

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Denbigh on Tuesday 23 April 2002 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 and K.E. Wells.

Observers: Councillors M.L.I. Davies, S. Drew, D. Jones, M.M. Jones, R.E. Jones and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Chief Executive.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader, Councillor E C Edwards informed Members that Alan Evans, the Corporate Director: Resources had been appointed Deputy Chief Executive and wished him well in his additional role.

(The Leader welcomed Miss Sophie Hearle, a Work Experience student to the Cabinet meeting).

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism informed Members that they would be welcome to attend the open day on 4 May 2002 at Yr Hen Garchar, Ruthin.

1641. URGENT MATTERS

The Leader of the Council gave notice of the following item 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) WLGA Co-ordinating Committee - it was confirmed that Councillor W R Webb was the Denbighshire nomination, and
- (ii) Nomination to attend the Sportslight on Sport Seminar.

1642. MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 58)

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 April 2002 (previously circulated) were submitted.

3 Best Value Review of the Agricultural Estates in the Ownership of the County Council - Phase One (Cabinet 2002 - 48): Councillor W R Webb said his comment should read: "Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property supported changes to the agricultural estates and reminded Members that capital receipts could be provided if consideration were given to farms being sold as they became vacant."

5 Minimum Standards for Welsh Public Libraries (Cabinet 2002 - 50): Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language said her comment should read "Councillor G.M. Kensler also congratulated the Department on the report and reminded Members that the Service had the lowest spend on books in Wales."

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 April 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

1643. LLANGOLLEN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CABINET 2002 - 59)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' support for the development of a Llangollen Strategy Plan consultation exercise.

The Leader asked Members to note a typographical error in 3.2: "undertaken" to be replaced by "supported".

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance suggested that an officer from Finance attend meetings of the multi-departmental team. Members agreed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet endorse setting up a project team to prepare a co-ordinated strategy for the development of Llangollen and support the need for extensive public consultation in the preparation of the strategy.

1644. SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES INITIATIVE CABINET 2002 - 60)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the inclusion of Denbigh within the Denbighshire's Small Towns and Villages' Initiative and to make a minor amendment to the boundary of the Ruthin STVEI to include Rhewl.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism informed Members that Jeremy Knibbs, Dee Valley STVEI Coordinator had been provided with an office within the Old School, ECTARC.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed Denbigh be included in the Denbighshire STVEI and that the boundary of the Ruthin STVEI be expanded to include Rhewl.

1645. TRANSPORT GRANT 2002 - 2003 - ACCEPTED EXPENDITURE (CABINET 2002 - 61)

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the work detailed in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.6 of the report using National Assembly funding.

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources asked the Head of Highways and Transportation what the safer routes entailed. The Head of Highways and Transportation said the transport grant would be used to fund improvements to dangerous routes to school where crossing facilities or footpaths could be improved. The level of funding was small, to be used for minor highway improvements.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Member for Training queried whether any of the grants would be available for the south of the County. The Leader said Ruthin and Denbigh were included.

RESOLVED that Members endorse the programme of work and approve a bid be made for National Assembly Safer Routes to School funding for Ysgol y Llys in Prestatyn.

1646. CARERS' SPECIAL GRANT 2002 - 2003 (CABINET 2002 - 62)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2002 - 2003, as summarised in the Appendices to the report.

Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance asked that officers include Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council who were currently in discussion with the Authority wherever possible to ensure co-ordination of grant aid applications.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2002 - 2003.

1647. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002 - 2003 (CABINET 2002 - 63)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to extend contracts for the 2001/2002 Housing Refurbishment Programme into the 2002/2003 Programme.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property said he had concerns regarding extending the current contracts, whether the contracts covered the same areas and asked for a list of tenderers be made available. The Head of Housing Services informed Members that the contractors had been selected by competition the previous year and had been included on the Design Services Constructionline list of tenderers. The Head of Housing Services confirmed the extension was a continuation of work in hand.

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources agreed with Councillor Webb and reminded Members that contractors have to pay to be included on the Constructionline list.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards said he would prefer the Authority to issue 'one-off' contracts for work rather than use schedules of rates.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agreed the following two Capital Programme Contracts 2001/2002 be extended under County Council Standing Order 9b on a schedule of rates:-

Contract C/P701701/2 - to include 10 houses in Rhyl and 14 houses in Denbigh
Contract C/P701701/5 - to include 8 houses in Ruthin and 14 bungalows in Corwen

1648. LOCAL ROAD SAFETY GRANT (CABINET 2002 - 64)

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement that the proposed programme of work as detailed in the report, form the basis of the Local Road Safety Grant funded works for 2002/2003.

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT suggested that work in Prestatyn be carried out at the end of the tourist season.

RESOLVED that Cabinet received the report and endorsed the proposed programme of work as detailed in the report.

1649. REPRESENTATION ON "REACHING OUT" (CABINET 2002 - 65)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to a request from the Charity Group "Reaching Out" for a Member representative to serve on their Executive Committee. "Reaching Out" was launched on 26.02.2002 and aimed to provide educational, leisure and other facilities for people with special needs and learning difficulties in Prestatyn and the surrounding area. The Leader suggested Councillor A.E. Roberts represent the Authority. Members agreed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet nominated Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services to represent the Authority on the Executive Committee of the Charity Group "Reaching Out".

1650. LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LA GOVERNORS (CABINET 2002 - 66)

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead net 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:-

Ysgol Maeshyfyd, Cynwyd CP
Ysgol Llewelyn, Rhyl

Mr. Edward Davies
Councillor F. Shaw

1651. CHILDREN FIRST CORPORATE PARENTING CONFERENCE (CABINET 2002 - 67)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' nomination of representatives to attend the National Children First Corporate Parenting Conference on 22.05.2002.

Members discussed the suggestion that the Lead Member for Personal Services, the Chair of Personal Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee attend the conference. Members agreed.

RESOLVED that 3 Elected Members i.e. the Lead Member for Personal Services, the Chair of the Personal Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee be nominated to attend the conference on 22.05.2002 and report back to the Cabinet and appropriate Scrutiny Committees with possible Action Points for Denbighshire.

1652. PREMATURE REDEMPTION OF PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD LOAN 485054 WITH PRINCIPAL OF £4,000,000 (CABINET 2002 - 68)

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' endorsement of the action taken, in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2002/2003 that all rescheduling would be reported to Cabinet and Council at the meeting following its action.

RESOLVED that Cabinet noted and endorsed the report.

1653. PROCEDURE FOR REMOVAL OF GOVERNORS (CABINET 2002 - 69)

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the procedure for adjudicating on an application of a Governing Body for the removal of a County Council appointed Governor on a Board of Governors. It was recommended that an advisory panel be established for the purpose of conducting a hearing between the governing body and the governors. The advisory panel would comprise 4 Members representing the 4 main groups represented on the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee and would report back to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that Cabinet appoints an advisory panel, comprising 4 Members of the 4 main groups represented on the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, with a report back to Cabinet following its consideration of the issues.

1654. FEE INCREASES FOR PROVIDERS OF RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOME CARE (CABINET 2002 - 70)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the proposed fee structure for providers for the following year from 5 April 2002. The current rates and proposed rates were attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance thanked the officers for the sensitive way in which the report had been produced and said it was essential that residential and nursing home places were available within the independent sector. Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property agreed with Councillor E.A. Owens' sentiments.

RESOLVED that Members approved:-

(a) the rates in Appendix 1 to the report;

(b) an increase of 3% over last year's Income Support rate for Preserved Rights cases, and

(c) a review of fee levels in June/July 2002.

1655. SPORTLIGHT ON SPORTS SEMINAR (CABINET 2002 - 71)

The County Clerk presented the report seeking Members' nomination of a representative to attend the two day seminar to be held on 21 / 22 May 2002 in Cardiff.

RESOLVED that Members nominated Councillor R.W. Hughes to be the Denbighshire representative to attend the Sportlight on Sports Seminar in Cardiff on 21 / 22 May 2002.

1656. 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 5 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1657. PRESTATYN DEPOT (CABINET 2002 - 72)

(Councillor I.M. German and the County Clerk declared an interest in the item and left the meeting) .

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to vacate the Prestatyn Depot site and relocate to the old Kwik Save workshop facilities on the Somerfield site, Prestatyn. Members' approval was also sought to use £48k of Contract Services revenue reserves to fund the estimated cost of relocation. Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance agreed with the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language queried the 'dilapidation clause' in 2.5.5 of the report. The Corporate Director: Environment said this was a technical term for a building which had dilapidated during the course of its lease.

RESOLVED that Members approve:-

- (a) the vacating of the Prestatyn maintenance depot as soon as possible, and
- (b) the use of Contract Services revenue reserves to fund the relocation and infrastructure costs of £48k.

1658. PRESTATYN/ DYSERTH WALKWAY AND OLD STATION YARD, DYSERTH (CABINET 2002 - 73)

Councillor Webb, Lead Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to declare the Old Station Yard, Newmarket Road, Dyserth surplus to requirements (approximately 0.51 acres hatched on the plan annexed to the report). Members' approval was also sought to acquire approximately 1.52 acres of land, situated on Newmarket Road, Dyserth (cross hatched on the plan attached to the report).

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources said the land adjacent to Newmarket Road, Dyserth was starting to be used as an overflow car park and asked that officers ensure that the land was used only for users of the walkway.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (a) declare the Old Station Yard, Dyserth surplus to requirements and allow disposal to the Contractors detailed in the report;
- (b) approve the acquisition of approximately 1.52 acres of land adjacent to Newmarket Road, Dyserth necessary to provide a car park for the Prestatyn Dyserth Way, subject to the vehicular access / egress meeting necessary planning consents / safety standards ;

(c) *refuse a request from the Community Council for a lease of the goods shed, and*

(ch) *authorise terms to be agreed by the Head of Consultancy Services in consultation with the County Clerk.*

1659. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS (CABINET 2002 - 74)

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the writing off of irrecoverable debts as detailed in the Appendices attached to the report. The debts extended as far back as 1992.

Members discussed the Appendices to the report.

Councillor Owens said Resources Scrutiny Committee had already discussed the report and had provided helpful comments and recommendations that the sums be duly written off.

Members emphasised the need for the new systems to be in place to ensure debt collection was more effective in the future.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet agrees to the write off of irrecoverable debts as listed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.*

The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.
