

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

(CABINET 2002 - 58)

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday 9th 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.Ll. Davies, S. Drew and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader referred to the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. The Leader referred to the years of service The Queen Mother had given, particularly during the years of the 1939-1945 War. Members stood in silence as a tribute.

Councillor E.A. Owens, again referred to the need for the unsteady folding tables in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin to be replaced.

1 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 Environment Agency National Forum nomination.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 47)

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 March 2002 (previously circulated) were submitted.

2 Housing Stock Transfer: Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance emphasised that, if stock transfer were to proceed, savings would be required across the Directorates. The Chief Executive agreed.

***RESOLVED** that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 March 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.*

3 BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURAL ESTATES IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL - PHASE ONE (CABINET 2002 - 48)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to further research into the main options identified during the review, as detailed in Appendix One to the report, prior to the formulation of the final report and recommendations to Cabinet. The Leader reminded Members that the agricultural estates were founded as 'starter farms' for tenancy by those returning from the War but that many of the tenants had not progressed to their own farms.

The Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services outlined the current situation and gave a brief resumé of the options to the report.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property supported changes to the agricultural estates and reminded Members that capital receipts would be provided if farms were sold as they became vacant. Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance agreed changes were required to the way the Council's agricultural estates business was run and suggested perhaps the way forward was with commercial partners and perhaps the involvement of Llysfasi College which would develop the agricultural industry.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the options for further research as outlined in Appendix One to the report.

4 NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUNDING FOR PE AND SPORTS (CABINET 2002 - 49)

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to the agreement of a priority list of potential capital projects for bringing about a step change in the provision of sporting facilities for young people and the community in general.

The New Opportunities Fund for Physical Education and Sport had allocated £1,316,000 for modernising existing provision and/or to build new facilities for PE and sport in Denbighshire. The allocation was based on the size of the school population and levels of deprivation in the County. The priority list was to be submitted to the New Opportunities Fund by 22 April 2002.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language queried whether the allocation was just for schools and mentioned the deprivation element within the guidelines. Councillor Kensler said nowhere in Denbigh had been included in the list of priorities. Councillor Wells said the guidelines stated the aim was to improve provision and opportunities for 5-16 year old pupils but that any improvements would have impacts on the communities outside the schools. Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Member for Training commented that only a few rural schools had been included. Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources welcomed the report and said this was consistent with 'Better Health, Better Wales'.

RESOLVED that Members approve the projects listed in the report for submission to the New Opportunities Fund.

5 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARIES (CABINET 2002 - 50)

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the proposed recommendations as detailed in the Appendix to the report, to ensure the Library and Information Service complied with the 23 Minimum Standards established by the National Assembly for Wales for the development and improvement of Welsh Public Libraries by March 2005. No additional monies would be available from the National Assembly for Wales.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance congratulated the Principal Librarian on the production of the report and the 3 year plan and wished the Library and Information Service every success. Councillor Owens stressed that every department should be producing 3 year plans.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Member for Training queried the provision of mobile libraries. The Principal Librarian said the existing lease on mobile libraries was coming to an end and a new 7 year lease would be drawn up.

Councillor G.M. Kensler also congratulated the Department on the report and reminded Members that the Service had the lowest spend in Wales.

RESOLVED that Members endorse the recommendations put forward to ensure compliance with the Minimum Standards established by the National Assembly for Wales, and note that the funding of some improvements are subject to the annual budget setting process of the Council.

**6 GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
(CABINET 2002 - 51)**

(Councillor G.M. Kensler declared an interest in the item.)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of a protocol for future working relations with the Town and Community Councils in Denbighshire, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the report as the basis for working with Town and Community Councils in Denbighshire.

7 DRAFT CULTURAL TOURISM STRATEGY (CABINET 2002 - 52)

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement in principle of the Draft Cultural Tourism Strategy subject to the amendments from the consultation process. The Cultural Tourism Strategy was an overarching document that advanced the aims of the Culture and Leisure Strategy 'Pick and Mix' and was a key component of Denbighshire's Tourism Strategy. Councillor Hughes referred to the £167m spend on tourism within Denbighshire and that Denbighshire tourism provided for 4,000 jobs. Councillor Hughes took the opportunity to inform Members that she was delighted to report that The Wales Tourist Board had granted £53k for Yr Hen Garchar, Ruthin.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language congratulated Councillor Hughes on the report and said she was particularly pleased to see Gwasg Gee Museum, Denbigh included in the proposals. However, Councillor Kensler said the partnership between Denbighshire County Council, Denbigh Town Council and CADW was not working well enough and referred to the recent brochure produced by CADW which had not included Denbigh Castle. She felt that CADW should be approached by the Council to see if further provision for Denbigh could be made.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance reminded Members that the Council's contingency fund could not be spent at will. Councillor Owens asked that the Corporate Director for Lifelong Learning provide a paper for Cabinet summarising the costs of the proposals as outlined in the report.

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment also congratulated the Department on the report and reminded Members that the Roman Bath House at Prestatyn could become a tourist attraction.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property said an excellent paper had been produced and that Leisure Services had been treated as the poor relation of the Authority in the past owing to budget cuts and it was now time to remedy the situation. Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT agreed with the report but suggested that Members should revisit the structures in the form of a paper to Cabinet to see whether tourism could be utilised to better effect. The Chief Executive said it was his role to advise Members on structures and he would therefore produce a paper on structures for Cabinet in the near future.

RESOLVED that Members agreed in principle the Draft Cultural Tourism Strategy subject to amendments from the consultation process. It was further resolved that the Chief Executive would provide a paper to Cabinet on Structures.

8 EXTERNAL RECRUITMENT (CABINET 2002 - 53)

The Chief Executive presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to the delegation of decisions on external recruitment to the Chief Executive and various proposed changes to the recruitment and selection procedure. The Chief Executive suggested Cabinet delegate the decisions on external recruitment to himself in consultation with the Corporate Directors. The existing arrangements whereby proposals had to be endorsed by the relevant Corporate Director and Lead Member, would continue. The Chief Executive said there were instances where posts were externally grant funded and

the funding was dependent upon external recruitment. It seemed a trivial matter when set beside the many important matters considered by Cabinet.

The Chief Executive said the Modernisation Panel had agreed there was still a need for a Local Joint Consultative Committee (LJCC) and this would be recommended to Full Council in May 2002.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance agreed there was a need to move forward but said that Members needed to be made aware of any increases to the workforce and what was happening within the Directorates. Councillor Owens reminded the Chief Executive and Members that there were still constraints with regard to the budget and she would prefer for Cabinet to retain control over any new posts.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property said he was not entirely in agreement with the paper, nor was it a trivial matter. He agreed with Councillor Owens views and said that at one point cuts in budget had been partly achieved through careful consideration and approval of any recruitment requests. Councillor Webb said he had asked on more than one occasion for the number of posts in each Department and also the increase in staff in post figures over the last 12 months. The figures had not been provided. The Head of Personnel said the figures had not previously been available owing to the changes in sections within the Directorates, but Payroll Section would be able to provide staff figures from April 2002 and that currently just under 5,000 staff were employed by Denbighshire (although some staff had more than one part-time contract).

Councillor K.E. Wells, Lead Member for Education and ICT said a certain amount of control over recruitment was required by Members to enable the Executive to be aware of what was happening, as they (the Executive) were responsible for the Authority. Councillor Wells suggested that the staffing numbers in each Department, showing gains and losses in the figures, be provided for Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

Councillor G M Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language agreed the recommendation and would be happy to receive the staff in post figures.

The Leader said he agreed that the Lead Member and Corporate Director involvement in external recruitment should continue and said that the previous Acting Chief Executive had not provided Members with the structures and grades of staff within Denbighshire. However, these would now be provided.

Councillor I.M German, Lead Member for Human Resources said she welcomed the report.

The Chief Executive said external advertisement of new posts should be decided by Cabinet. If Directorates could fund posts within the existing level of running costs there should be no need for Cabinet to consider such posts. However, if a post could not be contained within budget recruitment of that post would have to become a Cabinet decision.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) *the Cabinet delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with Corporate Directors, on a trial basis, decisions on external recruitment for replacement posts, grant funded posts or posts funded within budget in accordance with the Council's recruitment and selection procedure as amended from time to time;*
- (b) *the Cabinet would approve external recruitment of all new posts which could not be funded within budgets;*
- (c) *quarterly reports containing structures and staffing figures within each Department, showing gains or losses to be provided for Cabinet, and*
- (ch) *the Cabinet agrees to propose to the Local Joint Consultative Committee, Resources Scrutiny Committee and full Council amendments (as set out in the appendix) which: -*

- (i). *reflect the need for some posts to be subject to external requirement;*
- (ii) *require all advertisements to state the Council's commitment to its Welsh language scheme, and*
- (iii) *bring the arrangements for advertising posts where Welsh is essential into line with the Council's Welsh language scheme.*

9 RECRUITMENT (CABINET 2002 - 54)

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

- (i) PO 2 Schools Finance Planning Officer - Lifelong Learning: Education
- (ii) Sc 2 Database Assistant - Resources Directorate: Corporate Property Unit
- (iii) Up to Sc 6 Graduate Valuation & Estates Surveyors x 3 - Environment Directorate: Consultancy Services
- (iv) PO 1 Senior Practitioner - Personal Services Directorate: Mental Illness Services
- (v) SW 1 - 3 Locum Social Workers - Personal Services Directorate - Children's Services
- (vi) Scale 2 Admin Assist - 20hrs Personal Services Directorate - Admin Section

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

10 WLGA ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NATIONAL FORUM (CABINET 2002 - 55)

The County Clerk informed Members that a nomination for the WLGA Environment Agency National Forum was required by the 24 April 2002 and suggested that the most appropriate nomination would be Councillor D.M Morris, Lead Member for the Environment.

RESOLVED *that Members nominated Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Member for the Environment as the Authority's nomination for the WLGA Environment Agency National Forum.*

11 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.*

12 FFRITH BEACH DEVELOPMENT (CABINET 2002 - 56)

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to market the site in accordance with the recommendations contained in Option 2 of the report, Ffrith Beach Development Brief.

The Corporate Director: Environment said not all options were acceptable and the identified opportunities had been considered by the Property Review Group which recommended Option 2 to Cabinet.

Members discussed the Ffrith Beach Development and were in agreement that marketing of the site should take place and that the provision of a centre of sports excellence, if feasible, could be incorporated into the plans for the site. Members were also in agreement not to enter into any 'lock-out' agreements.

RESOLVED *that Cabinet recommend to Council that Option 2, to market the site (in line with guidance from Legal and Finance Departments) is approved.*

13 DENBIGHSHIRE WELSH CHURCH ACTS SCHEME GRANT APPLICATIONS (CABINET 2002 - 57)

(Councillor R.W. Hughes and the Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy declared an interest in the item)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E.C. Edwards presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of applications for grant aid from the Denbighshire Welsh Church Acts Fund commencing for the 2002/2003 financial year.

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

The meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 APRIL 2002

SUBJECT: LLANGOLLEN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet support for the development of a Llangollen Strategy Plan consultation exercise.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The recent successful consultation exercise to produce a plan to upgrade and improve Riverside Park and those issues identified by the Business Action Plan has signalled a move to the next stage of producing a fully co-ordinated strategy plan for Llangollen. This plan will allow the programming and prioritisation of key factors in the redevelopment of the town but, of equal importance, will enable a properly structured programme of funding to be drawn up to ensure the eventual success of the whole scheme.
- 2.2 A corporate project team has identified a number of key factors. These need to be linked to ensure mutual success. They include the Royal International Pavilion site, links across the River Dee Riverside Park and the area of town in and around Parade Street. This list is by no means exhaustive but represents the initial thoughts on what will need to be included. The regeneration and successful redevelopment of the Royal International Pavilion could well depend on the success of this strategy.
- 2.3 The strategy can only succeed if there is clear and unambivalent support from the whole community including both residents and business. The proposal is to develop a strategy in full consultation with all interested parties. Given the necessary support, it is anticipated that public consultation would be carried out in early Summer and the production of the final report in Autumn 2002.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The bulk of the work will be carried out by officers of the County Council and consequently those costs will be absorbed by the relevant service departments.
- 3.2 The preparation of the strategy is being undertaken by the Small Towns and Villages Enterprise Initiatives Co-ordinator, who is funded by the W.D.A.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 The funding for the implementation of the strategy will need to be identified before any firm commitment beyond the proposed strategy is entered into.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 A multi-departmental team has initiated and is developing this project. The team includes the Corporate Director with responsibility for the Dee Valley, officers the Chief Executive's, Economic Regeneration, Design Services and Planning departments.

- 5.2 Informal consultation with members of the local business community and the Town Council indicates that there would be local support for the initiative in principle.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 Through Agenda 21, Denbighshire is committed to the principle of partnership working with local communities and involving all groups in our plans and programmes. The Council's Environmental policies commit the Council to promoting the reuse of urban and derelict land and buildings whilst safeguarding and enhancing the national environment and built heritage.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To endorse the setting up a project team to prepare a co-ordinated strategy for the development of Llangollen.
- 7.2 To support the need for extensive public consultation in the preparation of the strategy.

CE ~ RB

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES INITIATIVE

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To agree 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

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The STVEI confers additional opportunities for seeking assistance on businesses within the STVEI area. These additional STVEI designations will add new businesses to those covered by the designation. The Welsh Development Agency have suggested the addition of Denbigh to the Denbighshire STVEI on the basis that existing Objective One business support programmes within the town means that no additional staff will be required in order to make the Denbigh initiative work. The task of covering the specific STVEI elements of the Denbigh initiative will be undertaken by the Ruthin officer who will spend some of his / her time in Denbigh. This will reinforce the work of the DAPPER business support officer and the Townscape Heritage officer who will be already on site in Denbigh to cover other parts of STVEI work. Rhewl has an important cluster of new technology businesses which should be included in the scheme.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The resources for this expanded Denbighshire STVEI are already included within the Economic Regeneration budget.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It will be necessary to ensure all costs resulting from the proposal are contained within the service budget available.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

I canvassed support for including Denbigh within the Denbighshire STVEI at a previous Cabinet where unanimous support was shown for Denbigh's inclusion. The Welsh Development Agency have been consulted as has the Head of Economic Regeneration and the Corporate Director concerned.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The STVEI initiative will help with implementing the Council's Economic Regeneration plans, its Anti-Poverty Strategy and will play a part in the regeneration aspects of the eventual area partnership work.

7 RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that Denbigh be included in the Denbighshire STVEI and that the boundary of the Ruthin STVEI be expanded to include the village of Rhewl

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5 [CABINET 2002 - 61]

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

DATE: 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: Transport Grant 2002 - 2003 - Accepted Expenditure

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 That Cabinet approve the work as detailed in 2.2 and 2.6 below using National Assembly funding [i.e. Transport Grant].

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The Assembly has informed the Chief Executive of the accepted expenditure for Transport Grant bids made by the Council in August 2001. In total £1,019,000 has been accepted for the financial year 2002/03 consisting of £1,000,000 for the River Clwyd Coastal Area Package (drawn up jointly with Conwy County Borough Council) and £19,000 for the Rhyl Safer Routes to School Initiative. Future indicative allocations for the Package Bid have also been announced these amount to £750,000 for 2003/04 and £500,000 for 2004/05.
- 2.2 The Assembly's notification of settlement has indicated that priority should be given to construction of new pedestrian/cyclist bridges adjacent to the existing road bridges over the North Wales Main Railway Line at St Asaph Avenue in Kinmel Bay (in Conwy) and Tynnewydd Road in Rhyl and to the Rhyl and Prestatyn cycle networks. Tenders are being prepared for the two bridges, any remaining finance will then be used to complete the cycle route over the H-bridge in Rhyl together with extending a cycle route from the town centre to the Ffordd Anwyl, Llys Brenig and Maes Gog residential areas.
- 2.3 The settlement for the Rhyl Safer Routes to School Initiative is to provide improved routes for pedestrians to Ysgol Llywelyn.
- 2.4 Existing staffing resources for the development of Safer Routes to Schools schemes are sufficient to implement one project per year, covering either a single primary school or two schools that are close together. To date all bids made for Rhyl schools (Christchurch CP School/Ysgol Emmanuel, Ysgol Bryn Hedydd and Ysgol Llywelyn) have been successful. The original programme for Rhyl was to submit a final bid in August 2002 for Ysgol Mair and Ysgol Dewi Sant. Unlike the schools previously considered these have wider catchments extending beyond Rhyl and consequently fewer children walk to school or would have that option. It has become apparent that some of the measures identified, particularly improved crossings, are used by children attending different schools. It is probable therefore that undertaking the analysis in these two schools will result in few new measures being identified. It is proposed therefore that the bid should be for a school outside Rhyl.
- 2.5 The options for identifying a school outside Rhyl are to use data previously collected on mode of travel to all the County's schools to identify a school in an urban area with either low levels of walking, thereby encouraging more children to walk, or a school with high levels of walking where there may be potential to strengthen the take-up of walking even further. Schools in rural areas generally are smaller and because of a lack of footways are less suitable for encouraging walking safely. Further options would be to examine previous correspondence and known pressures to resolve traffic issues outside a school, promoting walking could assist in reducing that pressure, or to respond to community based requests. The schools identified by these means are:-

school with lowest level of walking - Ysgol y Llys , Prestatyn - 15% of pupils walking
school with highest level of walking - Ysgol Heulfre, Denbigh - 73% of pupils walking
school with most correspondence - Penmorfa CP School, Prestatyn
school(s) with support from community - Pen Barras School/Rhos Street CP School, Ruthin.

- 2.6 As the National Assembly's primary aim in making finance available for promoting safer routes is to encourage a shift of mode from the private car to walking, it is proposed make a bid for Ysgol y Llys in Prestatyn where the greatest potential exists to encourage more children to walk to the school.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The additional schemes are to be funded entirely from National Assembly grant funding.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

- 4.1 The level of Transport Grant from NAFW is cash limited and therefore any cost overruns on schemes fall to be funded from the Council's own Capital resources. The level of expenditure will need to be carefully monitored to ensure it is contained within the special funding available. To assist this process the scheme will need to be subject to the Council's normal Capital Projects appraisal and monitoring processes.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 The Package Bid was the subject of consultation before the first submission in 1998. The Rhyl Safer Routes to School Initiative for 2002 - 03 was developed in consultation with the head teacher, pupils and parents of Ysgol Llywelyn.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 The proposed programme of work is intended to support the Council's efforts to reduce social exclusion through improved accessibility for non-car owners and to support Local Agenda 21 aims.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the report be received and the proposed programme of work be endorsed.
- 7.2 That Members approve a bid be made for National Assembly Safer Routes to School funding for Ysgol y Llys in Prestatyn.

ED ~ PB

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

DATE 23 April 2002

SUBJECT Carers Special Grant 2002 - 2003

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To support the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2002 - 2003.

2. Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 As a part of its Strategy for carers, the National Assembly has made available a Carers' Special Grant which is initially for three years. In the first year (2000 - 2001), the grant was specifically for breaks services for carers. In the second year (2001 - 2002), the grant could be used more flexibly and included Carers' Services under the new Carers' and Disabled Children Act 2000.

2.2 For the third year of the grant (2002 - 2003), the National Assembly changed the timetable and Denbighshire was required to submit a plan by the 31 March 2002 (previous plans have been submitted in July). The total grant available to Denbighshire in 2002 - 2003 is £169,858. In addition, the plan for 2002 - 2003 had to include a plan to fully utilise any carry forward from the first two years as there will be no further carry forward next year. The carry forward for Denbighshire is £69,500. (Most local authorities in Wales had accrued substantial carry forwards as the grant in the first year was not received until December 2000).

2.3 The plan for Denbighshire was submitted to the National Assembly as required by March 31 2002. However, a covering letter pointed out that the plan was still subject to Cabinet support.

2.4 The plan for 2002 - 2003 (Appendices 1 & 2) consolidates the plan supported by Cabinet and approved by the National Assembly last year by recommending:

- continued funding of the services commenced in the first and second year;
- a specific budget for the provision of Carers' Services under the new Carers' and Disabled Children Act 2000; and
- strategic use of the £69,500 carry forward to fund a range of important "one off" services for carers (such as comprehensive information packs) and to "pump prime" some new services (such as respite provision for people with a learning disability in the North of the County).

3. Cost Implications

3.1 With the exception of the respite provision for people with a learning disability in the North of the County, the services described will be fully funded from the Carers' Special Grant and there are no additional cost implications for Departmental budgets. Regarding the plan to develop respite provision for people with a learning disability in the North of the County, the start up costs for 2002 - 2003 will be met from the Carers' Special Grant. The support costs for 2002 - 2003 will amount to approximately £60,000. These will be met from existing budgets by (i) transferring resources currently used to fund less appropriate services for the same individuals; and (ii) utilising Transitional Housing Benefit income.

4. Financial Controller Statement

It will be necessary to monitor costs for the new financial year carefully to ensure they can be contained within the special funding and existing service budgets available. The budget implications for 2003/4 should be identified to avoid budgetary pressures in future years.

5. Consultation Carried Out

- 5.1 The Carers' Grant Plan 2000 - 2003 has been put together jointly by the Denbighshire Carers' Strategy Group which consists of carers, the Local Health Group, the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, NCH Action for Children (Young Carers' Project), Rhuddlan District Crossroads, South Denbighshire Crossroads, the County Forum for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Handicap), the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, Vale of Clwyd MIND, the Carers' Project and Age Concern.
- 5.2 Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee commented on the Carers' Grant Plan for 2000 - 2001.
- 5.3 The Carers' Grant Plan 2000 - 2003 is consistent with the actions identified in the Denbighshire Carers' Strategy. This Strategy was developed in consultation with carers and carers' organisations in Denbighshire and was agreed by Cabinet in April 2001.

6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

Corporate policy impacts include:

- Social Inclusion - the report recognises the role of carers and promotes social inclusion, e.g., by the provision of breaks services.
- Health Promotion - the report promotes the health of carers by the provision of support and services.

7. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that Cabinet supports the Carers' Special Grant Plan for Denbighshire 2002 - 2003.

PS ~

Carer's Grant in Denbighshire 2002 - 2003, Summary of Proposals

| Proposal | Key Features | Amount Allocated £ |
|--|--|--------------------|
| 1. Grant Aid to Rhuddlan District Crossroads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a service to 10 new carers. • Provide an evening and weekend service. • If more limited take up, provide additional services to some existing clients. | 30,268 |
| 2. Grant Aid to South Denbighshire Crossroads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a service to 7 new carers. • Provide an overnight break for 17 carers, 4 times per annum. • Provide a weekend / 48 hour break for 7 clients, 2 times per annum. • If more limited take up, provide additional services to some existing clients. | 19,699 |
| 3. Additional Funding for the Community Link House (Denbigh) for People with a Learning Disability (Mental Handicap) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional respite care for carers who have been assessed as needing an additional service. | 5,305 |
| 4. Grant Aid to NCH Action for Children Young Carers Project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the provision of transport to enable young carers to attend their local group anywhere in the County, and in particular the South of the County where the rural nature of the area has restricted access to the service for some young carers. • Increase the range of outings / activities provided to young carers in the hope that, by providing a wider range of activities, each young carer will have the opportunity to take advantage of a break from their role. | 5,305 |
| 5. Additional Funding for the Social Services Children with Disabilities Team to provide Breaks for Parent Carers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a project work service to 15 families who have been assessed as requiring project work, but have not had a project worker allocated. • Provide family based respite care for 10 children who are currently difficult to place. • Provide additional project work service for up to 10 families. • Provide additional residential respite care. | 14,895 |

Note: All projects funded are subject to specific Service Level Agreements with the Local Authority and are also subject to Monitoring and Evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the National Assembly.

Carer's Grant in Denbighshire 2002 - 2003, Summary of Proposals

| Proposal | Key Features | Amount Allocated £ |
|--|--|--------------------|
| <p>6. Block Book beds in two Residential Homes for Older People for Respite..</p> <p>Introduce a Flat Rate Charge for Respite Care in Residential Homes, promoting a carer friendly scheme.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme will enable carers to plan the respite they need (currently it is difficult to book respite care in advance). Carers will be given an allocation of respite, e.g., one week in every ten, depending on their needs. Carers will be able to arrange the respite directly with the residential home. A flat rate of £45 per week would be charged. | 21,218 |
| 7. Grant Aid to Vale of Clwyd MIND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a flexible range of structured social opportunities for people with a serious mental illness which have the effect of providing a break for the carer (North Denbighshire, Denbigh and Ruthin areas). | 20,902 |
| 8. Provide additional support to those caring for a person with a mental illness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a flexible range of structured social opportunities for people with a serious mental illness which have the effect of providing a break for the carer (Llangollen area). Further develop the role of the Family Support Co-ordinator (Dolen Project) | 4,707 |
| 9. Grant Aid to Alzheimer's Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a day care service for young people with dementia on one day per week, thus providing a break for carers. | 10,300 |
| 10. Grant Aid to NCH Action for Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund a Young Carers Forum Development Worker. | 5,150 |
| 11. Grant Aid to Multiple Sclerosis Support Centre, Saltney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support for 16 people with MS from Denbighshire 5 hours per week, thus enabling their carers to take a break. To provide carer activities during this time. To provide some transport to the Centre. | 8,907 |
| 12. To provide Carers Services under the Carers & Disabled Children Act 2000. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carers Services are not defined under the Act, but can be any services which enable a carer to continue caring and / or promote their health and well being, e.g., help in the home for a carer who devotes most of their time to personal care. Services to be provided following individual assessment and using Eligibility Criteria for Carers Services. | 23,202 |
| | | Total = £169,858 |

Note: All projects funded are subject to specific Service Level Agreements with the Local Authority and are also subject to Monitoring and Evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the National Assembly.

Roll Forward plan - Expenditure in 2002 - 2003 (Grant roll forward from 2001 - 2002)

| Period | Client Group | Project Name | Description of Service | No of Carers | Frequency | Cost |
|-------------|---|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers | Carers Services | Carers services under the 2000 Act | 90 | | 10,000 |
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers | Information for carers | Grant to NEWCIS to provide carers with information leaflets, emergency, cards, etc. | 350 | | 1,465 |
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers | Taster Days | Grant to NEWCIS to provide information, health and well being event for carers | 40 | | 1,050 |
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers | Additional support for 2 carers from Crossroads | Grant to South Denbighshire Crossroads | 2 | 2 .75 hours per week | 3,217 |
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers including hidden carers | Information for carers | 30,000 bookmarks publicising carers services. Distribution via libraries. Other information for carers. | 30,000 (potentially) | | 1,500 (bookmarks) 1,368 (other information) |
| 2002 - 2003 | Carers of adults with a Learning Disability | New respite provision in Rhyl / Prestatyn area. | Rental of property and furnishing. | 15 | Average of 4 weeks per carer per annum | 17,000 |

Roll Forward plan - Expenditure in 2002 - 2003 (Grant roll forward from 2001 - 2002)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | Carers of adults with mental health problems | Family Support Service - National Schizophrenia Fellowship | Research & collate information and promote service for carers. | 30 | | 6,900 |
| Period | Client Group | Project Name | Description of Service | No of Carers | Frequency | Cost |
| 2002 - 2003 | Carers of people with a mental illness | Additional residential respite provision | Additional funding for Oakleigh CMHT | 10 | | 1,500 |
| 2002 - 2003 | Carers of people with dementia | Information pack | Grant to Alzheimer's Society to develop carers information pack | 750 | | 2,500 |
| 2002 - 2003 | Parent carers | Information pack | Grant to Barnardos to produce pack for parent carers (Barnardos bearing development costs) | 500 | | 6,000 |
| 2002 - 2003 | Parent carers | Respite services | Additional funding to children with disabilities team for family based and residential respite | 10 | | 10,000 |

Roll Forward plan - Expenditure in 2002 - 2003 (Grant roll forward from 2001 - 2002)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|---|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2002 - 2003 | Carers of people who have had a Stroke | Stroke Association | Extend Family Support service to South of the County | 30 | | 4,000 |
| Period | Client Group | Project Name | Description of Service | No of Carers | Frequency | Cost |
| 2002 - 2003 | All carers | Monitoring & evaluation & consultation | The Denbighshire Carers Strategy Group will implement methods of monitoring and evaluation and further consultation with carers | 500 | | 3,000 |
| | | | | | | Total = £69,500 |

NB For Assessment of Need for these services, see section 4 of Carers Grant Plan 2002 - 2003

These projects are also shown in Section 5 of the Carers Grant Plan 2002 - 2003

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER Councillor A E Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services

DATE 23 April 2002

SUBJECT HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002 - 2003

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To extend contracts for the 2001/02 Housing Refurbishment Programme into the 2002/03 Programme.

2 REASONS FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 Tenders were obtained for works in the 2001/02 Programme including two contracts for refurbishing houses in Rhyl, Prestatyn, Denbigh and rural areas. The tenders were higher than expected but negotiations with the lowest tenderers resulted in reduced rates and work is proceeding on a satisfactory basis.
- 2.2 The Capital Programme for the coming year was reported to Council on 26th February 2002. The total programme is very limited. Use of the rates previously agreed for 2001/200, if applied to this years programme on a pro-rata basis, would ensure a prompt start, and consistent quality at a definite price which was previously subject to competition.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The costs will be contained within the Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS STATEMENT

The capital programme for 2002/03 includes £250k for Prince Edward Ave, £140k for Myddleton Avenue, £48k for Rhos St. and £98k for Corwen. By extending contracts with contractors who are already engaged to do HRA work under the 01/02 programme (rather than retendering) the report suggests that the Council will get the benefit of the rates that applied to these projects and can deliver the scale of work originally envisaged within the budgets that were agreed by Council on 26 Feb 02.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Denbighshire Tenants' and Residents' Federation have been consulted on programme. Design Services, Legal & Audit Sections have been consulted on the contracts procedure.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

N/A

7 RECOMMENDATION

1. That 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

PS ~ PQ

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: LOCAL ROAD SAFETY GRANT - 2002/03

1 DECISION SOUGHT

That the proposed programme of work as discussed in the report, form the basis of the Local Road Safety Grant funded works for 2002/03.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The National Assembly for Wales has informed the Chief Executive of the granting of £207,000 to the Council for 2002-03 under its Local Road Safety Grant scheme. The grant is intended to support the Council's local road safety strategy as described in the Local Transport Plan. It can be used for both revenue and capital expenditure. The Assembly has indicated that it would like to see the money allocated to a wide range of projects that will provide the maximum contribution to road safety enhancements.

The County's approved Local Transport Plan indicates that road safety improvements will be made through the introduction of engineering schemes and education, training and publicity measures. The priority for engineering schemes is to treat individual sites with high accident concentrations. In providing education, training and publicity the aim is to improve the safe use of the County's roads by all age groups.

Accident concentration sites where five or more recorded injury accidents over the three year period 1998 - 2000 within a 20 metre radius have been identified. Designs for schemes at two such sites, Upper Denbigh Road/Chester Street/Mount Road junction, St Asaph and Victoria Road/Bastion Road/Marine Road junction, Prestatyn, have been prepared for implementation during 2002/03. Further Local Road Safety Grant funding will be available next financial year that will enable remaining accident concentration sites to be treated.

Other accident remedial schemes for the current financial year are proposed for Pen-cae-du crossroads on the B5428 to the west of Trefnant and at Anchor Corner in Ruthin. Detailed designs for both schemes were prepared during 2001/02 for implementation in 2002/03.

An element of the Grant (in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government directive) will be used for revenue funding for education, training and publicity. Emphasis will be placed on providing training for young drivers through sponsoring "Pass Plus" post-driving test training, for primary and secondary school age children through Theatre in Education performances in the County during autumn 2002 and for in-car driving assessment for older drivers.

Any outstanding Grant after implementing the above schemes will be used to improve skid resistance to counter wet/skid accident sites. The sites will be identified during the course of the year.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The proposed programme of work is to be funded entirely from the National Assembly Local Road Safety Grant funding.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

As the special funding involved is cash limited any cost overruns will fall to be funded from the Directorate's own resources. It is therefore essential that costs are carefully monitored to ensure they are contained within the funding available.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

With North Wales Police and Road Safety group.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The proposed programme of work will contribute to the Council's key strategic objective of improving the quality of life for all residents through reducing the risk of involvement in road traffic accidents.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the proposed programme of work be endorsed.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 APRIL 2002

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION ON "REACHING OUT"

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To consider a request from the Charity Group 'Reaching Out' for a Member representative to serve on their Executive Committee.

2. REASONS FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Group 'Reaching Out' was launched, and its constitution was adopted, on the 26 February 2002.

2.2 The Group's aims are to provide educational, leisure and other facilities for people with special needs and learning difficulties in Prestatyn and the surrounding area.

2.3 In order to administer and manage the Charity and its property an Executive Committee of 12 members has been constituted by the Group and Denbighshire County Council has been invited to nominate one Member representative to serve on that Committee.

2.4 Six of the twelve members have already been elected at the Group's inaugural meeting on 26 February 2002 and the organisations currently being invited to submit nominations are Clwyd Alun Housing Association, Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Mencap Cymru, Prestatyn Town Council and Denbighshire County Council [1 Member and 1 officer from Personal Services Directorate].

3. COST IMPLICATION

Approved duty.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

No major cost implications from this matter.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Consultations have been carried out with both the Corporate Director - Lifelong Learning and the Service Manager for Adult Services (North) who confirm, respectively, that the aims and objectives of the Group are in line with the Council's Community Strategies and the Social Services Social Care Plan.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The aims and objectives of the Charity Group 'Reaching Out' are in line with the Council's Community Strategies, in particular the Children and Young Persons Partnerships.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the nomination of a Member representative to serve on the Executive Committee of the Charity Group 'Reaching Out'.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10 [CABINET 2002 - 66] REPORT TO

CABINET

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

DATE 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: LOCAL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS FOR LA GOVERNORS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

The appointment of LA Governor representatives .

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Under the Education (Schools Government) Regulations 1989 the function of appointing LA school governors now falls to Denbighshire County Council in respect of those schools within County.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

None.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

None at this stage.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

All County Councillors.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the following nomination(s) for LA Governor appointment(s) be approved, the names listed below being the names nominated by the Local Members(s) for the Schools

CYNWYD C.P. (YSGOL MAESHYFRYD)

Local Member: Councillor C.H. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

Cllr C.H. Williams 15.3.04

Mr Edward Davies, Delfryn, Cynwyd, Corwen 7.4.02

NOMINATION

Mr Edward Davies, Delfryn, Cynwyd, Corwen

RHYL, YSGOL LLEWELYN

Local Member: Councillor E.A. Owens - W.G. Thomas - G. Williams

No. of LEA Governors: 3

No. of Vacancies: 1

| | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| Cllr P.J. Williams | 23.11.04 | |
| Cllr F. Shaw | 7.4.02 | |
| Reverend John Lomas, Grange Court, Rhyl | | 21.9.03 |

NOMINATIONS

Cllr F. Shaw.

TERM OF OFFICE TO COMMENCE 7.4.02

LLANBEDR DYFFRYN CLWYD V.P. (C)

Local Member: Councillor P.A. Dobb

No. of LEA Governors: 2

No. of Vacancies: 1

| | | |
|--|---------|--|
| Mr Elfed Williams, Beech House, Llandyrnog, Denbigh | 13.7.03 | |
| Mr Guy E. Alford, 17 Tan y Bryn, Llanbedr D.C., Ruthin | 28.1.01 | |

NOMINATIONS

Cllr P.A. Dobb.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: Children First Corporate Parenting Conference - 22 May 2002

1 Decision Sought

1.1 That Members nominate representatives to the national Children First Corporate Parenting Conference on 22 May 2002.

2 Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 The Minister for Health and Social Services originally wrote to elected members on 8 April 1999, parallel to the launch of the Children First programme, urging them to take a very proactive role in parenting children in the care of the local authority. (A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix A).

2.2 The Minister is now following up the original letter and her subsequent letter of January 2000 with a national conference on "Corporate Parenting". This will take place on 22 May, 2002 in Llandrindod and the Authority is asked to send a delegation of local authority members and senior officers (6 in total) (Appendix B).

2.3 There are now approximately 140 children in care in Denbighshire. Children in care on average fare very poorly on a whole range of life indicators including educational attainment, mental health, likelihood of imprisonment, chances of becoming homeless- yet they are some of the most vulnerable children in the community.

2.4 Denbighshire has made some significant progress in demonstrating it takes its corporate parenting responsibilities seriously. For example, the Authority has

- developed a draft Homelessness Strategy with particular action points relating to careleavers;
- funded one specific post through Children First and put in place a number of social inclusion initiatives which are positively impacting on looked after children's educational experiences and attainments;
- enhanced provision under Crime and Disorder measures to divert children and young people from anti-social behaviour;
- recently recommended funding of a Looked After Children public health post from Children First grant to track and promote the health of children in care;
- developed a Cabinet Sub-Group for children to steer the process of developing multi-agency planning partnerships for children and to enhance the participation of children and young people in all relevant services

However, there are many other ways in which the Authority could be supporting our children and the conference will help spread good practice across Wales.

- 2.5 By developing members' understanding of this core responsibility and making recommendations for action, attendance will also help demonstrate political leadership in relation to Social Services in Denbighshire - which will be a key Joint Review theme.

3 Cost Implications

- 3.1 Costs are restricted to appropriate travel and attendance allowances.

4 Financial Controller Statement

- 4.1 There are no significant budgetary implications from this matter.

5 Consultation Carried Out

Personal Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committees have been consulted.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

The responsibilities for corporate parenting include all those which fall to any other parent and therefore touch on almost all areas of responsibility across the Council including, for example, housing policy, Agenda 21, social inclusion, anti-poverty policy, education policies

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 That 4 Elected Members, including the Lead Member for Personal Services and Chair of the Personal Services Policy Review & Scrutiny Committee, be nominated to attend the conference on 22 May and to report back to appropriate Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet with possible Action Points for Denbighshire.

APPENDICES NOT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 23 April 2002

SUBJECT: PREMATURE REDEMPTION OF PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD LOAN
485054 WITH PRINCIPAL OF £4,000,000

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Denbighshire County Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2002/03 states that all rescheduling will be reported to Cabinet on a timely basis at a meeting following its action. In accordance with the Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note and endorse the action taken.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

On Monday March 11th 2002, arrangements were put in place for an early redemption of Public Works Loan Board loan number 485054, with the full principal of £4,000,000 repaid. This action was taken in consultation with the County Council's external treasury advisors. The action reduced borrowing and external investments held prior to the large scale changes in world markets on 11th September 2001, to take advantage of the change in market conditions, as part of the Authority's ongoing review of Treasury strategy.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The transaction will generate in the region of £250,000 of discount to assist the Council in meeting its overall budgetary targets for the year. Additional benefits of long term interest savings, in excess of foregone investment receipts, are anticipated.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It is a requirement under the terms of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for Cabinet to be advised of all debt restructuring undertaken. The action taken will significantly assist in meeting delivery of the Council's recovery plan.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

This action was taken in close liaison with the Council's external treasury advisors.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The decision to make this repayment giving rise to a discount contributes towards the Council's Priority C1: to continue delivery of the Financial Recovery Plan so that revenue and capital debts are cleared by the end of the period.

7 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to note and endorse the content of this report.

CABINET MEMBER : Councillor K E Wells, Lead Member for Education & ICT

DATE : 23 April 2002

SUBJECT : Procedure for Removal of Governors

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 For the Cabinet to agree 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.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The Council has delegated to the Cabinet the powers of appointing and removing County Council appointed Governors.
- 2.2 A Governing Body has requested the removal of a County Council appointed governor. The governors feel that the continued inclusion of the County Council appointed governor in the management team is detrimental to the school and that meetings are potentially confrontational when attended by the governor. As a consequence, it is understood that the Governing Body is refusing to meet, which is contrary to legal requirements.
- 2.3 The procedures for removing a Governor are governed by the Education (School Government) (Wales) Regulations 1999.

Regulation 18(1) states : that any governor of a school who was appointed otherwise than by being co-opted may be removed from office by the person or persons who appointed him.

In this case the appointing Body is Denbighshire County Council.

Since there are issues that require the consideration of evidence from both the governing body and the governor, it is suggested that rather than involve full Cabinet in a hearing, an advisory panel be established for this purpose. The advisory panel would prepare a report to Cabinet which would then determine the matter, following consideration of that report. One possible outcome is that the panel might recommend removal of all the governors appointed by the Council, as a way of removing the impasse.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

Not applicable.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The County Clerk has received from the Chair of a Governing Body, the request of the Governors to remove a County Council appointed governor. A copy of the request has been sent to the Governor for his consideration. The Governor has been advised that Cabinet will consider the request of the governors for his removal.

The Chair of the Governing body has been advised that Cabinet will consider the Governing Body's request for the Governor's removal, and on behalf of the governors has confirmed acceptance of this procedure.

The Director (Lifelong Learning) and County Clerk consider an advisory panel provides the better procedure in that the role of establishing the issues and facts is more easily carried out by a smaller body. A report back to Cabinet ensures the final decision is made by the body charged with that role. It is suggested that such a panel comprises 4 Members representing the 4 main groups represented on and drawn from the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet appoints an advisory panel to hear the matter and report back to Cabinet following its consideration of the issues.

LL ~ SB

REPORT TO : Cabinet

REPORT BY : COUNCILLOR A E ROBERTS, LEAD MEMBER FOR PERSONAL SERVICES

DATE : 23 April 2002

SUBJECT : Fee Increases for Providers of Residential and Nursing Home Care

1. DECISION SOUGHT

That Cabinet agree to the proposed fee structure for providers for the following year from the 5 April 2002. The current rates and proposed rates are attached at Appendix 1

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Council has historically enjoyed a positive relationship with Independent Sector Providers of care for older people and people with disabilities. The Council currently support 360 people in such provision.

It is known that Residential and Nursing Homes in both England and Wales have encountered serious financial difficulties and that despite having high occupancy levels, a number of them have had to close their doors.

In general terms, fee levels have not kept pace with the overall running costs of the sector - especially in relation to employee costs. Due to the impact of a Minimum Wage increase of 10.8% in October 2001, this Council agreed a two stage approach to the fee structure for 2001 - 2002 was the most cost effective way of attempting to safeguard the well-being of the Independent Sector and thereby the Council's ability to discharge its statutory function of arranging appropriate care for vulnerable individuals. The Council led the field on this issue and received many plaudits from the Independent Sector for the initiative.

Whilst the Council has an overall improved financial base from which to operate, this year sees additional responsibilities falling to the Council which carry potentially heavy impacts on the budget available - notably Preserved Rights and the loss of Residential Care Allowance. From April 2002, the Preserved Rights scheme is to be abolished which affects those who were resident within independent sector homes prior to April 1993 and supported by Income Support payments. The responsibility for the assessment, care management and funding of these individuals now rests with local authorities. The sum identified by the Department of Work and Pensions is £2,185,202 towards the cost of care but has no easily identifiable element to support the infrastructure costs of the transfer.

In a similar vein, the Residential Care Allowance has been abolished. This was a weekly allowance previously payable to individuals living in independent care arrangements and the cost of which now falls to the Council. The sum identified for this is £196,032

Calculations by your Officers indicate that there is a likelihood of serious under-provision within these figures. Consequently, there will be strict monitoring of this budget in the first quarter of the financial year as trends will become evident within this period. Any remedial action can then be taken which could include reference to the National Assembly for Wales in a bid to secure additional funding to cover costs if this is deemed appropriate. In the interim, the Council have acknowledged the potential for additional heavy costs by making £700,000 available and this is very welcome.

This cocktail of pressures within the Independent Sector coupled with the potentially significant under-provision for new responsibilities means that we are unable, at this time, to meet the aspirations of the North Wales Nursing and Residential Homes Association (the Association) for fee levels that fully recognise the running costs of their establishments.

However, we would recommend an increase of 4.5% with the following exceptions:

A The Basic Elderly rate to be increased to £243 per week (4% increase). This will enable people currently resident in homes to continue to pay their fees from their benefits.

B The EMI Residential rate to be increased by 2%. Currently the fee paid by the Authority for this form of care is greater than the fee paid in neighbouring Counties. The reduced increase helps bring the Denbighshire fee in line with others.

C The Preserved Rights transfer cases should be paid a fee at the rate payable from Income Support for the last year plus an addition of 3%.

These exceptions enable the payment of a 4.5% fee increase to other forms of residential/nursing care.

These increases are based on assumptions about the likely effect of the two transfers. It is proposed that the Authority undertakes a review in June/July 2002, when there is solid evidence of the costs involved and the effect on the sector of these fee increases. The review will not lead to a reduction in fees.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

The likely cost of implementing the proposed fees with effect from the 8 April 2002 is £349,515.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed fee increases are interim and will be reviewed in the early summer by Personal Services and Resources staff when the levels of potential underfunding for transferred responsibilities and the likelihood of additional NAW funding is clearer.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

During the preparatory work for the proposed fee structure, there has been extensive and detailed consultation with Officers of the Association. In acknowledging the pressure visited on the Council in the wake of new responsibilities detailed above, they have also expressed their disappointment that the proposed fee levels may not sustain the commercial requirements and viability (a new legal requirement under the Care Standards Act) of their business in the long term and cannot rule out the possibility for some homeowners to cease trading. Your Officers will continue their practice of having active dialogue with the Association throughout the year on a range of matters of common concern.

6. IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

A considerable proportion of fees features as part of staff wages and thereby finds its way in to the local economy thus supporting the economic well-being of the County.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- (a) To approve the rates in Appendix 1.
- (b) To approve an increase of 3% over last year's Income Support rate for Preserved Rights cases.
- (c) To approve a review of fee levels in June/July 2002.

PROPOSED FEE INCREASES FOR RESIDENTIAL/NURSING HOME CARE 2002/2003

| RESIDENTIAL HOME CARE | Fees per week 2001/2002 £ | Proposed Increase % | Proposed Fees from 9 April 2002 £ |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Elderly | 234 | 4 | 243 |
| Very Dependent Elderly or Blind | 280 | 4.5 | 293 |
| Mentally Ill | 257 | 4.5 | 268 |
| Elderly People with mental Infirmity in EMI Residential Homes | 313 | 2 | 319 |
| Learning Difficulties | 292 | 4.5 | 305 |
| <u>Physically Disabled</u> | | | |
| a. Under Pension Age (& disablement began under pension age) | 317 | 4.5 | 331 |
| b. Over pension age | 243 | 4.5 | 254 |
| Drug or Alcohol abuse | 257 | 4.5 | 268 |
| Other | 243 | 4.5 | 254 |

| NURSING CARE | Fees per week 2001/2002 £ | Proposed Increase % | Proposed Fees from 9 April 2002 £ |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Elderly | 363 | 4.5 | 379 |
| Mentally Ill | 364 | 4.5 | 380 |
| Elderly people with mental infirmity in EMI Nursing Homes | 372 | 4.5 | 389 |
| Learning Difficulties | | | |
| <u>Physically Disabled</u> | 372 | 4.5 | 389 |
| a. Under Pension Age (& disablement began under pension age) | 409 | 4.5 | 427 |
| b. Over pension age | 363 | 4.5 | 379 |
| Drug or Alcohol abuse | 364 | 4.5 | 380 |
| Terminally Ill | 363 | 4.5 | 379 |
| Other | 363 | 4.5 | 379 |

Notes:

- For Exceptional Special Need in both Residential & Nursing Homes, the amount to be determined by the Social Services Purchasing Manager.
- For people resident in an EMI Nursing Home prior to 6 April 1998, and for whom the Department is contributing toward the placement fee, the gross fee will increase from £409 to £427 per week.