2 Relevant officers within each Directorate have also been consulted.

6. Impacts on other Policy Areas

6.1 The purpose of the report is to bring relevant policy areas together to create a cross cutting approach to the [provision of Children and young People's services..

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Members approve the setting up of the Cabinet Subgroup as suggested.

7.2 That members agree the Membership of the Subgroup

CE~ SH

Appendices

NB These letters relate to the Assembly announcement of funding to support issues arising from the Extending entitlement initiative and the Children and Young people - a Framework for Partnership.

The funding is for £60k in this financial year and £80k in 2002/03, and to be subsequently included in the RSG settlement.

Criteria for the funding includes both the Strategic Partnership initiative (including extending entitlement) and any involving people in decision making

Appendix 1

CJ Burdett
Head of Children and Families Division,
The National Assembly for Wales,
Cathays Park
Cardiff.

In response to your letter of 14th August detailing Assembly funding of **£60k in this financial year and £80k in 2002/03, subsequently included in the RSG settlement**, the Authority provides the following statement as an indication of its intention to use the moneys for the purposes intended.

1. The Authority will use the funding to support the development of strategic local planning partnerships and planning partnership required under the extending entitlement for children initiative, which it is intended will provide for sub partnerships of the main strategic partnership. The foundation for these partnerships already exist within Denbighshire, but they will need to be developed in the light of the larger framework presaged by these initiatives.

The development of the partnership structure and sub partnership arrangements may require use of an external consultancy to support the structure's development, but any use of the funding in connection with this will depend of the briefing specification and whether capacity may be found in house to provide both the conceptual and the development role associated with the partnership structure. Work required to be carried out under this heading includes a mapping and audit of existing planning arrangements and task groups as well as the facilitation of a joint strategic approach among any new grouping and existing structures.

2. It will also be used to develop potential for young persons involvement in decision making building on the already strong structure for participation which already exists in Denbighshire through the Youth Services, the Social Inclusion Management Group and Social Services. We will examine the potential for strengthening existing arrangements focussing on such factors which will enhance opportunity for participation as well as expanding the range of fori. These activities will attract the bulk of the spending. The Authority already possesses bids against this money and therefore has already a demonstrable programme.

3 It will further examine potential for developing a new Council strategic policy structure to support all these initiatives which are covered under this particular funding umbrella. The Council will shortly be asked to consider setting up of a new Strategic Board to oversee the development of the new planning framework and to provide strategic direction for all of the partnership arrangements.

Steve Hatton
Assistant Chief Executive Strategy

Appendix 2

Susan, Further to our conversation the other day. I have provided further detail on our proposals.

Steve Hatton
Assistant Chief Executive Strategy

1. The possibility of providing in-house the consultancy work and subsuming this within the co-ordinator role. It is possible that the analytical work for the design of a new strategic partnership structure can be combined in this function of this post.

2. The actual bids for funding which are now being detailed from service departments.

3. The setting up of the strategic partnership is more time rather than resource intensive.

The distribution of the funding between years will depend upon the speed with which the co-ordinator post can be progressed and upon that will depend on whether a consultancy is required..

Interim Allocation and Distribution between Years

2001/2002 £60k

Available for setting up
Youth Fori and associated
work £52k

Co-ordinator's
secondment £8k

2002/3 £80k

Co-ordinator's secondment
£31.5k Full year.

Consultancy £5k

Youth Fori and associated work
£43.5k

2003/4 £80k Funded VIA RSG

Youth Fori and associated work £70k

Residual P/ship requirements £10k

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 January 2002

SUBJECT: Off Street Parking Places Order - Morrisons Supermarket, Rhyl

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To seek Members' agreement to seal the Off Street Parking Places Order (OPPO) for Morrisons Supermarket, Rhyl

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Cabinet at its meeting on 31 July 2001 noted that Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc had approached the Council regarding the introduction of controls on their Marsh Road supermarket car park in Rhyl. The car park was being used by commuters to the disbenefit of their business and in contravention of conditions imposed on the planning consent for the store. Agreement was reached that the Council would provide enforcement services to impose a two hour stay restriction, for an annual management fee and retention of revenue from Excess Charge Notices issued. This would require the introduction of an OPPO.

The OPPO has been advertised and one objection received. The objection is to the proposed charge of £1 and that this can be refunded only by spending at least an equivalent sum in the supermarket. The objector considers that a refund should be offered against any purchase however small.

The charge for parking at the supermarket and any arrangements for refunds are the responsibility of the supermarket operator. In this case the OPPO is merely being progressed to enable the Council to provide a management service for the company on the same basis as in Council owned car parks. It is proposed therefore that the objector's concerns be forwarded to Wm. Morrison Supermarkets plc for their consideration and that the Order be sealed.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

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

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There should be no cost implications from the above scheme as the department charges a management fee for the enforcement services.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

This report advises on the formal consultation that has been undertaken.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

There are no significant implications for other policy areas.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the sealing of the Off Street Parking Places Order for Morrisons Supermarket, Rhyl.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR D M MORRIS LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: RHYL ROAD, DENBIGH - PROPOSED FOOTWAY IMPROVEMENT - COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Approval to utilise, as necessary, powers of compulsory purchase under the Highways Act 1980, in respect of land needed to enable construction of a proposed footway improvement scheme in Rhyl Road, Denbigh

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- There is currently incomplete footway provision along the A543 Rhyl Road in Denbigh.
- The road in question is used on a daily basis by schoolchildren en route to the following schools : Ysgol Twm o'r Nant, Ysgol Y Dyffryn and Ysgol Frongoch.
- At the present time, many of the children are faced with having to either walk on the highway, where no footway is present, or cross the busy A543 twice in order to reach their school. There is a single patrolled crossing point (Albert Road) within the section of highway concerned.
- Highways and Transportation intend to bring forward, utilising allocated capital funding, a previously planned scheme to construct the missing sections of footway.
- To enable the scheme to be constructed it will be necessary to acquire a narrow strip of land from each of 14 private residential properties (see attached plan for details).
- Initial discussions with the property owners indicate that a small proportion are not prepared to give up land by agreement. In order for the scheme to progress, it will be necessary, in some instances, for the County Council to exercise its powers under the Highway Act 1980 (section 238) to compulsorily acquire land for such purposes.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

An allowance has been made within the overall Highways and Transportation capital programme for 2001/02 to enable land acquisition and a design for the scheme to be programmed. Subject to satisfactory progress, a bid will be made for capital funding to construct the scheme in 2002/03.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

An application for funding from the 2002/3 Capital Programme in accordance with the new procedures will need to be made in due course.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Cllr. Robert Emlyn Jones (Denbigh Lower) - Has campaigned for a footway here for a long time. Authors of the Denbigh Transportation Study recommended a footway here and this proposal will fulfil this.

Denbigh Town Council - In favour but would 'request that the County Council consider extending the footway all along Rhyl Road towards Townsend'. They would also ask for parking restrictions being put in to ease congestion between Fron Chapel and the Mason's Arms pub.

Denbigh High School - Governing body in favour. Teaching staff in favour. PTA committee can't respond until January but their views will be passed on to us.

Frongoch C.P. school - The Governing body support this proposal

Frongoch C.P. school - The PTA support this proposal. 'These footways would provide a safe and healthy walk to and from our school'

Ysgol Twm o'r Nant - 'the Governors are in full agreement and very supportive. The parents would support this plan as well.'

Members of the Education Department have attended the consultation meetings.
The Director of the Environment supports the proposals.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Significant safety implications for pedestrians using this route, in particular pupils at the schools referred to in the report.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members authorise the Head of Highways to utilise the Compulsory Purchase powers contained within the Highways Act 1980 to enable this safety scheme to progress.

ED ~ SK

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: RUTHIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1. Members agreement to the recommendation that route Option 2 (stream diversion via north-west route) be adopted as the County Council's single preferred solution in respect of the flooding problems associated with the Llanfwrog watercourse in Ruthin.
2. Members to authorise the Head of Highways to proceed with detailed design of the scheme, statutory procedures / authorisations and grant funding procurement in order to enable the scheme to be constructed in Summer / Autumn 2002.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- **Background**

- Following severe flooding in Mwrog Street and the surrounding streets in Ruthin in March 1998, the County Council commissioned specialist consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, to carry out a study of the problem and identify possible solutions. The study confirmed that the culvert which carries the watercourse from Llanfwrog, beneath Mwrog Street, and into the River Clwyd, has only sufficient capacity to carry storm flows in conditions experienced typically once every 5 - 8 years. Storms in excess of this magnitude are likely to result in breaching / overtopping of the culvert with consequential flooding in Mwrog Street, Park Place, Borthyn and several adjacent locations.

- Subsequent to the severe flooding events in October & November 2000, the consultants were asked to review the findings of their previous report and, in consultation with the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) and the Environment Agency (EA), progress the study to determine a flood alleviation scheme for Ruthin. The procedures to be followed in determining the most economically appropriate solution are those supported by NAfW, from whom 45% grant assistance is to be sought.

- The options identified by the consultant were as follows :

- ❖ Flood warning scheme
- ❖ Flood storage
- ❖ Culvert Refurbishment
- ❖ Extended Refurbishment
- ❖ Culvert Bypass
- ❖ Open Channel
- ❖ Culvert Replacement
- ❖ Channel Diversion
- ❖ Culvert Inlet Improvement
- ❖ Removal of Service crossings

- Initial discussions with NAfW led to the removal of the Flood Warning, Culvert Inlet and Service Crossing options on the grounds that they would not provide the required standard of protection.

- A simplified attribute analysis was then carried out on the remaining options, taking into account scheme costs, flood protection standards achievable and other issues such as ecological and amenity impacts.

- The outcome of this exercise was to reduce the above list down to just 2 viable options :

- ❖ Option 1 - Diversion of the watercourse via a combination of culverts and open channel. The route taken commences at the upstream end of the existing culvert, beneath Mwrog Street and the A494 (Lon Fawr) in culverts, continuing past the

front of the Ruthin RFC clubhouse and into the River Clwyd via the lake in Cae Ddol. This option would also require improvement works to be carried out to the existing watercourse upstream of the culvert, at the rear of the property Tan-y-Gerddi, and where the watercourse passes through the grounds of the property.

- ❖ Option 2 - Diversion of the watercourse, principally in open channel, along a route running to the north and west of the town, joining the River Clwyd via an existing drainage channel, which would be improved and enlarged. The route commences in the fields below Llanfwrog Church and remains in agricultural land round the north-west quarter of the town before crossing the A525 Ruthin - Denbigh road in a culvert adjacent to the Livestock market roundabout. The route then continues in open channel to the south of the Market, until it reaches the main channel of the existing drainage system, which runs in a northerly direction through the Brickfields area and into the River Clwyd at Telpyn

N.B. A plan showing both routes is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

- **Economic appraisal**

- The 2 identified options were then subjected to a rigorous and extensive economic appraisal, carried out in accordance with Project Appraisal Guidance Note 3 (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 1999), which is the methodology recognised and required by NAFW. This process requires detailed evaluation of the damage costs which would result if the County Council chose not to act and simply allowed repeat flooding events to occur, as well as similarly detailed estimates of the cost of the solution options. The process is carried out for different standards of service, i.e levels of protection against 1 in 20 year, 1 in 50 year, 1 in 100 year and 1 in 150 year events.
- The completed economic appraisal yielded the following benefit / cost ratios for the desired standard of service (1 in 100 years) :

- ❖ Option 1 - 2.10
- ❖ Option 2 - 2.19

- From these figures it can be seen that both options have a benefit / cost ratio in excess of 2.0. When different standards of service are considered the benefit / cost ratios remain in excess of 2.0, with Option 2 having a marginal advantage over Option 1. It should be noted that, generally speaking, NAFW are unlikely to agree to provide funding for a scheme that has a benefit / cost ratio of less than 1.0.

- **Scheme Costs**

- The estimated costs for the 2 options, inclusive of construction, land, design and supervision, are as follows :

- ❖ Option 1 - £896,000
- ❖ Option 2 - £866,000

- **Technical considerations**

- Adoption of Option 1 would result in the combined flows of the Llanfwrog watercourse and the River Clwyd being carried through Ruthin from Cae Ddol down to the flood plain to the north. At present the total combined flow is only present downstream of Cae Ddol, from Pont Howkin, the point at which the Llanfwrog watercourse enters the River Clwyd. The Environment Agency are presently constructing flood defences for the River Clwyd, where it passes through Ruthin, from Cae Ddol to the sewage works downstream of the town. Clearly, if Option 2 is adopted by the County Council, the Llanfwrog stream flow would be removed from the length of River Clwyd that is subject to the EA flood defence scheme, resulting in an effectively higher level of protection against flooding from the River Clwyd. It has been calculated that, in times of flood, the Llanfwrog watercourse can contribute approximately 14% of the total flow in the River Clwyd downstream of Pont Howkin.

- Adoption of Option 2 carries with it the potential for complications associated with the precise route alignment to be used. Whereas Option 1 would be constructed almost entirely on either highway land (NAfW / County Council) or land in the ownership of the County Council (Ruthin RFC / Cae Ddol), with only minimal implications for third party-owned land, the route for Option 2 lies predominantly across land in third party ownership. Route selection is also affected by the need to take into account areas of land earmarked in the Unitary Development Plan for possible future development and infrastructure provision. Successful acquisition of the necessary land by agreement cannot be taken for granted, and the use of compulsory purchase powers, with consequential project delays, has to be recognised as a possibility.
- The advantages and disadvantages of each option is shown in the table in **Appendix 2**.
- **References**
- Project Appraisal and Cost Benefit Study - report prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff dated 18 December 2001. A copy is available for Members' inspection at the meeting or at the office of the Head of Highways & Transportation.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The overall scheme costs are estimated to be £896,000 (if Option 1 is chosen) or £866,000 (if Option 2 is chosen).

An indicative bid for Land Drainage Capital Grant assistance (up to a maximum level of 45%) has been made to NAfW, who have indicated that a formal bid is highly likely to be successful. Upon confirmation by the County Council of a single preferred option, the formal bid for grant funding will be completed and submitted to NAfW.

In addition to the 45% grant available from NAfW, a formal Expression of Interest was submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), in respect of Objective One funding (Priority 6, Measure 4). Confirmation has recently been received from WEFO that the scheme is in line with the relevant Objective 1 Strategy and advising that a formal bid should be submitted. This process is in hand. The maximum level of grant available under this scheme is 40% and NAfW have confirmed that Land Drainage Grant can be used as match funding to draw down Objective One funding.

If bids for both the NAfW Land Drainage Grant and Objective One grant are successful, the level of funding to be provided by the County Council will fall to 15% of the overall scheme cost.

The County Council has made provisional allocation within current and future years' Capital budgets to cover a funding commitment of 55% of the scheme costs, assuming only NAfW grant (45%) is to be received.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The latest approved 3 year Capital Programme provides for the estimated net cost of the works after allowing for the anticipated assistance from the NAW.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- Results of consultations in relation to Options 1 and 2 are shown below. Full copies of written responses are included in **Appendix 3**.
 - ❖ Environment Agency.
The EA states in its letter that it has no objection in principle to either option but final design details will have to be agreed. It also states that it has no preference at present and confirmed that it has no objection in principle to the consideration of either option for Main River status.
 - ❖ National Assembly for Wales (Environmental Protection Division).
NAfW (Environmental Protection Division) is preparing to provide a formal statement based upon the Project Appraisal Report which has been submitted to it by the County's consultant.

Its preliminary comment is that whilst both options appear technically sound and worthwhile, its preference is for Option 2, as this reduces the flows through Ruthin thus effectively increasing the level of protection afforded by the main river defences.

- ❖ National Assembly for Wales (Highways Division).
NAfW (Highways Division) have been consulted throughout the process and have not formally stated a preference although Option 1 would commit it to additional maintenance responsibilities for new structures under or alongside the Trunk Road.
- ❖ The Public.
Public Consultation consisted of two exhibitions which were advertised beforehand, both in the press and by leaflet distribution (974 leaflets distributed). The first exhibition was held in the Drill Hall, Ruthin on 7th and 8th November 2001 and the second between the 12th and 17th November in the Ruthin Library. The Council's officers and consultants attended the first exhibition to present the options and to answer any questions in relation to the two routes. Those attending the exhibitions were invited to complete and return a questionnaire on which their preferences and any other observations could be recorded. At least 185 attended the exhibition in the Drill Hall and an unknown number visited the exhibition at the Library.
Over 91% of the questionnaires returned indicated a preference for Option 2, 6.5% for Option 1 and the remainder indicated no preference.
Returns from residents living in areas where Option 2 brought the new watercourse closer to their properties than at present, returned an 80% preference for that option.
The majority of returns indicated that it was sensible to discharge the Llanfwrog watercourse to a point downstream of the town as it reduced the risk of flooding from the River Clwyd.
The Questionnaire results are included in **Appendix 4**.
- ❖ Local Members.
Councillor Morfudd Jones preferred Option 2 as it provided the opportunity for the Mwrog stream to be discharged downstream of the town thus alleviating the risk of flooding to the town from both the Mwrog stream and the main river Clwyd.
Councillor Ken Hawkins also preferred Option 2 as it had the added benefit of discharging downstream of the town thus reducing the volume of water flowing through the town, in the River Clwyd, during peak flow conditions.
- ❖ Ruthin Town Council
A letter from the Town Clerk confirmed that most town councillors attended the public exhibition and that they were unanimous in their preference for Option 2 as this reduced the volume of water carried by the River Clwyd through the town.
- ❖ Landowners.
All affected landowners were aware, from previous discussions, that the Council's consultants had been studying diversion routes which could affect land in which they had an interest. Letters were written to all landowners to inform them of the public exhibitions and to invite them to meet officers to discuss the alternative proposals in confidence if they so wished. No meetings were requested and no formal correspondence has been received,
- ❖ Ruthin Rugby Club
A letter from the Rugby Club states that it is willing to accept the views of Ruthin residents although its preference is for Option 2. The Club have listed its requirements should Option 1 be chosen. (Option 1 directly affects the club's pitches).
- ❖ Ruthin Flood Action Committee
A letter from the Committee states that a written ballot taken at the public meeting held on 9 November returned a 100% vote in favour of Option 2.
- ❖ The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
A letter from the Trust confirms that neither option affects recorded sites of archaeological interest. The Trust however recommends that archaeological assessments are carried out.
- ❖ Countryside Council for Wales

CCW's letter does not state a preferred option although it does suggest that appropriate surveys of protected species be carried out to comply with relevant legislation.

- ❖ **DCC Planning Services**
DCC Planning Services have not stated a preferred option but have outlined the position in relation to Development Control and the UDP.
- ❖ **DCC Housing Services.**
No observations have been received from DCC Housing Services.
- ❖ **The Crown Estate**
The Crown Estate confirms that it has no interests affected by either option, and therefore it has no comment to make.
- ❖ **Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd**
In its letter, Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd states that it has no firm view on Option 1 but has some concerns as to whether Option 2 will work in the long term and it is also concerned about the safety of children playing in the area of the open channel.
- ❖ **Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.**
No formal response or observations have been received from Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Main policy areas impacted upon are those relating to community safety, quality of life and economic regeneration, in respect of the large number of residents and commercial properties currently suffering both the effects of recent actual flooding events and the continuing threat of possible future floods.

7 RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members, noting the economic and technical appraisal details in relation to the 2 options detailed in the report, and taking into account the outcomes from the considerable consultations carried out in respect of the scheme, confirm that route Option 2 (stream diversion via north-west route) be adopted as the County Council's single preferred option for the Ruthin Flood Alleviation Scheme.

2. That Members authorise the Head of Highways and Transportation to proceed with detailed design, statutory / authorisation procedures and grant procurement in such a way as to enable construction of the scheme to be carried out in Summer / Autumn of 2002.

APPENDIX 1

NOTES
1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MAIN REPORT AND SHOULD NOT BE REPRODUCED OR COPIED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF



MIROG STREET
FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME
TWO OPTIONS FOR
FLOOD ALLEVIATION

DATE	08/08/01
BY	NIS
CHECKED BY	UNIVERSITY
SCALE	AS SHOWN

PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF
 Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd
 100, The Quadrant, London W1R 4AL
 TEL: 020 7592 2000
 FAX: 020 7592 2001
 BEAMS 1054/306 | A

Channel Discharges into River Clwyd

Option 2 Streamy Diversion

Existing Channel to be Cleaned and Widened

New Culvert Under Saw Mill Access

New Culvert Under A325

New Culvert Under A325

New Culvert Under A325

New Open Channel Sections

New Culvert Crossing Under Highways and Accesses

Option 2 Stream Diversion

Remedial Bank Works to Prevent Overland Flow to Mads Harold as Part of Option 1

Mirog Street Culvert

Option 1 Culvert Diversion

COMPARISON OF OPTIONS 1 AND 2

OPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES	SCHEME COSTS FOR 1 in 100 YEARS STANDARD OF SERVICE (£,000)	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS (£,000)	BENEFIT -COST RATIO
1 (Culvert diversion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removes flows from Mwrog Street. 2. Achieves Indicative Standards. 3. Minimal loss of land use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction in the Highway 2. Some disruption to residents and road users during construction. 3. Increases flow into Cae Ddol 4. Risk of blockage increases with length of culvert. 	896	6.5	2.1
2 (Stream Diversion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removes flows from Mwrog Street. 2. Achieves Indicative Standards 3. Little disruption to residents and road users during construction. 4. Reduces flows in the River Clwyd though Ruthin - increases protection levels in the Clwyd. 5. Short lengths of culvert increases likelihood of adoption as a 'Main River' by the Environment Agency. 6. Ecological and hydraulic improvements to the existing lengths of watercourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of agricultural land. 2. Long length of watercourse to maintain (but see Advantage 5) 3. Increases flood risk to farm land 	866	6.4	2.19

CONSULTATION

WRITTEN RESPONSES

- Written Responses from the following are included in this Appendix :
 - ❖ Environment Agency
 - ❖ National Assembly for Wales (Environmental Protection Division) - if available
 - ❖ Ruthin Rugby Club
 - ❖ Ruthin Flood Action Committee
 - ❖ The Clwyd-Powys Archeological Trust
 - ❖ Countryside Council for Wales
 - ❖ DCC Planning Services
 - ❖ The Crown Estate
 - ❖ Ruthin Town Council
 - ❖ Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd

Responses not available in electronic form

**Ruthin Flood Alleviation
Public Consultation Questionnaire Results
Option Preferences by Area**

AREA	STREETS ETC.	PREFERENCES			
		OPTION 1	OPTION 2	NO PREFERENCE STATED	TOTALS
A	Mwrog Street, Maes y Ffynnon, Porth y Dre, Ty'n y Parc , Llys Erw, Ffordd Plas Newydd, Lon Fawr.	3	87	1	91
B	Denbigh Road, Maes Hafod, Llawr y Dyffryn, Llys Famau, Y Parc (The Park)	4	20	1	25
C	Clwyd Street, Mill Street	1	11	0	12
D	Min yr Afon, Parc y Dre, Park Road, Cae Seren	0	21	0	21
E	Galltegfa, Llanfwrog	2	8	0	10
F	Other areas of Ruthin	3	24	0	27
G	Outside Ruthin	0	10	0	10
H	Not Stated	0	3	3	6
	TOTAL	13	184	5	202
		6.44%	91.09%	2.47%	100%

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: CHARGES FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To seek Members agreement to changes and additions to charges for Traffic and Transportation services with effect from 1 April 2002.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

A number of services are provided by the Council's Highways and Transportation Department for specific "customers" as opposed to services provided for the community as a whole. Increasing numbers of requests are being received for these services. In order to meet the costs of provision it is proposed to review existing charges and to introduce charges for services where these are not levied currently.

Existing charges are levied on:-

- switching off and on traffic signals and pelican crossings (to enable works on or adjacent to the highway to be undertaken);
- supply of data on accidents and traffic flows.

It is proposed to introduce new charges for:-

- the provision of access protection markings (H markings) used to highlight the presence of an entrance or crossing;
- the issue of permits for access to Rhyl High Street;
- administration charges for Traffic Regulation Orders for new developments.

Currently the costs of providing the services are funded from the revenue budgets of the Highways & Transportation Department which are not adequate to provide the increasing service demand. The charges are intended to cover administration, survey, site work and site supervision costs where appropriate. By adopting this practise the pressures on revenue funding would be reduced.

A survey of the charges levied for these services was undertaken by the WATO (Welsh Association of Technical Officers) Traffic Engineers Group. The proposed charges for Denbighshire have been determined in relation to the medium - higher levels of charges levied by other local authorities in Wales derived from the survey. At this stage it is not considered appropriate to charge at the highest level possible but to follow the national pattern of charging until we develop a "feel" as to our local charging strategy. The proposed charges and a listing of the higher levels of charges levied by other local authorities in Wales are shown in the appendix.

Subject to Cabinet approval it is proposed to introduce the charges from 1 April 2002.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes and additions to charges are expected to generate revenue of up £3,000 per annum.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The review of service charges and the setting of economic charges is a key element of the District Auditor's comments in relation to the Council financial recovery.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Consultations have been carried out with other Authorities in Wales to establish an appropriate and consistent charging strategy.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

There are no significant implications for other policy areas.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the introduction of charges for Traffic and Transportation services as listed in the appendix with effect from 1 April 2002.

ED ~ PB

APPENDIX

	Denbighshire Current charge	Denbighshire Proposed charge	Comparable charges elsewhere
Switching off and on traffic signals/pelican crossings	£50 per visit - working day hours £75 per visit - outside working hours	£50 - Monday to Friday £75 - Saturday £100 - Sunday	Neath Port Talbot £25 - Monday to Friday £37 - Saturday £50 - Sunday Vale of Glamorgan £75 - Monday to Friday £150 - Saturday £200 - Sunday
Supply of data on accidents	£50	£100	Powys - £25 per sheet Swansea - £100 Vale of Glamorgan - depends on quantity e.g. up to 3 sheets - £150
Supply of data on traffic flows	£50 per site	£100 per site	Carmarthenshire - £100 Rhondda Cynon Taff - £100 Swansea - minimum charge - £100
Provision of access protection markings	None	£25	Neath Port Talbot - £90 Swansea - £80 Wrexham - £25
Issue of permits for access to Rhyl High Street	None	£15	Swansea - £15
Administration charges for Traffic Regulation Orders for new developments	None	£50	Pembrokeshire - £260 Swansea - £260

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

CABINET MEMBER: LEAD MEMBERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR CULTURE,
LEISURE & TOURISM

DATE: 17 January 2002

SUBJECT: Environmental Improvements to Marine Lake, Rhyl

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for a programme of improvement, including walling, CCTV equipment and environmental upgrading at Marine Lake, Rhyl

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Welsh Waters planning consent for the development of an underground storage tank adjacent to the Marine Lake included a Section 106 Agreement which required for the provision of the Wellington Road wall and CCTV equipment. The Council eventually resolved that Welsh Water be relieved of the obligation highlighted above and that "officers seek alternative sources of funding including the Welsh Development Agency, for the provision of the Wellington Road wall, CCTV equipment and any further enhancements at the Marine Lake, Rhyl."

2.2 During the year 2000, an action plan of improvements with which to apply for funding was developed with the Marine Lake Users Forum. This group, comprised of County Council ward members, local residents, Rhyl Town Council, and voluntary users of the lake e.g. Rhyl Sea Cadets and Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust.

2.3 In June 2001, the W.D.A. agreed in principle to fund environmental improvements to Marine Lake and wished to employ consultants to consult and provide a design for such improvements, and tender the agreed works. A Management Plan for the next five years would be produced to help protect the natural environment of the lake and the surrounds, and a Marketing Strategy to achieve increased usage by residents and visitors alike.

2.4 Seven Companies were invited to tender for the consultancy and five were returned. With the assistance of the funding agency, W.D.A., and the use of a tender evaluation system as used by them, TACP from Cardiff and Wrexham were successful.

2.5 A map showing TACP's draft proposals are attached. There has been extensive consultation and final consultations are being carried out at the moment.

2.6 In view of the WDA's wish to commit funding this financial year, appraisal procedures, consultation and the administrative processes of tendering are being run in parallel. The Cabinet will receive a further report on the outcome of the final public consultation and fresh instruction will be sought if the consultations requires design changes.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 A 100% grant of £160,000 from the W.D.A. will fund the consultants work, the provision of the environmental improvements, a marketing strategy and a management plan for the next five years. The Agency require this funding to be spent by the end of this financial year.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 This project is expected to be financed from a grant received from the Welsh Development Agency which will meet all costs. It is not anticipated that funding will be required from Denbighshire County Council's own resources. All schemes included in the Council's Capital Plan require the approval of Council in accordance with the Capital Planning and Project Management Procedures.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

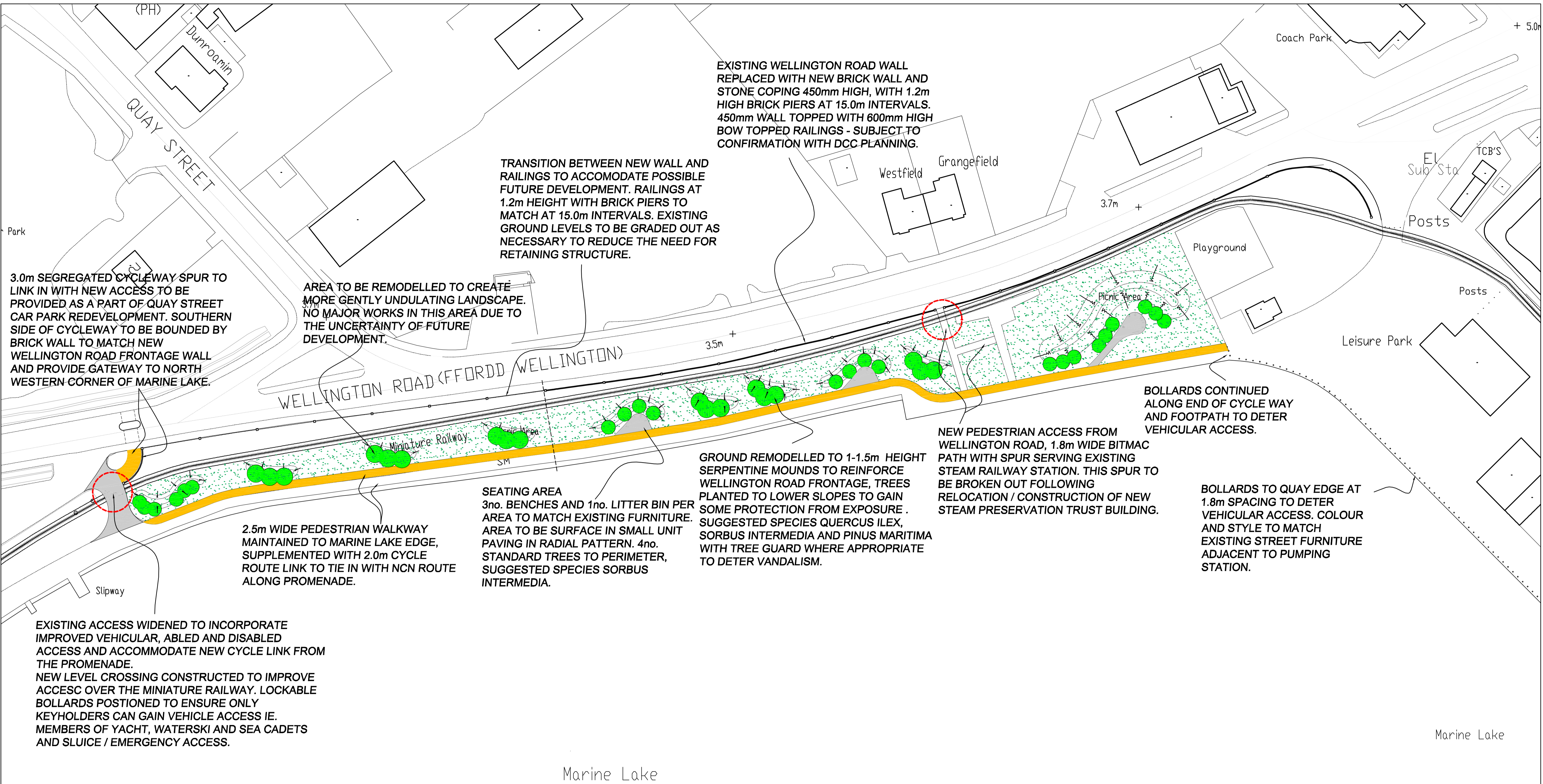
- 5.1** Officers from several Council departments have been involved and the Marine Lake Users Forum originated by the Council in 1999 to provide the vehicle for discussion on the Marine Lake issues has been informed and consulted on the project.
- 5.2** TACP have held two public consultations, November 15th and December 5th 2001 to investigate suitable environmental improvements. TACP have also consulted with various officers of the Council for a similar purpose.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1** Improve the quality of life for residents and the lake is included in the Council Biodiversity Plan and will secure compliance with the local Agenda 21 process. The proposals will assist the Economic Regeneration of the Council , the draft Tourism Strategy and will secure new investment in a major leisure facility.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** That Members approve the work done to date in attempting to achieve the resolution of December 7th 1999.
- 7.2** That Members approve the draft proposals attached.



3.0m SEGREGATED CYCLEWAY SPUR TO LINK IN WITH NEW ACCESS TO BE PROVIDED AS A PART OF QUAY STREET CAR PARK REDEVELOPMENT. SOUTHERN SIDE OF CYCLEWAY TO BE BOUNDED BY BRICK WALL TO MATCH NEW WELLINGTON ROAD FRONTAGE WALL AND PROVIDE GATEWAY TO NORTH WESTERN CORNER OF MARINE LAKE.

AREA TO BE REMODELLED TO CREATE MORE GENTLY UNDULATING LANDSCAPE. NO MAJOR WORKS IN THIS AREA DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

EXISTING WELLINGTON ROAD WALL REPLACED WITH NEW BRICK WALL AND STONE COPING 450mm HIGH, WITH 1.2m HIGH BRICK PIERS AT 15.0m INTERVALS. 450mm WALL TOPPED WITH 600mm HIGH BOW TOPPED RAILINGS - SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION WITH DCC PLANNING.

TRANSITION BETWEEN NEW WALL AND RAILINGS TO ACCOMMODATE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. RAILINGS AT 1.2m HEIGHT WITH BRICK PIERS TO MATCH AT 15.0m INTERVALS. EXISTING GROUND LEVELS TO BE GRADED OUT AS NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR RETAINING STRUCTURE.

2.5m WIDE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY MAINTAINED TO MARINE LAKE EDGE, SUPPLEMENTED WITH 2.0m CYCLE ROUTE LINK TO TIE IN WITH NCN ROUTE ALONG PROMENADE.

SEATING AREA
3no. BENCHES AND 1no. LITTER BIN PER AREA TO MATCH EXISTING FURNITURE. AREA TO BE SURFACE IN SMALL UNIT PAVING IN RADIAL PATTERN. 4no. STANDARD TREES TO PERIMETER, SUGGESTED SPECIES SORBUS INTERMEDIA.

GROUND REMODELLED TO 1-1.5m HEIGHT SERPENTINE MOUNDS TO REINFORCE WELLINGTON ROAD FRONTAGE, TREES PLANTED TO LOWER SLOPES TO GAIN SOME PROTECTION FROM EXPOSURE. SUGGESTED SPECIES QUERCUS ILEX, SORBUS INTERMEDIA AND PINUS MARITIMA WITH TREE GUARD WHERE APPROPRIATE TO DETER VANDALISM.

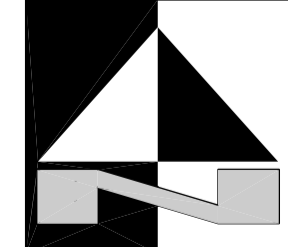
NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM WELLINGTON ROAD, 1.8m WIDE BITMAC PATH WITH SPUR SERVING EXISTING STEAM RAILWAY STATION. THIS SPUR TO BE BROKEN OUT FOLLOWING RELOCATION / CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST BUILDING.

BOLLARDS CONTINUED ALONG END OF CYCLE WAY AND FOOTPATH TO DETER VEHICULAR ACCESS.

BOLLARDS TO QUAY EDGE AT 1.8m SPACING TO DETER VEHICULAR ACCESS. COLOUR AND STYLE TO MATCH EXISTING STREET FURNITURE ADJACENT TO PUMPING STATION.

EXISTING ACCESS WIDENED TO INCORPORATE IMPROVED VEHICULAR, ABLED AND DISABLED ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATE NEW CYCLE LINK FROM THE PROMENADE. NEW LEVEL CROSSING CONSTRUCTED TO IMPROVE ACCESS OVER THE MINIATURE RAILWAY. LOCKABLE BOLLARDS POSITIONED TO ENSURE ONLY KEYHOLDERS CAN GAIN VEHICLE ACCESS IE. MEMBERS OF YACHT, WATERSKI AND SEA CADETS AND SLUICE / EMERGENCY ACCESS.

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REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2001

SUBJECT: PRESTATYN TENNIS CENTRE

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To advise Cabinet of the latest position in respect of the Prestatyn Tennis Centre project, and to express disappointment at the withdrawal of support for the project by Tennis Wales and SPORTLOT.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Council's long standing commitment to this particular project at the Frith Festival Gardens site must be reviewed following recent decisions by SPORTLOT and Tennis Wales.

2.2 Despite much work and effort being invested in this project by both the Council and Prestatyn Tennis Club, it has very recently emerged that the Prestatyn project is no longer supported by either the Sports Council or the governing body for the sport, Tennis Wales. This change of heart by the two principal funding partners for the project is very disappointing. This situation has come about following the Sports Council's decision to award SPORTLOT grant to an indoor tennis facility at Colwyn Bay, and their insistence that they will only grant aid one such facility on the central North Wales coast at the present time.

2.3 It was understood that Tennis Wales were challenging the SPORTLOT position, and were going to include both the Colwyn Bay and Prestatyn projects in their forthcoming national facility development strategy. However, this is no longer the case. Tennis Wales have changed their position to one which accepts that only one facility should be provided at the present time and supports the Colwyn Bay project.

2.4 The withdrawal of key project partners such as SPORTLOT and Tennis Wales has made implementation of this particular scheme very difficult. With only two of the four original partners in place (Denbighshire and Prestatyn Tennis Club) the major financial burden would have to be carried by the Council. Members will recall that the original cost estimate for the scheme was £2.3m for a 4 court indoor facility with outdoor courts and supporting infrastructure, but we have since produced a scaled down 2 court indoor project with external courts costing around £1.6m.

2.5 Clearly there is still local demand in Prestatyn for an indoor tennis facility. Tennis Wales and SPORTLOT make it clear that their current policy in respect of covered tennis facilities in central North Wales relates to the next 5 years or so, which will provide an opportunity to review provision in the Prestatyn area in due course. In addition, there are continuing efforts to secure a new and viable future for the Ffrith Festival Gardens complex which provide an opportunity for some sport and recreation provision at the site.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Councils agreed financial commitment to this scheme was £500,000 capital and £50,000 revenue funds to cover annual running costs.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 Cancellation of the scheme will reduce pressure on the Capital Programme.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 This is a long-standing partnership project which has involved a wide range of consultation in the past. Most of these consultees and partners, especially Prestatyn Tennis Club, are extremely disappointed with the Tennis Wales and SPORTLOT position. Tennis Wales and SPORTLOT were requested to set out the reasoning behind their decisions to drop support for the Prestatyn Project, and these are set out below:

5.2 Tennis Wales comments are:

“The Tennis Wales Executive Committee met on 1 December and confirmed Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay as “the key strategic location for additional covered courts in central North Wales, over the next 5 years, and until further demand is proven.”

In reaching the above decision, due consideration was given to the relative merits of both the Colwyn Bay and the Prestatyn schemes in terms of location, tennis development track record, tennis development potential, facility specifications and timescales.

As the National Governing Body for Tennis in Wales, it is unfortunate that such difficult priority decisions have to be taken, but due to scarcity of resources this has proved to be the case. Both the Colwyn Bay and the Prestatyn schemes have significant merits, but it has not been possible to support both projects at this stage in time.

I recognise that a significant amount of time has been invested in your project by both the Local Authority and the Club, and understand your disappointment with the recent decision.”

5.3 SPORTLOT commented as follows:

“Since the 1997 national and regional facilities plan, a need has been identified for an indoor tennis facility in central North Wales to complement the existing facilities in Bangor and Caernarfon.

The Sports Council for Wales has been working in recent years with a number of key governing bodies to update and refine their facility plans. Where this has worked well it has enabled the governing body to clearly identify the needs of the sport, has enabled SCW to prioritise the allocation of lottery funding in a strategic manner and has provided clear advice to potential partners. Unfortunately this has proved a difficult exercise for Tennis Wales as there have been differing views from clubs, area associations, the national executive and the LTA. It has also been acknowledged that the facility aspirations of Tennis Wales and the LTA significantly exceed the funding that SCW would be prepared to allocate to tennis in the short to medium term.

It is acknowledged that the lack of a facility plan has not helped local authorities in developing their own facility priorities. However, the guidance from SCW has consistently and clearly indicated that it would be highly unlikely that support would be available for more than one covered court facility in central north Wales.

Matters were brought to a head through the submission of a SPORTLOT application from Conwy CBC for a facility at Eirias Park. From a SPORTLOT perspective this application fulfilled the strategic requirement, provided a good sports development programme and represented value for money. However, the SPORTLOT national panel decided to support this application only if Tennis Wales reached an agreement on a strategic approach to covered sport provision. In the context of North Wales this meant an agreement that in the short to medium term there would be only be the one additional covered court facility, i.e. either Colwyn Bay or Prestatyn.

Since the SPORTLOT panel decision in July, Tennis Wales, in partnership with the LTA has undertaken a considerable amount of work in developing a strategic approach to covered court facilities. Agreement has now been reached between SCW and the governing body and support has been given by Tennis Wales for the proposed development in Colwyn Bay.”

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Provision of the Tennis Centre would have enhanced local quality of life through the provision of sport and recreation facilities.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To express disappointment that the partnership developed to take forward the current Prestatyn Tennis Centre project has been dissolved following the withdrawal of support from Tennis Wales and SPORTLOT, but to continue to explore opportunities to meet local demand for such a facility.

LL ~ TH

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 17 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: HOUSING RENTS AUTHORISATIONS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To authorise officers to issue appropriate letters and notices and represent the Council in Court on Housing Rent Arrears matters.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The agreed practice is for Housing Rents Officers to deal with all cases in their areas and for tenants to identify with them. It is, therefore, considered preferable for them to sign all letters and notices and, where appropriate, represent the Council in County Court.

2.2 Four further officers have joined the Housing Rents team and therefore authorisation is sought to issue appropriate letters and notices and represent the Council in Court on Housing Rent Arrears matters.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

N/A

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposal should assist the process of recovering rent arrears and continue the improvements achieved to date.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Consultation with staff involved completed and policy supported.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

A second Best Value Review of Housing Rents has commenced and the introduction of six area Housing Rents Officers is a central part of the policy to tackle rent arrears.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the following officers be authorised to sign letters to tenants, issue Notices of Intention to Seek Possession in accordance with Ground 1 of Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1985 and represent the Council in County Court on matters relating to rents for Council properties:-

1. Glyn Roberts, Senior Housing Rents Officer
2. Mark Atkinson, Housing Rents Officer
3. Beverley Morris, Housing Rents Assistant
4. Patricia Jones, Housing Rents Assistant

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor W R Webb, Lead Member for Property and Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services

DATE: 17 January 2002

SUBJECT: Eirianfa Day Centre, Denbigh

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 That Members approve the granting of a lease to the Eirianfa Association and consider the request for a rent at less than best consideration

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 In 1998 the County Council, as part of its restructuring proposals for social care in Denbigh, agreed that Eirianfa should be made available to the local community. As a result, negotiations have been progressing with the Eirianfa Association to achieve this aim. The Association has been actively seeking financial support for their proposed project.

2.2 A bid has been submitted to the Healthy Living, New Opportunities Fund, for £860,000 over five years. The bid is to provide a new service and would have a positive health outcome. The bid is for the Eirianfa project and for other Groups who will provide the service from Eirianfa. Additional services to be provided will be Personal Social Services, Relate, Caledfryn Credit Union and Dial a Ride. The youth element of the bid will be based at Rock House and the children and families at Capel Seion. The project is being supported by : North Wales Health Authority; Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust; Denbighshire Local Health Group; Denbigh Town Council; Denbigh Community Council and Canolfan Seion.

2.3 The building is currently used by: the Darby and Joan Club; Denbigh Stroke Club; Denbigh Mencap; Denbigh Gateway Club; Vale of Clwyd Mind; Multiple Sclerosis Society, Denbigh Arthritis Care; Carers Group and Relate. A valuable Service being offered by the Association is as a "drop-in centre" for Adults.

2.4 The Eirianfa Association have been granted temporary Charitable Status, subject to the Association securing a lease. The Charity Commission must be satisfied that the project is financially viable. The Charity Commission must also be satisfied that any monies spent on the refurbishment of the building is in the best interests of the Charity, as the building will not be owned by the Charity. As a result, the Charity Commission has suggested the Eirianfa Association seek a peppercorn rent for the whole of the term, although the Charity Commission do not advise upon specific terms.

2.5 The Association wish to secure a long lease to enable them to access different grants, the funding bodies for which grants have been applied for require a minimum lease term of 20 years, However the Association will be making future funding bids and without having a long lease, the Association will be precluded from accessing such funding. For this reason a term of 30 years is being sought. The Association has been successful in attracting bids totalling £82,800 from a range of funding sources. The Association has submitted a bid to the Lottery Community Fund to for £280,000 to convert the kitchen and garages to offices and install a lift..

2.6 It is proposed that the Association will take a full repairing lease and Members should note that with this building it is estimated that approximately £50,000 of expenditure will be required almost immediately, mainly on the roof. These costs will be met by the Association with possibly external grant support.

2.7 It should be noted that works to the roof and elsewhere, would have had to be met by the Council. Otherwise the building would have to close. The review of the rent in future, should be on the basis that effective maintenance is being carried out by the Association, to ensure the building is kept in a good state of repair and on this basis the grant funding can continue.

- 2.8 The Association has requested a peppercorn rent, but the project would be viable if it only received a 90 % grant towards the rent, although this may have an impact on the level of services to be provided. The Association has therefore requested the first six years be at a peppercorn rent, to cover the period of the Healthy Living Centres Grant, the balance of the rent would be the Council's contribution to the Project.. The Association is a registered charity and will have to undertake active fund-raising to cover the running costs and provision of services. A grant towards the rent for the length of the lease is sought to ensure the financial viability of the project.
- 2.9 It is considered that the market rental value, as a community centre, is £14,500 per annum. Any discount between the market rent and the rent to be charged, is to be shown as a financial contribution by the budget holding Division, which shall be by way of a grant, in accordance with the Council's policy on leasing to non-commercial organisations.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It may be necessary to instruct external solicitors. The cost is unlikely to be less than £1000.
- 3.2 The Council is committing a building which could otherwise have been sold or used for alternative purposes in supporting this project.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 The granting of the rent discount to a charitable concern is consistent with Council policy. The granting of a full repairing lease will protect the Council's position in future years regarding maintenance commitments

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 Personal Services fully endorse the recommendations for a 90% grant towards the market value rent for Eirianfa. It is clear that the Eirianfa Association fulfills a role in continuing to provide essential services to groups of vulnerable people who previously received these services when the Day Centre operated out of the Eirianfa premises. These services are considered as preventative services which enable this group of people to remain independent and provide much needed social interaction within their community. This reduces the need for Personal Services earlier intervention in providing care packages.
- 5.2 Local Member has declared an interest.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 The request is considered in line with the Council's policy on leasing Council property to non-commercial organisations, where policy allows grants up to 75% grant except in exceptional circumstances.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve:

- 7.1 The grant of a 30 year full repairing lease to the Eirianfa Association, to permit the Association to access funding;
- 7.2 The market rent shall be £14,500 per annum, subject to review every six years.
- 7.3 The level of grant shall be subject to review every six years, coinciding with the market rent review.
- 7.4 A 90% grant towards the rent, shall be granted by the Personal Services Directorate for the first six years. This shall be a personal arrangement between the Council and the Eirianfa Association, to enable the Eirianfa Association to proceed with registration with the Charity Commission. The rental income shall be ring fenced to fund the grant.

- 7.5 The undertaking of the repairs to the building by the Association should enable the Council to look favourably on the level of grant awarded when reviewed after the sixth year.
- 7.6 Other terms and conditions as recommended by the Head of Consultancy Service in conjunction with the County Clerk.

ED ~ RB/JP

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Lead Member for Education and ICT

DATE: 17 January 2002

SUBJECT: Managing School Budgets - Intervention Strategy - Balances and Deficits

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Members approval of the attached Strategy

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Schools have had control over their own budgets since the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) in 1990 but recent developments demand new approaches and present new challenges for Heads and Governors budget management skills:

☞ The extra expenditure delegated to schools as a result of the implementation of Fair Funding, much of it for purchasing essential support services such as schools meals, structural maintenance and financial advice.

☞ The Assembly has targeted additional mainstream funding, often through programmes such as GEST, which County Councils and schools need to use carefully and with regard to future planning, in the drive to raise standards.

☞ The increasing reliance by schools on obtaining additional funding from sources such as lottery funding and other sponsorship to supplement their budget share.

Additionally there is an understanding by Denbighshire County Council that the main task of the County Council is to support schools in continuous improvement. To assist in this process, the County Council has recognised that it needs to establish a framework for financial responsibility which can be used by schools.

A District Audit Report in February 2001 reached a number of conclusions about Denbighshire's monitoring of school budgets.

"The financial monitoring undertaken by LMS officers included a number of areas of good practice."

"Although the Education Service has an effective integrated approach of dealing with schools in financial difficulty, it does not have a documented intervention strategy."

"Communication and liaison between the various services with Education, although informal, appears to be well developed."

Denbighshire County Council therefore determined that it needed to provide formal guidance to schools on the standards to be achieved in financial management and also support to achieve those standards. This would incorporate a Handbook of written guidance, a database for electronic access and also a programme of Governor Training. Within this guidance there will need to be a formal Intervention Strategy for Managing School Budgets - Balances and Deficits and a copy of the Strategy is enclosed with this Report.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy will result in more effective management of school budgets with a consequent more effective use of Resources

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed strategy is intended to tighten up procedures to bring them into line with the Council's new procedures for non schools budgets. The strategy has been agreed with the Finance Department.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Education Services Link Officers
Headteachers of all Schools
DTJNC - Teachers Unions/Professional Associations
Principal Management Accountant
Head of Audit
Corporate Director Resources

All the above are supportive of the attached document.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

No direct implications but will lead to strengthened budget monitoring which will impact on Corporate Budget Strategy and Recovery Plan.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the Intervention Strategy for the managing of school budgets - balances and deficits.

LL ~ GEB

MANAGING SCHOOL BUDGETS - BALANCES AND DEFICITS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Historically, there has been a high standard of budgetary management in Denbighshire schools, with very few schools having significant or unplanned deficits or excessive or unplanned balances. Schools have been assisted in meeting high standards of financial management by the support of officers in the Directorate of Lifelong Learning, and by the process of audit inspection, which takes places approximately every three years and makes recommendations of 'best practice' to governing bodies.
- 1.2 Evidence suggests that schools recover more quickly from deficit situations where the local authority has a robust approach to school deficits and provides strong support, and where positive action is taken by the governing body to reduce budgetary deficit as soon as it becomes evident. It is therefore prudent to put in place a strategy to articulate the County Council's role in managing school budgets in this context.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 Responsibility for the day-to-day management of school budgets rests with the Head Teacher; responsibility for the setting of budgetary targets, monitoring and evaluation rests with the Governing Body or its Finance Committee if it has plenary powers. Governing bodies may delegate financial responsibilities to head teachers as they see fit.
- 2.2 In terms of the annual budgetary process itself, Education Support Services are involved in the following actions:
- (i) setting the individual school's budget (ISB);
 - (ii) assisting schools to formulate spending plans (this support is part of service level agreement provision). For schools in deficit this involves a detailed scrutiny of each area of planned spend and the identification and negotiation of options for expenditure reduction;
 - (iii) personnel work e.g. early retirement, severance, redeployment and redundancy, where staffing reductions are needed detailed discussions are held with schools and recommendations made to Governors who are strongly supported in the process;
 - (v) assisting schools to achieve the planned reductions in expenditure which are included in their budget plans;
 - (vi) monitoring of the performance of schools in adhering to their approved working budget and intervening when appropriate; specifically with regard to deficits;
 - (vii) Supporting schools in response to internal audit recommendations.
- 2.3 In respect of school budget management, Education Support Services provides a number of support services (service level agreements) which may be purchased from delegated budgets to assist schools in budgets and staffing processes. These include:
- (i) a comprehensive school budget support and advisory service for all schools, which includes providing schools with technical advice and practical support in budget preparation and monitoring, including staffing allocation.
- 2.4 Also, within the County Council, Internal Audit has a monitoring role, encompassing the principles described in Fair Funding, which reinforces and complements the work of education officers.

3. Strategy for the Management of School Budgets

- 3.1 Statutory Framework

- 3.1.1. The statutory framework which determines the development of this strategy for the management of school budgets originated in the Education Reform Act 1988 and was amended in the 1996 Education Act. Further changes occurred with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The main elements may be summarised as follows:
- (i) Denbighshire County Council is responsible for preparing a scheme for the financing of schools, following consultation with the governing body and head teacher of every school, to determine, in respect of each financial year, the budget share of each school;
 - (ii) The Scheme for Financing Schools must be approved by the National Assembly of Wales, as must all significant amendments;
 - (iii) The Scheme for Financing Schools applies in full to all maintained schools within the County
 - (iv) the authority must delegate annually to every school which it maintains a delegated budget constructed in accordance with the requirements of the approved Denbighshire Scheme for Financing Schools;
 - (v) the Governing Body of each school is responsible for the management of its budget share, and may spend as it thinks fit for any purposes of the school, ensuring that it meets:
 - ☞ its statutory responsibilities for curriculum delivery and for other matters related to the running of the school
 - ☞ the general principle of best value
 - ☞ in considering its spending priorities, governing bodies will be expected to take into account school development plans, inspection report action plans, performance targets and the changing needs of the school (e.g. rising or falling rolls, staff changes etc.) over more than the immediate financial year;
 - (vi) in determining an annual spending plan the governing body must not knowingly plan to overspend in any year and should take account of any surplus or deficit balances brought forward;
 - (vii) the Governing Body is responsible for complying with the requirements of Denbighshire County Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders ;
 - (viii) the Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the expenditure which it incurs from its delegated budget;
 - (ix) the authority may not direct how a governing body spends its delegated budget but it has duty to ensure good management and compliance, i.e. with statutory and other requirements, as specified in (vii) above;
 - (x) the County Council has a duty to intervene in the financial affairs of any school which it maintains under specific circumstances, e.g. where a governing body wilfully or deliberately abuses its financial powers; or where it fails to comply with any statutory duties, financial responsibilities or the requirements of the Scheme for Financing Schools. In such cases, the authority may withdraw from governors the right to a delegated budget.
 - (xi) the governors of a school shall not incur any personal liability in respect of anything done in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of their powers to spend in respect of the school's budget share.

3.2 Strategy Principles

3.2.1 The strategy will apply equally to primary, secondary and special schools within the county. It will:

- ☞ seek to ensure that all schools operate within the scope and requirements of the authority's Scheme for Financing Schools
- ☞ ensure a fairness and consistency of approach in the way, that the authority deals with schools on budgetary matters

- ☞ provide a clear framework for collaborative action, within which both head teachers and governing bodies can work in partnership with the County Council
- ☞ recognise each school's duties and responsibilities for continuous school improvement.

3.3 SCHOOLS IN DEFICIT

- (i) The scheme for Financing Schools prohibits schools from planning for a deficit budget when preparing their budget plans. Where Denbighshire County Council has been alerted of a deficit situation, either by the school or as result of the on-going monitoring of school budgets by officers, an investigation will be initiated to look at all aspects of school finance. This will involve the Headteacher, Denbighshire County Council and Governors
- (ii) Denbighshire County Council will issue a formal notification of concern to the Governing Body.
- (iii) An Action Plan, including a full working budget, will be requested from the School and Governing Body giving details of how they intend to recover the deficit. Officers of the Authority will work closely with the school at this time.
- (iv) Where a school submits an Action Plan, it will receive approval for this Plan, together with a notification of the period of time for the recovery of the deficit. No deficit recovery plan may cover a period longer than three years.
- (v) The Governing Body will then be expected to implement the Action Plan and to provide Denbighshire County Council with written evidence of progress at least once every half term.
- (vi) The LMS Officer will continue to closely monitor the budget termly and the Link Officer will also confirm progress and adherence to the Action Plan. This will include meetings with the Headteacher, Governing Body and officers of the Authority.
- (vii) Where it is felt that adequate progress is not being made, formal notification will be made to the Heads of Service, Governing Body, Diocesan Senior Officials or Trustees, where appropriate. An agreed revised Action Plan will then be required, following which a joint decision will be made as to future action.
- (viii) Three options will be available -
 - (a) The school will be allowed to continue with its Action Plan within the existing time limit
 - (b) An extension of the recovery time will be granted within the limits of the Scheme
 - (c) The Authority will remove the delegated budget from the Governing Body (See 3.6)
- (ix) The Authority will not write off any school deficit. Schools with deficit balances may be charged interest as described in para. 4.6.1 of the Scheme for the Financing of Schools.

3.4 SCHOOLS IN SURPLUS

- (i) It is appropriate that schools should hold balances for contingency and specific projects.
- (ii) Schools are not required to report to the Authority on the use that the Governing Body intends to make of surplus balances, except in cases where the total balance exceeds 5% of its budget share. In this case schools are required to notify the Authority annually by the end of the summer term each year of the intended use of balances, using the Pro-forma provided (Annex A). Guidance is available in schools in this regard from Education Support Staff.
- (iii) Governing Bodies should form a clear judgement as to the level of balances that are appropriate for their school. Whilst the level will vary, depending upon size of school and other factors, unless funds are specifically earmarked, schools should retain no more in balances than is consist with contingency requirements - in general, this should not be more than 5%. Schools should avoid holding large balances for no clear reason.
- (iv) In line with its policy on the treatment of deficit balances, where it is felt necessary, the Authority will initiate an investigation to look at all aspects of a school's finances in cases where excessive balances are being held. Once again, this will involve the Headteacher, Denbighshire County Council and Governors.

- (v) Denbighshire County Council will issue a formal notification of concern to the Governing Body.
- (vi) The school and Governing Body, through its School Development Plan, will be required to give reasons and plans for use of its balances, as outlined in para (ii) above.
- (vii) The Governing Body must provide Denbighshire County Council with written evidence of its progress at least once each half term.
- (viii) The LMS Officer will continue to closely monitor the budget termly and the Link Officer will also confirm progress.
- (ix) Schools may invest surplus balances with the Authority where interest will be credited in accordance with the terms described in the Denbighshire Scheme for the payment of interest on balances

3.5 Budgetary Controls in Schools

- 3.5.1 Schools have a duty to put in place adequate measures to control their spending and to have appropriate mechanisms to alert managers and governors to any potential difficulties. Working budgets, in relation to the financial year 1st April - 31st March, should be completed by schools by 31st May and submitted to the authority. Head teachers are also required to provide regular reports to the governing body on all relevant matters concerning school spending, giving a full and comprehensive assessment of the school's financial position. Detailed guidance on responsibilities and accountabilities in the management of delegated budgets and other school finances is made available by the authority and regular training for Headteachers, Governors and other officers with financial responsibilities is offered through the GEST INSET Programme.
- 3.5.2 Schools should regularly review their working budgets during the year, at least once every half term, and keep governors informed of the ongoing situation. As well as the annual detailed budget, a three year financial forecast should be regularly prepared in line with the best guidance that the Authority has available and kept updated in order to identify budget problems at an early stage and to provide governors with the necessary information to make informed decisions on school improvement planning.

3.6 Suspension of Financial Delegation

- 3.6.1 The arrangements described above are designed to support a school during any period of budgetary deficit and to facilitate a rapid return to normal budgetary arrangements. However, there may be very rare occasions when a school is unable to demonstrate, for whatever reason, that it can recover from a deficit position. In this instance, the authority may consider the suspension of financial delegation.
- 3.6.2 S.51 and Sch. 15 of the 1998 Act permit a local authority to suspend a governing body's right to a delegated budget in certain circumstances, specifically where the governing body:
 - ☞ is guilty of a substantial or persistent failure to comply with any delegation requirement or restriction
 - ☞ is not managing in a satisfactory manner the expenditure or appropriation of its budget share.
- 3.6.3 The authority will suspend a governing body's right to a delegated budget by giving the governing body not less than one month's notice. In the case of gross incompetence, mismanagement or other emergency, a shorter period of notice may be given, or suspension take effect immediately. Separate detailed guidelines will be applied in this event.
- 3.6.4 The authority will specify the grounds for the suspension and inform the governing body of its right to appeal. Copies of the notice will be sent to the head teacher and the governing body.
- 3.6.5 The authority will review the suspension before the beginning of each financial year, at which time the governing body and the head teacher will have the opportunity to make representations. The authority will give the governing body and head teacher notice in writing of its decision and inform the governing body of its right to appeal.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - DIRECTORATE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

SCHOOLS WITH SURPLUS BALANCES

NAME OF SCHOOL :

SURPLUS BALANCE AS AT 31.03.2002 :

DETAILS OF INTENDED USE OF BALANCES

AMOUNT
£

TOTAL

Signed : _____ Date : _____ 2002

** Designation : Chair of Governors / Headteacher

** Delete as appropriate