

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen on Tuesday 12th March, 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers: Councillors M.LI. Davies and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor I.M. German.

1410 URGENT MATTERS

The Leader of the Council 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) Additional paper - School Meal Prices - Agenda Item 11A (Cabinet 2002 - 20A)
- (ii) The Chief Executive would update Members on a Home Office policing statement.

1411 MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 11)

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 March 2002 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Item 6 Provision of Open Space / Play Areas - West Rhyl Renewal Area (Cabinet 2002 - 04): Second paragraph should read "Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance thanked the Corporate Director: Environment..."

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 March 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

1412 POLICY AND PRIORITIES REVIEW (CABINET 2002 - 12)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E C Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Policy and Priorities Review process as outlined in the Appendix to the report. The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy referred Members to the additional page of the Appendix which had been printed in error.

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance expressed concern that the budget process was excluded but was assured that the subject of the paper was the review process, not the budget setting process.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the review would become an annual process and stressed the importance of reviewing policies and priorities. The end July deadline was so that the result could feed into the budget process for 2003-04.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the draft policy and priorities review procedure proposals and agree the procedure be reviewed once the process has been completed.

1413 IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT (CABINET 2002 - 13)

Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to recommend to Council the adoption of the draft Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statement attached to the report. Councillor Wells stressed the key issues involved in the document and said Members' involvement and commitment to E-Government was crucial. He said that E-Government (Electronic Government) was perhaps misleading and Effective Government would be more apt. Customer service would be the priority and Councillor Wells referred Members to the fictitious customer (page 5) as an example of the way services could be provided to the public.

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance agreed the paper was impressive and referred Members to the Summary Action Plan (page 12) and queried whether sufficient attention had been given to workload implications of the Action Plan. She stressed that it was important every Corporate Director was able to deliver. Councillor Owens suggested a review process should be built in as the Statement would have major implications on both revenue and capital budgets.

The Chief Executive said that Councillor Owens' concerns would in part be addressed by the establishment of an E-Task Force which he would Chair, other members would be Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT and the Corporate Director: Resources and officers from each Directorate. The Task Force would become part of the process of better, effective government and would review services and report to Cabinet on a regular basis.

The Corporate Director: Resources said this IEG statement did not include costs but the final IEG to be produced by next March would include costed plans.

Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language referred to the Data Protection Act on page 7 and the information which the Authority store. Councillor Kensler also queried the cost of obtaining the information. Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT said the cost of providing such information was not quantifiable at this stage but the process of information gathering would design the service required. The system would have to be cost effective for the Authority. Councillor Wells reminded Members that all the Authority's work had to conform with the Data Protection Act. Councillor Kensler asked how well the systems would operate with the Authority's principal partners, for example with the voluntary sector or the health service. The Head of ICT said the technical details of the service would be operated within government standards and would allow sharing of public information.

The Leader thanked Councillor Wells and the Head of ICT for their detailed paper and also took the opportunity to welcome Catherine Williams, E-Government Project Manager to the ICT department.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Council the adoption of the IEG Statement.

1414 CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT BOARD (CABINET 2002 - 14)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E C Edwards asked the Chief Executive to present the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to amend the terms of reference for the Contracts Management Board as an interim measure, to bring its operation within the financial procedures that apply to all other parts of the Council and therefore to provide for its minutes to be included in the Council's Minute Book.

The Chief Executive said the Contracts Management Board had operated very successfully under the guidance of the Assistant Chief Executive: Contract Services. However, the requirements of modernisation required more accountability to Council and it was proposed that the Board's capital expenditure be subject to the same controls as other capital expenditure and that a mechanism for revenues be implemented and monitored from 2002-2003.

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance queried the 'political structures' included within the Recommendation at 7.2 of the report. The Chief Executive assured Councillor Owens that whoever took

the Finance portfolio would have an overview of the financial performance of Contract Services after May 2002.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree:-

- (a) a paper be submitted to Council on 26 March 2002 to seek Council's agreement to amending the terms of reference for the Contracts Management Board as outlined in the report. The Chief Executive and County Clerk to agree the detailed wording of the amendments which will be incorporated within the report, and
- (b) a further paper be brought by May 2002 to Modernising Panel and Cabinet regarding the future of the Contracts Management Board within the political structures of the Council.

1415 CULTURE AND LEISURE CHARGES 2002 - 2003 (CABINET 2002 - 15)

Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the 2002-2003 charges for culture and leisure facilities and services and to consider what action be taken in respect of phasing in the proposed increase in charges for Llangollen Town Hall. Councillor Hughes, whilst seeking to increase charges, emphasised the need to embrace the social inclusion agenda.

Councillor Hughes referred to the possible increase in charges for Llangollen Town Hall and said she had received a letter from the Town Clerk, Llangollen regarding the matter. Llangollen Town Hall was administered by a Management Committee which included members of both Denbighshire County Council and Llangollen Town Council. The letter stated that the Management Committee had not been consulted regarding the possible increase in charges. However, Councillor Hughes assured Members that consultation had taken place and the current daily rate of £17 was not in line with charges for similar establishments. Councillor Hughes proposed phasing in of the increase and that the daily rate be raised to £43 for 2002-2003 and then to £86 for 2003-2004 the following year. Members were in agreement.

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Member for Property asked whether discussions had taken place with the Management Committee regarding their taking over the running of the Town Hall at Llangollen. The Assistant Director: Culture and Leisure confirmed officers had met with the Management Committee six months previously but no formal response had been received. The Chief Executive suggested the Property Review Group should consider transferring assets such as Llangollen Town Hall to the Town Councils.

The Leader asked Councillor R J R Jones, Local Member for Llangollen for comments. Councillor R J R Jones said initial discussions with the Management Committee had not been pursued.

Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language said minutes of a 1998 Tourism and Leisure Sub Committee stated that Denbighshire was in liaison with the Management Committee and this was a recurring theme. Councillor Kensler queried the charges for parking at Loggerheads and Plas Newydd which were not in line with other parking charges listed. The Assistant Director: Culture and Leisure said Countryside Services car park charges were being brought in line.

Councillor W R Webb, Lead Member for Property asked why the Royal International Pavilion charges were not included within the document. The Assistant Director: Culture and Leisure said this was an omission and the charges were part of a separate budget. However, she undertook to circulate the charges to Members.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) approve the Culture and Leisure Charges for 2002-2003, and
- (b) approve phasing in the increase in charges for Llangollen Town Hall to £43 for 2002-2003 and £86 for the following year.

1416 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (CABINET 2002 - 16)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E C Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the procedure for dealing with Business Development Grant Scheme applications in excess of £15,000.

The County Clerk informed Members of a letter received from Councillor W G Thomas, Chair of Resources Scrutiny Committee regarding the report. The County Clerk said Cabinet could approve the report as it did not involve a change in policy, and Cabinet could approve delegation to an officer. The County Clerk also referred Members to a drafting error in the penultimate line of the Recommendation and said the words "by the panel" should be deleted.

RESOLVED that applications for business developments grants in excess of £15,000 be determined by the Head of Economic Regeneration in consultation with a panel to consist of the Lead Members for Economic Development, Finance and the Environment and the Deputy Leader together with the Financial Controller and that decisions taken be reported to the Cabinet.

1417 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE AREA ENVIRONMENT GROUP (CABINET 2002 - 17)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E C Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' nomination of a representative for Denbighshire on the Area Environment Group. Councillor Edwards expressed his regrets that Councillor Peter Douglas was unable to continue as the representative and thanked him for all his work on the Group. The Leader said that in conformity with political balance the nomination should come from the Independent Group.

RESOLVED that the Independent Group nominate a representative for Denbighshire on the Area Environment Group.

1418 LOCAL MEMBERS' NOMINATIONS FOR LA GOVERNORS (CABINET 2002 - 18)

Councillor K E Wells, Lead Cabinet Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) detailing nominations for LA Governor vacancies submitted by the Local Members for the areas in which the schools are located.

RESOLVED that the LA Governor appointments be approved as listed below:-

Betws Gwerfil Goch CP School - Mr Trebor Clement Edwards
- Mr Robert Gareth Williams

1419 RECRUITMENT (CABINET 2002 - 19)

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

- (i) PO3 Reviewing Officer - Personal Services: Children's Services
- (ii) Sw1-3 Social Worker Temporary Post To 31.03.2004 - Personal Services: Children's Services
- (iii) SW 3 Social Worker Hospital P/T 21 hours 2 Year contract - Personal Services: Children's Services
- (iv) PO 3 Team Manager Temporary 12 months - Personal Services: Children's Services
- (v) SW 1-3 Social Worker Permanent Post - Personal Services: Purchasing Section

Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language queried whether there was a requirement for any of the above posts to have Welsh speakers in post. Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services said recruitment to the above posts would be made more difficult by such a requirement.

- (vi) SO 1 Architectural Assistant Temporary Post for 12 months - Environment: Consultancy Services
- (vii) Sc 5 Property Technician Temporary Post for 12 months - Environment: Consultancy Services
- (viii) Trainee Sc 4 to SO1 Business Manager Temporary Post for 12 months - Environment: Consultancy Services
- (ix) Sc 4 Property Data Officer Temporary Post for 12 months - Environment: Consultancy Services
- (x) SO 1 Support Services Officer (Technical) - Resources: Revenues
- (xi) Sc 1 Revenues Assistant (Clerical) - Resources: Revenues
- (xii) Man 2 Custodian, Denbigh Castle - Lifelong Learning: Heritage Services (Councillor G M Kensler declared an interest in this item)

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

1420 SCHOOL MEAL PRICES (CABINET 2002 - 20A)

Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT presented the report (circulated at the meeting) seeking Members' recommendation to Council about the proposed school meals price increases to take effect on 1 May 2002.

Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism asked what percentage of children receive free school meals.

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance informed Members that the £10k included in the Financial Implications at paragraph 3 was not profit but surplus monies which would be used, for example, to extend the cashless card system in schools.

In reply to a query from Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language, the County Clerk confirmed that this would become part of the new Executive arrangements from May 2002 under the Local Government Act.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Council the proposed school meal price increases set out in paragraph 2 of the report to take effect on 1 May 2002.

1421 HOME OFFICE STATEMENT (CABINET 2002 - 20B)

The Chief Executive updated Members on the statement issued the previous day by the Home Office regarding initiatives to make West Rhyl a Police Priority Area. This would be a study by the Police Standards Unit to look at the policing of the area and limited funding would be available for this. The study would identify good practice in West Rhyl which could be followed elsewhere.

Councillor R W Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism suggested that whilst the initiative was welcomed, the press coverage of the area had not been positive. Councillor Hughes suggested that Denbighshire's PR department should issue a press release to counteract the bad image projected.

RESOLVED that Members note the report.

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.

1422 ONE YEAR RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CABINET 2002 - 21)

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the reappointment of Sector Treasury Services Limited as treasury management consultants for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorise the reappointment of Sector Treasury Services Limited as treasury management consultants for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

1423 PRESTATYN CCTV (CABINET 2002 - 22)

Councillor D M Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for a single tender action for a maintenance contract with ADT Fire and Security for the maintenance of the Prestatyn CCTV system for the next twelve months and approve the overspend on the capital programme.

Councillor Morris congratulated the Head of Design and Consultancy Services on the detail and thoroughness of the report.

Members raised a number of queries regarding the service provision.

The Chief Executive said effective CCTV coverage was required in Prestatyn and the current system had to be maintained. During this time provision of CCTV coverage in Prestatyn could be reconsidered. The Chief Executive suggested the Crime and Disorder Partnership could be approached for funding and he would also investigate whether the costs could be covered from Contract Services balances.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Contract Services thanked the Corporate Director: Environment and the Head of Design and Consultancy Services for their work regarding the provision of CCTV in Prestatyn.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *Members note the circumstances surrounding the CCTV contract in Prestatyn, and the action taken in resolving the outstanding issues ;*
- (b) *Members approve the additional expenditure incurred in the achievement of the above ;*
- (c) *Members approve the setting up of a maintenance contract with ADT for a period of twelve months, and*
- (ch) *Members approve the single tender action of appointing ADT to undertake the twelve months maintenance contract.*

1424 ICT PARTNER RECOMMENDATION (CABINET 2002 - 23)

Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members agreement to Gedys/Diskus being selected as the ICT Partner. Councillor Wells informed Members that one of the three companies shortlisted had been unable to make the commitment required. He also stressed the experience and training Denbighshire staff would receive from the partnership.

RESOLVED that based on the final scoring attached to the report, Cabinet agree to Gedys/Diskus being selected as the ICT Partner.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.
