

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Monsanto Suite, Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen on Tuesday 7 May at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

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

Observers: Councillors S. Drew, R.J.R. Jones and A.J. Tobin.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor E.C. Edwards (Leader), I.M. German and K.E. Wells.

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader took the Chair. The Deputy Leader welcomed Professor D. Jones to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council informed Members of the death in service of Mrs. Helga J Rowlands, the Contract Services Building Cleaning Manager based at Kinmel Park Bodelwyddan who died on Friday 3 May 2002. Members were asked to stand in silent tribute.

In the absence of the Lead Member, the Corporate Director: Lifelong Learning announced that IIP status had been awarded to the Strategy and Resources section of the Lifelong Learning Directorate. The section was to be congratulated as IIP had been achieved at a time when the section was working hard to implement the financial recovery plan.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said over 2,000 people had visited Yr Hen Garchar on 04.05.2002 when the building was opened to the public. Councillor Hughes thanked and paid tribute to members of staff for their hard work on the project. The Chief Executive also thanked staff for their work on the project.

1 URGENT MATTERS

The Deputy 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- (i) Item 5 Arrangements for Handling Internal Restructuring - Item withdrawn.
- (ii) Item 13 Disposal of Land at Maes Derwen, St Asaph - Item withdrawn.

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 58)

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

Item 10 Local Members Nominations for LA Governors: delete "net" and replace with "Cabinet".

Item 12 Premature Redemption of Public Works Loan Board Loan 485054 With Principal of £4,000,000: Third line delete "and Council".

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

3 BEST VALUE REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES (CABINET 2002 - 76)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration and decision on the range of options, detailed at Appendix 1, for further analysis. Councillor Roberts emphasised that the demand for places nearly overtook supply in this service area, which justified the case for retaining all 4 homes in Denbighshire.

The Corporate Director: Personal Services reported that further information about possible interest in purchasing the homes had recently become available and thus the purchasing homes option required further consideration. As a result the Corporate Director: Personal Services recommended Members change the recommendation on Option 3 to Yes.

Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said Local Authorities acted as a safety net to ensure that all the community was protected and looked after and suggested that the transfer of management arrangements at Option 4 should not be considered further.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance commented on various aspects of the report and said acceptability to residents was important. Councillor Owens said supply and usage costs were the same in the private and public sector. The homes were well managed from a finance and care point of view. Not all residents qualified for payment of the residential allowance and Denbighshire had no influence over its payment. Councillor Owens said the National Assembly for Wales and Best Value recommended Authorities should continue to have a controlling interest in their residential homes. She said she could not at this time support Option 4 until further research into transfer of management arrangements had been undertaken.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language agreed with the Members and queried whether the Authority could be challenged over its decision regarding possible private sector interest in the County purchasing a residential home in Denbighshire if option 3 was rejected for further research.. The County Clerk said it was possible the private sector could challenge Denbighshire. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Audit Commission would criticise the Authority if any option was discounted without sufficient reasons.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council said Members and officers had been working on this for 12 months. To relinquish complete control of any of the residential homes was not to the best advantage of the Authority.

The Corporate Director: Resources reminded Members that the Authority should not potentially limit options to comply with the Best Value requirement.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Member for Training suggested further discussions on the options were required. Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance suggested deferring decision on some of the options until further information was forthcoming. The Corporate Director: Personal Services said further information could be included in a report which would take on board the comments expressed by Members.

Members agreed with the Chief Executive's suggestion of deferring a decision on option 3. Councillor R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism suggested deferring a decision on options 3 and 4. Members agreed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree the options recommended for further consideration, with recommendations on options 3 and 4 deferred until further information became available, and instruct

officers to enter into negotiations with the Trade Unions over Terms and Conditions and to review specific practices within the Homes.

4 FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY CABINET 2002 - 77)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor W R Webb, presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the draft attached to the report as the basis for a formal response to the National Assembly for Wales' policy statement 'Freedom and Responsibility'.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy referred to a typographical error in paragraph 5.6 4th line - delete 'paper' and input 'taper'. He then detailed the draft response to Members and in particular mentioned the Community Strategy and said the National Assembly for Wales were to set up a strategic group to consider this. He said it might be difficult to achieve partner participation in the community strategy. With regard to the democratic issues, comments made on proportional representation in Council had been taken on board as had the desire to retain electoral wards. In reply to a query from Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language, he explained that the Police Authorities present Councils with the precept for the funding they required and the suggestion in the response was that Local Government might secure its funding in a similar way by "precepting" on the National Assembly.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance commented on various aspects of the Draft Response and in particular highlighted the importance of Prudential Borrowing at 5.1 of the Financial Issues.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the draft as the basis for the formal response to the National Assembly for Wales' policy statement 'Freedom and Responsibility' and forward it to Council for endorsement.

5 ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING INTERNAL RESTRUCTURING (CABINET 2002 - 78)

Item withdrawn.

6 PROVISIONAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2001/2002 (CABINET 2002 - 79)

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) for Cabinet to note the provisional revenue outturn for the last financial year as detailed in the appendix attached to the report and to note the anticipated successful achievement of the target set under the Financial Recovery Plan. Cabinet were asked to recommend to Full Council that Financial Standing Orders in relation to carry forward of under / overspends be reinstated.

Councillor Owens paid tribute to the Directorates for their work on the budgets and in particular thanked the Financial Controller for his invaluable support. Councillor Owens detailed the Non Service Items to Members. Members took the opportunity to discuss the provision of pensions from the Clwyd Pension Fund and queried whether there was any Member involvement with the Fund. The Financial Controller said the Head of Exchequer Services was involved with the Fund but currently no Denbighshire Members were involved. Councillor W.R. Webb suggested that Denbighshire Members become involved with the Clwyd Pension Fund.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the figures in the appendices to the report and recommend to Full Council that Financial Standing Orders in relation to carry forward of under / overspends be reinstated.

7 DIRECT PAYMENTS - CALCULATION OF THE AMOUNT OF A DIRECT PAYMENT (CABINET 2002 - 80)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval for the rates used to calculate the amount of a Direct Payment.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the amounts in section 2 of the report to calculate Direct Payments.

8 DOMICILIARY CARE - FEE INCREASES (CABINET 2002 - 81)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to a 3% increase in payments made under the 'Contract for Domiciliary Care Services' from 1 April 2002.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet approve a 3% increase for fee payments made under the Contract for Domiciliary Care Services from 1 April 2002.*

9 QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (CABINET 2002 - 82)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor W.R. Webb presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the involvement with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations as indicated in the Appendix attached to the report and to agree the provision of no more than £20k funding to support the event on 11 June 2002 at Eirias Park.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet approve the funding provision as indicated in the report.*

10 TIMETABLE FOR COUNCIL / CABINET / COMMITTEES (CABINET 2002 - 83)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor W R Webb presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' recommendation to Council the proposed timetable of meetings of County Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and statutory Committees / Panels for the forthcoming municipal year.

The County Clerk informed Members that the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee of 15.05.2002 was cancelled and Resources Scrutiny Committee would be held on 23.05.2002

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet recommend to County Council that the timetable of meetings (as amended above) attached to the report, for the forthcoming Municipal Year be approved.*

11 PRESERVED COUNTIES CABINET 2002 - 84)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor W.R. Webb presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement of the recommended response to the National Assembly's review of Preserved Counties.

The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy informed Members that Gareth Thomas MP and Ann Jones AM had written in support of the status quo.

***RESOLVED** that Members supported a status quo response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.*

12 URGENT ITEMS (CABINET 2002 - 85)

There were no Urgent Items.

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.*

13 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MAES DERWEN, ST ASAPH CABINET 2002 - 86)

Item withdrawn.

14 **INSPECTION OF THE AUTHORITY'S CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE FOR WALES (CABINET 2002 - 87)**

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the Draft Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Roberts said he was dismayed to see the Part II report accurately quoted in the press the previous week and asked the Chief Executive to undertake an enquiry into the leak. Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council also expressed his disappointment that information had been leaked to the press. The Chief Executive undertook to carry out an investigation and reminded Members and officers that no information from Part II papers was to be given to the media.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance commented on aspects of the report and also on the staff shortages within the Department. She was pleased to see the Draft Action Plan responding to the comments made on the Child Protection Inspection and said the Service needed to ensure the timescales specified in the Action Plan were adhered to with updates on improvements presented to Cabinet.

Councillor G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for the Welsh Language expressed her concern at the length of time taken to produce the Action Plan and that the Cost Implications and Financial Controller Statement in the report do not correspond. She also queried paragraph 8b in the Action Plan and asked that training be made available if no Welsh speaker was appointed in the Ruthin office. The Corporate Director: Personal Services said the Inspectors' draft report had not been received until the end of November 2001. The Director emphasised the problems of recruitment into the Social Worker grade and said a workforce strategy was being developed which would help to develop bilingual staff recruitment.

RESOLVED that Members approve the Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

15 **PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING- SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CABINET 2002 - 88)**

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Member for Personal Services presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval in principle of the proposed restructuring of the Social Services Department to enable full consultation, and to support the case for additional costs to be met by contingency budget allocation, given the recommendations of the Social Services Inspectorate Child Protection Inspection.

The Corporate Director: Personal Services said staff would be given time to comment on any potential changes as would the Personal Services Scrutiny Committee. Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance said consultation would be required on the financial arrangements.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council suggested that Cabinet should further consider the case for costs being met from contingency budget allocation. Members agreed.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) approves in principle the proposed restructuring to enable full consultation, and
- (b) further consider supporting the case for costs to be met from contingency budget allocation given the findings of the SSI(w) Child Protection Inspection.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council thanked Members on behalf of Councillor E.C. Edwards, the Leader of the Council for their work on Cabinet during the lead up to formal implementation of the executive arrangements under the modernisation agenda.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

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

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: HOUSING STOCK TRANSFER

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that :

a) housing stock transfer is the only current option, and therefore work needs to continue with a view to a transfer date of 1 April 2003; and

b) an application to the National Assembly be made for Provisional Approval for stock transfer.

1.2 To give authority for independent legal and financial advisors to be appointed to act on behalf of the Council.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Introduction

2.1 "Better Homes for People in Wales", the national housing strategy published by the Assembly requires all local authorities to quantify the extent of the repair and improvement liabilities in respect of their housing stock, and to produce plans to bring their housing stock up to quality standards within 10 years. The strategy states that on the basis of current information, existing resources are nowhere near the amounts required to raise local authority housing to the quality standards required, and therefore local authorities must consider the options available to achieve this.

2.2 It is estimated by the lead consultants that £53 million would be required to undertake improvement works to the Council's housing stock over the next 10 years (although this does not guarantee that quality standards will be met, as these are not defined in the strategy). With the existing level of resources available to the Council, it is estimated that these repairs and improvements would take 25 years to achieve. Stock transfer would thus have a positive impact on the local economy within Denbighshire.

2.3 Good quality housing also has positive effects on people's physical health, their safety and mental wellbeing. Rundown housing causes other social and economic problems - communities become more prone to crime and vandalism, and attracting economic investment becomes more difficult. Achieving improvement to the housing stock is therefore entirely consistent with the Authority's new power under the Local Government Act 2000 to promote economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

2.4 The Working Party on Housing Options was established in order to examine the alternatives available to the Council concerning the increase of funding to improve the housing stock owned by the Council. The preferred option of the Working Party for securing the investment needed in the housing stock based on extensive discussion in the Working Party and advice from the lead consultants was to pursue stock transfer to a newly formed local housing company. The Council decision of 28 November 2000 was that stock transfer was adopted as the preferred option, the Working Party to continue to review other options for securing the investment needed within the housing stock.

- 2.5 An estimated £53 million of improvements to the housing stock over 10 years could be carried out if stock transfer went ahead, which would improve the quality of housing for tenants, possibly to the quality level required by the national housing strategy. This would have a significant impact on the local economy, a positive impact on the local environment, on health and quality of life.
- 2.6 The cost implications to the Council of stock transfer to a newly formed local housing company were highlighted in a report to Cabinet on 28 March 2002. This identified a significant impact on both capital and revenue of the Council. As a result, the other options available to the Council in order to obtain the funding required to undertake improvement works have been reviewed.

Options previously rejected

- 2.7 Those options previously considered by the Council in reaching the decision to adopt stock transfer as the preferred option and the reasons given originally for rejecting the options are listed below :
- a) retention of housing stock - investment opportunities concluded to be severely limited;
 - b) stock transfer to an existing Housing Association - not recommended given the lower levels of tenant representation, control and influence that would apply if the housing stock was transferred to an existing RSL, and concerns about the size and scale of the local Housing Associations in comparison to the Council's housing stock;
 - c) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) - PFI credits would not be available in Wales and pilot schemes for PFI for housing in England have been limited to small estates with particular problems;
 - d) Arms Length Management Company - additional funding not available in Wales;
 - e) Securitisation - not allowed by the Treasury.
- 2.8 There have been no new developments in relation to these options which would suggest that they would now be a better option than stock transfer in order to raise the necessary funding for improvements to the housing stock.

New Options - Prudential Borrowing

- 2.9 Options which have been identified as a result of recent developments have also been reviewed. These centre around the "Freedom and Responsibility in Local Government" Consultation Paper ("the Consultation Paper") recently issued by the Assembly, which discusses the introduction of Prudential Borrowing to replace borrowing approvals and other changes to housing finance.
- 2.10 Additional funding could potentially be available from the introduction of Prudential Borrowing and the other changes proposed. The changes include :
- a) transfer of rent rebates and associated surplus from the HRA to the Council Fund, less any payment of housing element surpluses into a national pool;
 - b) possible introduction of a Major Repairs Allowance (National Assembly has said that Councils would not be allowed to use this to fund debt charges on borrowing);
 - c) HRA subsidy to be calculated on the basis of the rents that should be actually charged rather than guideline rents, and realistic estimates of what it costs to manage and maintain properties;
 - d) abolition of "set aside" and replacement with a pooling system into which a proportion of housing capital receipts will be paid.
- 2.11 Whether Prudential Borrowing and the other proposed changes would be sufficient to undertake the improvements to the housing stock is unknown at this point, as no details concerning the proposed changes have been confirmed. However, Prudential Borrowing and the other changes proposed could be seen as an alternative to stock transfer if they provided the funding required.

The Preferred Option of the Council - Stock Transfer

- 2.12** As noted earlier, stock transfer has been adopted as the preferred option of the Council in order to obtain funding to improve the housing stock. However, the estimated valuation of the housing stock has been significantly reduced since the options were first considered. The Council will no longer have a capital receipt, but rather an overhanging debt which will be met by the Assembly. Stock transfer will also have significant financial implications for the Council as identified in the paper to Cabinet on 28 March 2002.
- 2.13** Advice is currently being sought from the legal consultants appointed to advise the Council and the new local housing company ("Dyffryn") to identify those legal issues that the Council needs to consider.

The way forward for the Council

- 2.14** From the review of the options available to the Council discussed at paragraphs 2.6 to 2.13 above, it is clear that the only option currently available is stock transfer. Prudential Borrowing and the other changes proposed in the Consultation Paper whilst possibly offering another route is unlikely to be available until April 2004.
- 2.15** If Prudential Borrowing was to be considered in greater detail, it would be necessary to engage financial consultants to undertake the work in view of its complexity. It is also likely that this review would take at least 12 months since Assembly guidance is at a very early stage.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** Stock transfer would have a significant impact on many of the aspects of the Council's operations. Certain costs and services currently charged to the Housing Revenue Account would remain the responsibility of the Council after stock transfer and would have to be met from the Council Fund. A detailed 5 year estimate of the revenue and capital impact of stock transfer was provided as Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report dated 28 March 2002.
- 3.2** Further work has taken place on the cost implications and an update is provided at Appendix 1. This is based on a worst-case scenario. The main changes are as follows :
- a) National Assembly commitment to reduce the time delay for the provision of revenue support grant to meet the Council's increased housing benefit cost, so that revenue support grant is provided from 2003/4 the year following stock transfer, rather than a 3 year delay. This is provided that the results of the ballot are known by early November 2002 and the transfer is effective from 1 April 2003;
 - b) funding of increased housing benefit subsidy costs for the National Assembly in the year after transfer from a reduction to the Council's general capital funding and a reduction in existing Assembly housing provision across Wales. However, the Assembly has indicated that the formula used to calculate the housing element included in general capital funding will be reviewed as part of the introduction of changes from 2004/5 proposed in the Consultation Paper. Thus, it is not possible to provide an estimate of how the general capital funding of the Council may be affected beyond 2003/4.
- 3.3** From Appendix 1, it would appear that stock transfer will place a demand of between £500,000 - £750,000 annually on the Council Fund on a worst case scenario basis, excluding the impact on Contract Services. The impact on Contract Services of residual costs from the buildings maintenance and grounds maintenance contracts if Dyffryn awarded the work elsewhere from 1 October 2003 is estimated at £105,000 in 2003/4, rising to £210,000 from 2004/5 onwards. These estimates are calculated on a worst case scenario basis.
- 3.4** The revenue costs highlighted in Appendix 1 and summarised in the preceding paragraph could potentially be reduced by a combination of the following :
- i) funding of capital expenditure charged to revenue from capital receipts derived following stock transfer;

- ii) investment of unutilised capital receipts derived following stock transfer in order to generate interest income;
- iii) use of capital receipts on capital projects which produce revenue savings to the Council;
- iv) negotiation of transitional arrangements to provide services to Dyffryn beyond that assumed in the notes to Appendix 1 e.g. provision of support services and services delivered by Contract Services for a period of 1-2 years following stock transfer;
- v) further review of costs identified at Appendix 1 and those costs borne by Contract Services to establish any efficiency savings which could be generated.

3.5 The cost of the appointment of Consultants as discussed at paragraph 2.15 would need to be met from housing resources.

3.6 The Council needs to appoint independent legal and financial advisors once the ballot of tenants has been held.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 The impact on the Council Fund of stock transfer on the Council Fund and capital resources is presented at Appendix 1 of this report. Whilst some of the negative financial impacts of stock transfer have been mitigated by representations to the Assembly, stock transfer is still likely to have a significant impact, particularly on the Council Fund. However, some of the costs such as expenditure on housing strategy, welfare services and homelessness should be transferred to the Council Fund in any event.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Housing Options Working Party involving Members and Tenants has been meeting regularly for two years. All tenants have received information on the proposed stock transfer in the form of four newsletters, a freephone enquiry line and 25 public meetings. An Independent Tenants Advisor is in place to ensure impartial and accurate information is given.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Stock transfer will have major implications for many areas of the Council including Community Governance and Community Development and Regeneration.

6.2 In summary, it would appear that housing stock transfer remains the only existing current option.

RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council that :

a) housing stock transfer is the only current option, and therefore work needs to continue with a view to a transfer date of 1 April 2003; and

b) an application to the National Assembly be made for Provisional Approval for Stock Transfer.

7.2 That Cabinet Members give authority for independent legal and financial advisors to be appointed.

Appendix 1

Housing Stock Transfer - Estimate of net impact on the Council Fund

	2003/4		2004/5		2005/6		2006/7		2007/8	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure										
Housing strategy	50		52		53		55		56	
Welfare services	16		16		17		17		18	
Homelessness administration	73		75		77		80		82	
Supporting people fund	0		0		0		0		0	
		139		143		147		152		156
Director - salary	28		29		30		31		32	
PA to Director - salary	6		6		6		7		7	
Debt management costs	8		8		8		9		9	
Interest charges	20		21		21		21		21	
		62		64		65		66		68
Support services charges :										
- Information technology	56		83		86		89		91	
- Courier service	1		1		1		1		1	
- Accomodation	29		39		40		42		43	
- Legal (including right to buy charges)	44		61		63		64		66	
- Personnel	5		7		7		8		8	
- Finance	117		162		167		172		177	
- Customer services	24		33		34		35		36	
- Recharges - other	8		10		11		11		11	
- Supporting people recharge	10		13		14		14		15	
- Design services	66		91		93		96		99	
Less : savings in support charges	-95		-132		-136		-140		-144	
		264		369		380		391		403
Housing benefit :										
- 5% met by DCC	242		249		257		264		272	
- cost of local scheme	28		29		30		31		32	
Less : increase in RSG	-220		-227		-233		-240		-248	
		50		51		53		55		56
Other costs :										
- Benefits conversion	10		0		0		0		0	
- Fleet management	-7		-14		-15		-15		-16	
- Other recharges to HRA	11		44		46		47		48	
		14		30		31		32		33
Total expenditure impact on revenue budget		<u>528</u>		<u>657</u>		<u>676</u>		<u>696</u>		<u>716</u>

Housing Stock Transfer - Estimate of impact on capital resources

	2003/4		2004/5		2005/6		2006/7		2007/8	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General capital funding available for non-HRA expenditure		572		?		?		?		?
Usable capital receipts earmarked for housing capital expenditure at 31/3/03		380		0		0		0		0
Right to buy sales - receipts from Dyffryn		1,370		659		630		599		565
Net inflow of capital resources		<u>2,322</u>		<u>?</u>		<u>?</u>		<u>?</u>		<u>?</u>

Notes :

- all other costs in the HRA except those shown above transfer across to Dyffryn Community Housing ("Dyffryn").
- costs and income rise by 3% per annum.
- costs above are currently charged to HRA, housing capital or Contract Services.
- welfare services (£16k) is made up of salaries incurred on Piper Lifeline.
- interest charges arise as the saving on external debt repayments following stock transfer is more than offset by the loss in interest charged by the County Fund to the HRA under the Item 8 determination.
- support service charges represent a worst case scenario - stock is transferred and support services are provided by DCC from the date of transfer for 3 months only, as Dyffryn has it's own in-house support services. Support services are provided to Building Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance Contract Services for 6 months before these services are provided in-house. Savings only arise if staff transfer to the local housing company, or other variable costs are reduced.
- supporting people recharge is for member of staff seconded from Personal Services.
- 81.5% of housing benefit cost is met from RSG from 2003/4. This is on the basis that the ballot result is known by early November 2002 to feed into the SSA round for 2003/4, and that transfer occurs on 1/4/03.
- benefits conversion represents one off costs to covert rent rebates cases to rent allowance cases.
- fleet management savings result from transfer of leased vehicles to the newly formed local housing company. Assignment of leases is assumed at nil cost.
- other recharges to HRA arise from Client recharges for drainage, grounds maintenance, litter picking.
- no provision has been made for any change to the Council's pension contributions as a result of stock transfer.
- no provision has been made for redundancy costs.
- right to buy sales income reduces over 15 years on a straight line basis.
- right to buy sales in 2003/4 =100; 2004/5 - 2007/8 =50. Sales higher in 2003/4 based on experience at other local authorities in the year following transfer.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

DATE: 5 June 2002

SUBJECT: DOMICILIARY CARE - MEASURES TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENT SECTOR PROVISION

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To approve the Contract for Domiciliary Care Services so as to enable independent sector Domiciliary Care Providers to offer greater stability of employment to its workforce.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

*In line with the Best Value Review of Home Care services, the Directorate is attempting to promote independent sector provision of domiciliary care as an effective alternative to its own provision. This report is in furtherance of that strategy.

* The recruitment and retention of Social care workers has been a continuing difficulty for independent sector providers. This has led to the Directorate having problems in meeting its statutory duties to arrange care. Previously, the Authority has attempted to contribute to the solution of the problem by, when possible, increasing fees by amounts that exceed the inflation rate. For 2002/03, Cabinet agreed an inflationary increase in fees of 3%.

* It is proposed that the Authority has a two pronged strategy for contributing to the solution of the recruitment and retention of Social Care workers. The first, is to investigate the feasibility of the use of block contracts for domiciliary care provision, especially in the south of the County, where there is a lack of independent sector provision. Further proposals about the use of block contracts will be brought to cabinet within 3 months.

* The second prong is to make changes to the Contract for Domiciliary care Services, which will enable providers to give their staff greater continuity of income. The changes proposed are attached in Appendix 1. These changes will enable providers to pay staff for short periods where there are reductions in the hours required to be worked, because, for instance, a client is hospitalised, or goes on holiday or enters residential care on a permanent basis. It is believed that this greater stability of income will make work in social care more attractive to suitable workers.

* It could be argued that in some instances these increased costs should be borne in whole or part by users of services, especially where the notification of cancellation is unnecessarily delayed. This will be considered at future reviews of Charging Policy in the light of the expected guidance on charging from the National Assembly.

* The effect of these changes will be evaluated in terms of Providers' ability to recruit and retain staff, and the ability of the Directorate to purchase domiciliary care. The effect of the changes on spend against budgets will be monitored.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The costs of the changes proposed are calculated as costing between £25,000 and £30,000 per year (3% of the domiciliary care budget), and will be met from Directorate budgets

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It is difficult to evaluate the likely cost and effectiveness of the proposal. A report will need to be brought back to Members in due course on progress towards achieving the overall aims of the proposal. Members may wish to agree to the proposal on an interim basis with a permanent solution being agreed later based on the findings of monitoring the changes proposed.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

There has been extensive consultation with independent sector Approved Providers of Domiciliary care about the changes proposed in Appendix 1. Their view is that the changes will be a significant aid in their efforts to recruit and retain suitable staff.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

This proposal is in line with the Council's Anti-Poverty strategy.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the changes set out in Appendix 1 and they become effective immediately.

PS ~ PF

Proposals for the Purchase of Domiciliary Care under the Domiciliary Care Contract

Introduction

The strategic aim of these proposals is to enable the independent sector to give their workers a more consistent wage level. The expectation is that this will enable the independent sector to recruit and retain staff, which in its turn will give an improved service to their clients.

Proposal

1) For any contract which terminates within 30 days of its start, the Provider can invoice the County for a £30 administration charge.

Providers have pointed out that there are management and administrative costs in setting up new care packages of care, which they do not recoup if the contract is of short duration. There have been instances when Providers have been reluctant to take on new work which they suspect will be of short duration. This proposal will provide compensation for the effort of setting up the care package.

2) For any cancelled call or calls irrespective of the notice given by the client, the Provider can invoice the County for 70% of the fee for the call or calls.

This relates to para 5.2 of the Contract under which the County (Service Purchaser) should 'consider' payment of a retaining fee. Currently, retaining fees are sometimes paid but only 50% and only after a claim by the Provider. Under the proposal retaining fees of 70% will be paid.

3) For any contract where the contract is the main source of employment for the support workers, the Provider can invoice the County for 100% of the fee for the cancelled calls, less any hours worked in other alternative contracts.

This again relates to para 5.2 of the Contract and increases the fee payable to 100% if the contract provides the main employment for the workers. This also helps to ensure continuity of care for the client.

4) For any terminated contract, the Provider can invoice the County for 70% of one weeks fee.

This relates to 5.1 of the Contract under which again the County should consider a payment in lieu of notice of termination. Currently, very few payments of this sort are made.

Evaluation

The impact of these proposals upon the ability of Providers to recruit and retain staff and the ability of the County to meet its statutory obligations will be evaluated after six months. The impact of the changes upon spend against budget will be monitored.

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND MONITORING OFFICER

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 Resolution to recreate the joint arrangements which, by action of legislation, ceased to exist when the Council adopted executive arrangements on 14 May.
- 1.2 Approval of revised constitution for North Wales and Wirral Purchasing Consortium.
- 1.3 Appointment of Members to the joint committees concerned.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 Article 3 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Modification of Enactments and Further Provisions) (Wales) Order 2002 provides that all arrangements entered by Denbighshire County Council under Section 101(1)(b) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 ceased to exist when the first participating Council adopted executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000. Denbighshire did so on 14 May, and, regardless of when other participating Councils adopt or adopted executive arrangements, the following joint arrangements have come to an end and cannot operate until each council has passed resolutions to recreate them:

Joint Agricultural Board (with Flintshire)
Clwydian Range AONB Joint Advisory Committee (with Flintshire)
North Wales and Wirral Purchasing Consortium (with Conwy, Flintshire and the Wirral)
North East Wales Trunk Road Agency (with Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham)

- 2.2. Passing a resolution to recreate these joint arrangements does not commit the Cabinet to continue with them forever. As with any such arrangement, they can be terminated on notice. In the short term, while the Cabinet considers how it wishes to discharge the broad range of functions for which it is responsible and the best value review of the agricultural estate is ongoing, recreation of the joint arrangements is a practical response to the effect of the 2002 Order.
- 2.3 The Council was due to consider on 26 March a revised constitution for the purchasing consortium but this was deferred in view of the 2002 Order. Decisions on the terms of joint arrangements are now for the Cabinet to take. The Cabinet is, therefore, recommended to approve the revised constitution in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Cabinet also appoints members to joint committees. In line with the views of the Modernising Panel, the Members for the Clwydian Range AONB Joint Advisory Committee should be drawn from Members whose wards fall wholly or partly in the area of outstanding natural beauty. Cabinet is recommended to appoint:

Joint Agricultural Board	4 Cabinet Members
Purchasing Consortium	2 Cabinet Members
NEWTRA	2 Cabinet Members
Clwydian Range AONB	6 Members from the following list:-
	Prestatyn East - S Drew and N Hugh-Jones
	Prestatyn Central - D Morris and T M Parry
	Prestatyn Meliden - R W Hughes

Dyserth	-	J S Kerfoot Davies
Tremeirchion	-	R LI Williams
Llandyrnog	-	A E Roberts
Llanbedr D C	-	P A Dobb
Llanarmon-Yn-Ial	-	D M Holder
Llanfair D C	-	G Jones

The rules on political balance do not apply to any of these appointments.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

If Denbighshire did not rejoin the purchasing consortium as recommended, it would have to pay in excess of £200k as a contribution towards accumulated losses, dependent upon the latest trading results. A further contribution to reflect a share of any winding up costs eg redundancies, lease penalties etc assuming Denbighshire's withdrawal forced the liquidation of the consortium, would be likely to cost the Council a further £250k.

The Council would also need to replace the current procurement arrangements with either an in house function or new joint arrangement. The current budget sum for this, paid over to W & NW purchasing is £44k.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The potential impact for the Council of withdrawal from the Purchasing Consortium are detailed under 3. There are no similar impacts for the other joint arrangements.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Council and Modernising Panel have considered the effect of the legislation on the Joint Agricultural Board and the Clwydian Range AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The recommendation about the membership of the latter committee reflects the Modernising Panel's views.

The views of other participating Councils will be checked, to confirm that they wish to continue with joint arrangements, and will be reported orally.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 Joint arrangements can represent a cost-effective and accountable way for certain functions to be discharged. They are encouraged by the Assembly policy statement "Freedom and Responsibility".

7 RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet

7.1 Resolves under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Function) (Wales) Regulations 2002 to enter the joint arrangements listed in paragraph 2.1. Subject to recommendations 7.2 and 7.3, the joint arrangements shall be on the same terms as existed prior to 14 May 2002, including in particular the functions conferred on the joint committees. This resolution shall have effect notwithstanding the adoption of executive arrangements by another council on or after 5 June 2002.

7.2 Approves the revised constitution for the North Wales and Wirral Purchasing Consortium in Appendix 1.

7.3 Appoints Members to the joint committees as set out in paragraph 2.4.

WIRRAL AND NORTH WALES PURCHASING ORGANISATIONCONSTITUTION1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

The name of the Organisation shall be the "Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Organisation" ("WNWPO").

2. STATUS OF WNWPO

WNWPO is firstly a joint committee for the purposes of section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 administered by a Governing Body comprising the full members as hereinafter appears and secondly the operational manifestation of the joint committee which comprises its "trading" identity. As a joint committee under the Local Government Acts, WNWPO's proceedings are governed by both those Acts and this Constitution. Any reference in the Local Government Acts to Secretary of State shall be a reference to either the Secretary of State at the Department of Transport Local Government and the Regions in England and the National Assembly for Wales acting jointly or a reference to such one of those as they may jointly agree should act.

- (i) The full members of the joint committee of WNWPO are:-
- (a) Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council in England.
 - (b) Conwy County Borough Council in North Wales.
 - (c) Denbighshire County Council in North Wales.
 - (d) Flintshire County Council in North Wales.
- (ii) Each of these full members agrees to support and promote the objects of WNWPO and in particular to use reasonable endeavours to purchase from WNWPO their total requirements for all goods, services and materials obtainable from time to time from WNWPO unless better value for money can be obtained elsewhere, and to:-
- (a) Use reasonable endeavours to bring to the attention of the General Manager every such case where better value for money can be obtained elsewhere.
 - (b) Ensure that the individual Financial Regulations and/or Contract Standing Orders of each full member authority adequately reflect the requirement to utilise the central purchasing facility offered by WNWPO and that the individual departments within member authorities are aware of their duties in relation to WNWPO.
 - (c) Use reasonable endeavours to seek to increase annually the purchases made from and through WNWPO.
- (iii) The full members in the Governing Body may from time to time admit any other local authority or public body or other eligible organisation (within the terms of the Local Government Acts) to join WNWPO as full members and, for the avoidance of doubt, in any such case shall make provision for the protection of the beneficial interests of the full members so deciding in the assets of the WNWPO in such manner as the Governing Body shall consider just and equitable in all of the circumstances.
- (iv) The Governing Body may from time to time agree to admit to **associate membership** of WNWPO any local authority, public body or other eligible organisation upon such terms and

conditions or for such purposes as the Governing Body may consider appropriate provided always that:-

- (a) No such associate member shall be entitled to sit upon or vote at the Governing Body.
- (b) Every such associate member shall, as a condition of membership, agree to support and promote the objects of WNWPO at least to the extent of the purposes and terms of their associate membership in like manner as the full members thereof.
- (c) Subject to the above, the detailed terms and conditions of admission to associate membership may be different in the case of any associate member so admitted and may make different provision as to payments, level of services to be provided, participation in policy development, provision of technical advice, etc.

3. **RIGHTS OF FULL MEMBERS**

- (i) Each full member shall have the right to participate equally the one with the other in any surplus generated by WNWPO.
- (ii) In like manner each full member shall bear equally the one with the other the responsibility for the discharge of any deficit incurred by WNWPO.
- (iii) Each full member shall participate in the decision whether or not to admit and if so the terms of admission of any associate member.
- (iv) Each full member shall be entitled to participate in the approval of the strategic plan of WNWPO subject to attendance at the relevant meeting or meetings.
- (v) Each full member shall be entitled to participate in the budgetary process leading to the approval of the budget for WNWPO subject to attendance at the relevant meeting or meetings.

4. **PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

- (i) Each full member shall be entitled to 2 voting seats on the Governing Body of WNWPO to be allocated to appropriate elected members of the individual authority dependent upon their individual policies and management arrangements.
- (ii) Each full member shall be entitled to nominate a deputy to attend in place of one of their appropriate elected members, and if only one appropriately elected member attends a meeting of the Governing Body that member shall have power to vote by proxy for and on behalf of the absent appropriately elected member.
- (iii) The quorum for a meeting of the Governing Body shall be 5 such voting representatives, present at the meeting.
- (iv) Any issue to be decided at a meeting of the Governing Body shall be decided by a simple majority of those members present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have, but not be bound to exercise, a second and casting vote.
- (v) The Governing Body shall meet at least quarterly and shall have its Annual General Meeting in July of each year.
- (vi) At the Annual General Meeting in each year the Governing Body shall appoint from its membership a Chair and a Vice Chair provided that the Chair and the Vice Chair shall not be from the same Authority in any one year).

- (vii) The Chair of WNWPO for the time being, or in the case of a vacancy in office or unavailability of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the WNWPO shall have the power to call meetings of the Governing Body at such times and for such purposes as shall be considered appropriate.
- (viii) Three members of the Governing Body shall, upon notice duly signed and submitted to the Chair (or in the case of a vacancy of office or other unavailability of the Vice Chair of the Governing Body), have the right to requisition a special meeting of the Governing Body for the purpose or purposes set out in the requisition. Such special meeting shall take place within 10 working days of receipt of the requisition and no other business (other than urgent business under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972) shall be considered at that special meeting.
- (ix) The meeting shall be summoned, clerked, serviced and minuted by representatives of the Host Authority (as hereinafter defined) and the Standing Orders of that Host Authority shall govern the proceedings of the meeting.

5. **OBJECTS OF WNWPO**

The WNWPO shall, as the central procurement unit of its full member authorities:-

- (a) Procure, store, sell and distribute such products, goods and materials as are most efficiently, economically and effectively handled through a central procurement unit.
- (b) Undertake the development of those products, goods and materials to be traded through the warehouse to ensure all WNWPO's customers receive an economic efficient and effective service.
- (c) Arrange through properly and accountable negotiations the provision of products, goods, materials and services through direct call off contracts as may be agreed from time to time by the Governing Body.
- (d) Arrange through properly and accountable negotiations the provision of bespoke and/or ad hoc goods, materials and services as may be agreed from time to time by the Governing Body.
- (e) Provide professional advice and guidance in relation to procurement through the employment of professionally qualified and experienced staff.
- (f) Promote Best Value in relation to procurement whilst paying particular regard to the adherence and compliance with EC, National and Local Regulations in relation to the purchase and supply of goods, materials and services.
- (g) Whilst primarily acting on behalf of WNWPO's full members, WNWPO will also actively promote and deliver its range of services to associate members and other non member public bodies or other eligible customers.

6. **BENEFICIAL INTERESTS OF THE FULL MEMBERS**

- (i) For the avoidance of doubt, the beneficial ownership of the assets of WNWPO comprising a warehouse, buildings and land known as County Stores situate at Unit 57 Parkway, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside in the County of Flintshire hereinafter called "The Stores" and vehicles and plant (including shelving) as at the date hereof shall remain vested in the full member authorities equally.
- (ii) The beneficial ownership of all vehicles, plant, equipment, goods and supplies (hereinafter called "Organisation Property") purchased for and in connection with or for the furtherance of the objects of WNWPO on or after the 1st April, 1980 shall vest in WNWPO subject to the following terms and conditions:-

- (a) Organisation Property shall be purchased by the Host Authority as agent for WNWPO and may be purchased in the name of the Host Authority and charged to the WNWPO account.
- (b) All costs arising from and relating to the operation, purchase and insurance of vehicles, plant, equipment and the employment of personnel including debt and leasing charges where appropriate shall be recharged to WNWPO accounts by the Host Authority.
- (iii) For the avoidance of doubt, unless and until otherwise determined by the Governing Body the beneficial ownership of the stock of WNWPO shall remain with the Host Authority (or other financial provider) until actually paid for by WNWPO. Present operating arrangements for the provision of working capital to WNWPO by the Host Authority mean that the stock is never beneficially owned by WNWPO whilst in the possession of WNWPO and this is reflected within the charges for the provision of working capital.

7. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORGANISATION

- (i) The Governing Body shall appoint one or more of the full member authorities to be the Host Authority for the purpose of administration, either generally or for particular purposes.
- (ii) Such Host Authority shall ensure that one of its Chief Officers has responsibility for providing such management, administrative, financial and legal services to WNWPO and to the joint committee as shall be specified by the Governing Body.
- (iii) The operational activities of WNWPO shall be managed, directed and led by the General Manager of WNWPO appointed by the Governing Body in accordance with the policy and strategic plan of the Governing Body and under the direction of the Chief Officer of such Host Authority(ies) responsible for such management, administrative, financial and legal services as the Governing Body may appoint.
- (iv) The establishment of staff required to achieve the objects of WNWPO shall be decided by the Governing Body and shall be employed upon the terms and conditions of employment then prevailing in such Host Authority(ies) as decided by the Governing Body to discharge particular purposes.
- (v) So long as the Host Authority responsible for the provision of financial services to WNWPO shall be content, the accounts of WNWPO shall for audit purposes form part of the accounts of that Host Authority.
- (vi) In providing or arranging for the provision of services to the Governing Body and/or WNWPO the Host Authority(ies) shall ensure whether by means of an SLA, contract or other arrangement approved by the Governing Body a full specification of the services to be provided and the costs thereof is available to and approved by the Governing Body. Such specification shall include where appropriate all relevant timescales for the provision of particular services.

8. GENERAL MANAGER

- (i) The Governing Body shall appoint a General Manager to lead, direct and manage the operational activities of WNWPO and such General Manager shall be employed upon the terms and conditions then prevailing in the Host Authority designated by the Governing Body.
- (ii) The General Manager shall report at each meeting of the Governing Body on the operational activities of the WNWPO and in particular the:-
 - (a) Financial position.
 - (b) Attainment of any other relevant targets.

- (c) Particular operational difficulties or successes.
- (iii) The General Manager shall propose to the Governing Body the annual budget, strategic plan and other policy objectives for consideration and determination by the Governing Body.
- (iv) The General Manager shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Governing Body and of Lead Officers (as hereinafter defined).

9. **LEAD OFFICERS**

- (i) Each full member shall appoint at least one, and a maximum of two officers to serve as Lead Officers of that member authority for the purposes of advising and liaising with the General Manager and monitoring the achievement by WNWPO of its strategic aims and objectives and financial priorities.
- (ii) Such Lead Officers shall meet on at least a six weekly basis with the General Manager of WNWPO and representatives of the Host Authority or authorities or individual service providers for the purposes of:-
 - (a) Receiving financial information.
 - (b) Examination of the performance of WNWPO against approved targets.
 - (c) Considering options available to WNWPO and providing their authority's perspective upon such options.
 - (d) Formulating proposals for submission through the Host Authority (or by requisition of a special meeting) to the Governing Body.
 - (e) Alerting the General Manager to any perceived or actual problems with or in relation to the services provided by WNWPO or any Host Authority, authorities or individual service providers.
- (iii) The Lead Officers so appointed shall:-
 - (a) Act within their respective authorities as a source of information to the officers and elected members of that authority in addition to the elected representatives upon the Governing Body.
 - (b) Advise the General Manager of their authority's actual or proposed strategic purchasing requirements in order to ensure that WNWPO is able to take these into account in formulating the business plan for submission to the Governing Body and be included in the making of any strategic procurement decisions made by their authorities.
 - (c) The minutes of the meetings of the Lead Officers to be submitted to the Governing Body for information.
- (iv) Each full member Authority shall, in addition, secure that appropriate arrangements are made within their Authority for the purpose of promoting and publicising within that Authority the services available from WNWPO.

10. **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- (a) The financial estimates for each forthcoming year shall be prepared by the General Manager in conjunction with the Chief Financial officer of the Host Authority (or other provider(s)). An individual financial estimate for the forthcoming year is to be presented to the Lead Officers' Group prior to the end of each calendar year, with the draft financial estimates for the

forthcoming year to be presented for approval to the Governing Body no later than February prior to the commencement of each financial year.

- (b) The General Manager shall, in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer of the Host Authority or other provider, provide the Governing Body with actual against estimated financial performance together with projected outturn figures at each meeting of the Governing Body.
- (c) The running costs of WNWPO shall be defrayed by either:-
 - (i) The inclusion of an on cost for all goods and materials sold through the warehouse. The average of such on costs to be approved by the Governing Body from time to time.
 - (ii) The receipt of retrospective rebates, the negotiation of a management fee or the application of an on cost in relation to direct call off contracts, ad hoc and bespoke procurements. Such methods of income to be approved by the Governing Body from time to time.
 - (iii) The charging of an annual premium to each member authority for all professional advice, pre contract and aborted contract work. The premiums to be based on an equal contribution from each member authority per annum, such premiums to be agreed by the Governing Body annually in advance.
 - (iv) The provision of a management fee based upon the percentage usage of direct, ad hoc and bespoke contracts levied against all non full member customers. Such fee to be calculated at the year end and recharged accordingly.
- (d) The Governing Body may from time to time approve the distribution of all or part thereof of any accumulated surplus held by the Host Authority on behalf of WNWPO. Such distribution to be in equal share to each full member authority. The Governing Body may in the case of accumulated deficits approve either equal payments from each full member authority to the value of the deficit to the Host Authority or agree to estimate for a trading surplus year on year to repay the deficit over an agreed timescale. The Host Authority shall receive interest on accumulated deficits and pay interest on accumulated surpluses.
- (e) The Host Authority shall incorporate the trading activity financial affairs of WNWPO onto their own accounts and act as WNWPO's bankers.
- (f) The financial year of WNWPO shall run from 1st April to 31st March in the subsequent year.

11. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND WINDING UP**

- (i) Any associate member may withdraw from such associate membership upon notice in accordance with the terms of their admission to associate membership.
- (ii) Unless all full members for the time being otherwise agree without dissent at a meeting of the Governing Body convened for the purpose of considering the issue of termination of membership by one or more full members or for the winding up of WNWPO then the following provisions shall apply.
- (iii) Full members who wish to terminate their membership must:-
 - (a) Give notice to each other full member of their intention to serve notice of termination of membership at least 28 days before the meeting of the Governing Body to which such notice will be presented.
 - (b) Present their notice of termination at the meeting of the Governing Body identified in 11(iii)(a) above.

- (iv) Any such notice of termination presented to a meeting of the Governing Body in accordance with the provisions of this section shall take effect on the 31st March in the financial year next following the date of the meeting at which the notice was presented or on the first anniversary of the date of that meeting whichever is the earlier date.
- (v) In the case of a petition for winding up any full member may present a petition for the winding up of WNWPO to the Governing Body and if it wishes to do so must:-
 - (a) Give notice of their intention to each other full member to serve notice of petition for winding up of membership at least 28 days before the meeting of the Governing Body to which such notice will be presented.
 - (b) Present their notice of petition for winding up at the meeting of the Governing Body identified in 11(iii)(a) above.

12. **PROCEDURE ON TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WINDING UP**

- (i) In the event of WNWPO being wound up or otherwise terminating or upon any member withdrawing an account shall be struck.
- (ii) The account shall be struck at the date of winding up, termination or termination of membership either agreed or calculated in accordance with the provisions of the preceding section, which for the avoidance of doubt shall include dilapidations and bad debts on the arising of one or both of the said costs. In both cases agreement by the parties shall be confirmed. In default of any agreement the matter shall be referred to either the Secretary of State at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in England and the National Assembly for Wales acting jointly or a reference be made to such one as they may jointly agree should act.
- (iii) In striking such an account provision shall be made for the reimbursement of the Host Authority (or any other provider) of any and all losses arising from the disposal of vehicles, plant and/or equipment or other WNWPO property surplus to requirements and of the redundancy costs of any staff surplus to requirements which shall constitute a first charge upon any assets/surplus of WNWPO.
- (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, in the case of the termination of one or more members but continuation otherwise of WNWPO the costs of "downsizing" to meet the needs/demands of the continuing members, shall be expressly taken into the account.
- (v) For the further avoidance of doubt, except in the case of winding up, in which case actual costs will be ascertainable, any estimate of losses shall be upon the basis of the "forced sale" value of any WNWPO property surplus to requirements and redundancy costs of staff surplus to requirements whether upon a full winding up or upon a partial withdrawal of membership shall be the actual costs incurred, or to be incurred, by the Host Authority.
- (vi) After giving appropriate credit to the Host Authority as first charge any resultant surplus or deficit in the account so struck shall be distributed to or borne by each of the full members equally. In the case of a termination of membership the members so terminating shall be entitled to either an equal share of the surplus or liable to pay to the remaining members an equal share of the deficit within 28 days of the account so struck or such other longer time as may be agreed by the Governing Body.

13. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (i) With the exception of 11 and 12 above any provision of this Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of those members present and voting at a meeting of the Governing Body convened for the express purpose of considering the amendment proposed whether or not any other business is also to be considered.

- (ii) Sections 11 and 12 may only be amended by a unanimous vote of all members of the Governing Body for the time being.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor M A German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek Members' agreement to a strategy for the implementation of decriminalisation of on-street parking offences and to approve the commissioning of consultants to examine the financial and institutional implications of decriminalisation and outline a programme for its introduction.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Decriminalisation is having to be considered as a result of North Wales Police giving the Council notice of its intent to withdraw its Traffic Warden Service. This will take place by a process of natural wastage . However, as the last Traffic Warden employed in Denbighshire has resigned from the Service, it means that enforcement of waiting restrictions in the County is at a low level and only undertaken by the Police at the same time as general law enforcement duties.

2.2 The Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2002 considered a strategy for implementation of decriminalisation of on-street parking offences. The Committee noted the various elements involved in the process and proposals to progress an application to introduce decriminalisation.

2.3 The strategy outlined the need to employ specialist consultants to prepare an application to the National Assembly and progress implementation of decriminalisation. An initial study is proposed to examine the financial and institutional implications of decriminalisation and to outline a programme for its introduction. The results of the initial study will be reported to the Cabinet before proceeding with a detailed application to the National Assembly for Wales to assume the enforcement powers. The anticipated time scale for the process to assume enforcement powers is approximately two years. The actual time scale will become clearer following the production of the initial study.

2.4 Options will be examined for reducing costs through enforcement staff combining responsibilities with community safety functions and formation of a partnership with North Wales Police to use the services of their Central Ticket Office and fine collection processes.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 An initial estimate has been made of the total costs of introducing decriminalisation, this is forecast to be in the region of £250,000. However, a more accurate estimate will be made as part of the initial study and reported to Cabinet. Subject to Cabinet approval, a capital bid will then be made for this sum. The initial study is expected to cost no more than £10,000 and will be funded from the service budget..

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 The costs of the initial study will need to be contained within the service base budget.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 Consultation on progressing decriminalisation has been undertaken with North Wales Police and Prestatyn and Rhyl Town Councils. Discussion have also been held with officers from the other North Wales local authorities and, in terms of gathering information on decriminalisation, with Neath Port Talbot Council, the only council in Wales to have decriminalisation powers, and with local authorities in North West England that have also assumed the powers. The North Wales Police and Prestatyn and Rhyl Town Councils support the Authority in progressing an application for decriminalisation.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 Road Safety and improvement to Commercial (Town Centre) business premises.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Members approve:

(i) the strategy for the implementation of decriminalisation outlined in the report as examined in detail and recommended by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and

(ii) the employment of specialist consultants to examine the financial and institutional implications of decriminalisation and to outline a programme for its introduction, and to report the findings to a future Cabinet meeting.

REPORT TO: CABINET

REPORT BY: LEADER

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: DENBIGHSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- i. To endorse the actions taken so far in developing a community strategy for Denbighshire;
- ii. To approve the draft timetable put forward by the shadow Denbighshire community strategy development group. **(See APPENDIX I)**
- iii. To decide on who should be the elected member representative(s) to serve on the Community Strategy Development Group;
- iv. To commit resources in officer time, administrative support and facilities to support the Community Strategy process;

2. REASONS FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The statutory deadline for the Council and its partners to produce the Denbighshire Community Strategy is May 2004. In consequence the Council with its partners needs now to be meeting regularly to progress the development of the strategy. Cabinet endorsement of the of the proposed method of developing the strategy is therefore required.

2.2 For this purpose it is proposed to establish a community strategy partnership development group comprising the key partners. The draft terms of reference of the group and draft timetable and outline plan are attached. This group is a planning group which will co-ordinate the partners' contributions to the action plan and importantly prepare the draft community strategy document. It's important to stress that the community strategy is a partnership development. The County Council has the lead function of producing the strategy, but the partners must also have ownership of the process and therefore must be involved from the outset in the planning process.

2.3 The Community Strategy itself is a policy framework document and as such must be approved by full Council. Scrutiny Committees will, therefore, input into the community strategy as will the area partnerships.

To help discussions within the group we have shared with the partners the draft structure for a Denbighshire Strategic Partnership(**see APPENDIX II**). This has been discussed in the Modernising Panel in 2001, however it is only an outline and is put forward at this stage to promote discussion in the development group on a possible structure. As part of the planning process it will be necessary to flesh out this or any alternative model to include all of the existing partnerships already or being established: Crime and Disorder, Children and Young Persons Framework, Strategic Partnership for Health and Well being.

2.4 The Authority needs to play a full part in the development of this strategy, it is appropriate therefore for elected member(s) to play a full role in the group.

The work of the Community Strategy Development Group will be reported back to Cabinet. It is recommended also that Scrutiny committees be asked to include in their timetable discussion of the draft community strategy document.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Officer time, administrative support, meetings costs are currently absorbed within existing budgets. During implementation of the Project Plan the demands on resources will increase as will the impact on costs. This will be managed from existing resources this year. We will need to discuss with partners the financial implications of supporting the development of structures for future years. Any additional costs for next year will be included as a bid in the budget round.

3.2 For the next financial year, it is suggested that a budget will be required to resource increased activity by way of a central co-ordinator officer post.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

4.1 For the current financial year it will be necessary to contain any increased costs from within the Service budgets concerned. The level of funding for community strategy from 2003 will be reviewed as part of the budget setting exercise in the autumn.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Corporate Directors consulted both at OMB and partners attending initial meeting of the Community Strategy Development Group.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER POLICY AREAS

6.1 All policy areas will be required to conform to the requirements identified within the Strategy.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To endorse the actions taken so far in developing a community strategy for Denbighshire;

7.2 To approve the draft timetable put forward by the shadow Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group;

7.3 To appoint Member(s) to represent the Council on the Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group.

7.4 To resource officer time, administrative support and facilities to support the Community Strategy process;

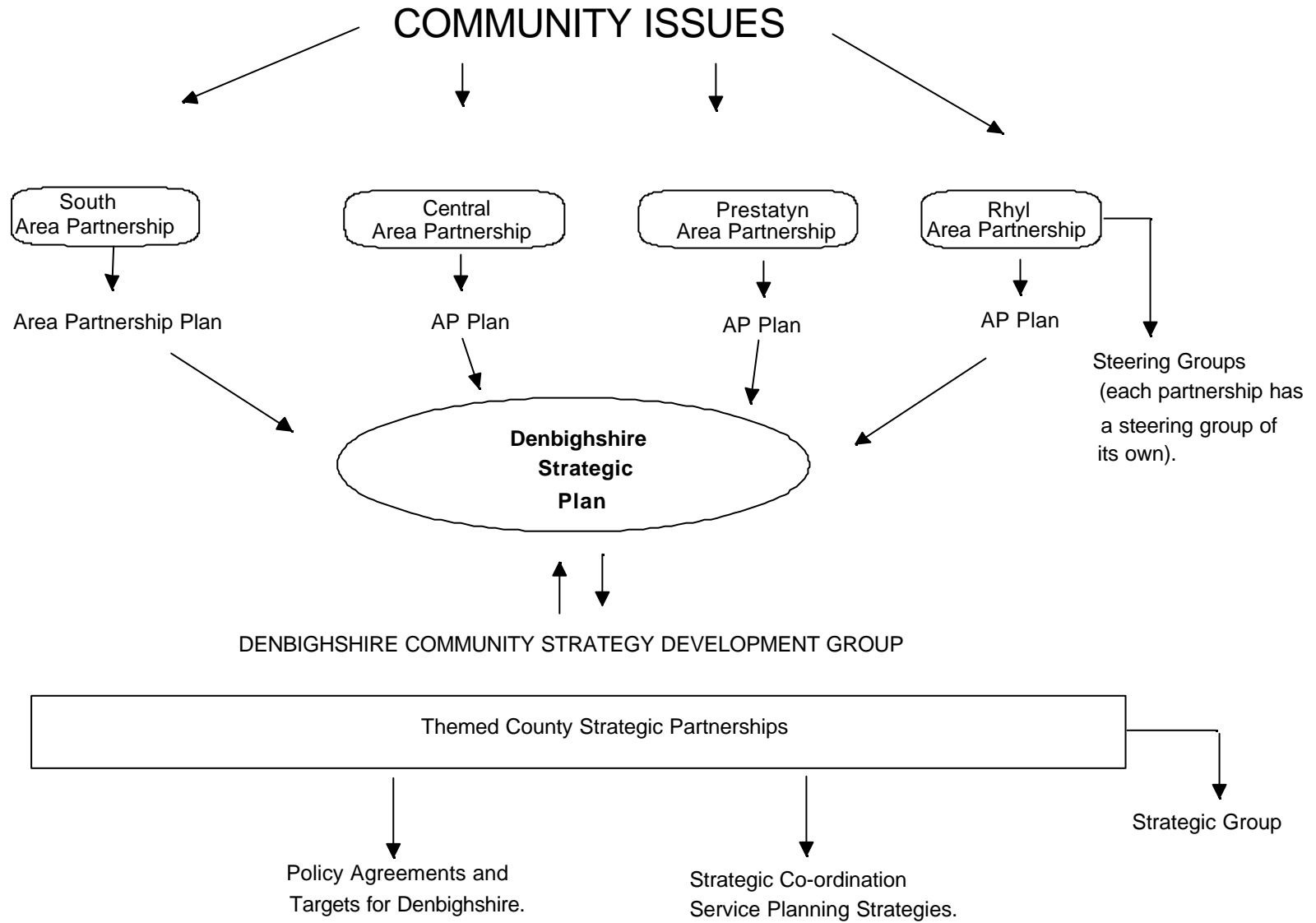
7.5 To establish a reporting mechanism for progress by the Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group.

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DRAFT PROJECT PLAN & TIMETABLE

May / June	2002	DCC to convene preliminary meetings with potential partners via a Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group
July	2002	Convene the Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group, to include the Chief Executives at this meeting, to agree timetable, framework and membership, vision and priorities and to agree commitment of resources
August	2002	Convene the Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group to agree allocation of tasks according to project action plan
Sept	2002	Convene Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group to receive detailed progress reports and discuss development issues
Sept / Oct	2002	Arrange community visioning exercise to consult on community issues and priorities. Consultation process to include Area Partnerships and a Public County Forum etc
Oct 02 - Jan 03		Convene monthly progress meetings of the Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group
Feb	2003	Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group complete First Draft of a Denbighshire Strategy
Mar	2003	Denbighshire Strategic Partnership agree First Draft and sign up to commit resources required to implement the Strategy
Apr / May	2003	Public consultation on the First Draft
June / Sept	2003	Denbighshire Community Strategy Development Group analyses feedback and produces Second Draft
Sept	2003	Denbighshire Strategic Partnership endorses Second Draft
Nov / Dec	2003	Second round of public consultation and reconvene Public County Forum
Jan / Feb	2004	Final version of the Denbighshire Community Strategy produced
March 31	2004	Denbighshire Community Strategy implemented before May statutory deadline

APPENDIX II



REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 5 June 2002

SUBJECT: Draft Bus Strategy

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek Members' approval of the Draft Bus Strategy for submission to the National Assembly and for consultation.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Transport Act 2000 introduced a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce Bus Strategies to form part of their Local Transport Plans (LTP). The National Assembly for Wales has determined that Bus Strategies must be prepared by 2003. However local authorities have been asked to prepare a Draft Bus Strategy to be submitted to the Assembly by 10 June 2002.

2.2 The National Assembly published guidance on the production of Draft Bus Strategies in February 2002. The guidance note indicated that the Strategies should include the following:

- background information on a number of topics including trends in bus patronage, infrastructure and the operational climate;
- the Council's vision and objectives for buses;
- the strategy which shows the methods by which the objectives will be achieved;
- a five year programme to implement the strategy;
- targets and monitoring.

2.3 The LTP published in August 2000 included a strategy covering buses. This has been used as the basis for the Draft Bus Strategy. It has been expanded and updated to meet the Assembly's requirements. It is shown in full in the Appendix.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no significant costs involved in producing the Draft Bus Strategy. Any costs will be contained within the Highways and Transportation Revenue Budget.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There do not appear to be any significant financial implications currently from this report. Any additional future commitments resulting from the strategy will need to be considered as part of the budget setting exercise in the autumn.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 The Draft Bus Strategy will be the subject of public consultation.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 There are no significant implications for other policy areas.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Members endorse the Draft Bus Strategy as appended for submission to the National Assembly for Wales and for consultation.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT BUS STRATEGY

1.0 Introduction

The Transport Act 2000 requires the preparation of bus strategies to become part of Local Transport Plans (LTP). The National Assembly has identified April 2003 as a target date for the completion of Bus Strategies. The County Council initially developed a bus strategy as part of the Local Transport Plan that was published in August 2000. This Strategy has developed the initial LTP based strategy and expanded it in the light of the first eighteen months experience of implementing the LTP.

2.0 Background

Background information on bus service patronage is limited. The most comprehensive data available are from the 1991 Census on the mode of travel used for the journey to work in the County. These data are now eleven years old, however, it is likely to be 2003 before the comparable results from the 2001 Census are known. In 1991 buses accounted for 3.3% of travel to work compared with the dominant mode of travel, the private car, which accounted for 68% of journeys.

The County Council is developing closer links with local bus operators, particularly with the development of Quality Bus Partnerships and other initiatives that will require the sharing of passenger data to gauge their effectiveness. The Transport Act 2000 also imposes a requirement on bus operators to supply more information to local authorities. Baseline data on bus patronage is being collected in line with the Council's Policy Agreement with the National Assembly as a first step to measuring and assessing modal shift.

Bus travel in Wales generally has declined, during the 1990s this amounted to a loss of approximately 23% of passengers. There is no reason to believe that the trends in Denbighshire are different from those nationally.

2.1 Infrastructure

There is a split in responsibilities for infrastructure. The County Council is responsible for bus stops and for the bus station and East Parade coach/bus station in Rhyl. The town and community council are responsible for bus shelters. The bus station in Prestatyn is owned by the County Council, and maintained on its behalf by Prestatyn Town Council.

There are 815 bus stops in the County. In the urban areas all stops are identified by a flag. In the rural areas buses observe signed stops in villages but elsewhere can stop wherever suitable. A new standard H-frame stop has been introduced on the Rhyl - Prestatyn coast road corridor. This incorporates a display panel for fares and timetable information as an integral part of the pole. Currently 75 stops have H-frames. A similar policy of updating bus stop poles and flags with H-frames is being pursued on other bus routes in the County.

The two main bus stations in Rhyl and Prestatyn have both been the subject of recent upgrades. The East Parade bus station in Rhyl is used primarily as a coach excursion set down/pick up point and by local bus services passing by on coast road routes. The previous design of Rhyl bus station was cramped for both buses and pedestrians and required passengers to crossing carriageway areas to reach two of the stances. The operator was experiencing difficulties due to buses being blocked in and damage to vehicles hitting the shelters. The new design has separated passengers from the vehicle circulating area and allocated an area for vehicle layover away from the passenger loading points. A clear wide traffic-free pedestrian route has been provided through the bus station to link it better to the railway station and the High Street. This included the closure of a road that separated the bus station from the railway station. Prestatyn bus station, has also been the subject of a recent upgrade involving the erection of new bus shelters by the County Council and Prestatyn Town Council.

The Taith Regional Transport Strategy recognises three interchanges of regional significance in Denbighshire, these are at Rhyl, Prestatyn and Corwen. In addition, the County Council considers three further locations of local significance as interchanges, Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen.

The desired facilities at the regional interchanges are:

- sheltered areas with good lighting;
- facilities for people with disabilities;
- public telephone;
- adequate, secure parking for cars and motorcycles;
- cycle storage;
- real time passenger information;
- information on services, fares and multi-modal tickets;
- all information available in both Welsh and English;
- attention to the design of all facilities to ensure high standards of personal security and to provide an overall high standard of design;
- toilets;
- staffing, where feasible.

At the local interchanges, which are primarily bus-bus interchanges, the desired facilities are:

- sheltered areas with good lighting;
- facilities for people with disabilities;
- public telephone;
- real time passenger information;
- information on services, fares and multi-modal tickets;
- all information available in both Welsh and English;
- attention to the design of all facilities to ensure high standards of personal security and to provide an overall high standard of design;
- toilets.

2.2 Operational Climate

Bus services in the more urbanised north of the County are operated largely commercially by Arriva Cymru. To the south of the A55 there are two main commercially operated services these are between Denbigh and Rhyl operated by Arriva Cymru, and between Llangollen and Wrexham operated by Bryn Melyn Motors and GHA Coaches. The remaining services in this area are supported financially by the Council.

The number of companies operating local bus services in the County varies, particularly with the award of contracts by Denbighshire and the neighbouring County Councils. The companies operating currently are listed below, together with the routes operated:

<u>Operator</u>	<u>Routes</u>
Arriva Cymru, Rhyl	Throughout the County
Arriva Midlands North, Cannock	Wrexham - Llangollen (evenings and Sundays only)
Bryn Melyn Ltd., Llangollen	Llangollen - Ruthin
	Llangollen - Wrexham
	Llangollen - Glynceiriog
	Llangollen - Pengwern
Cloion Coaches, Clawddnewydd	Cyffylliog/Rhydymedwy - Ruthin
	Ruthin town service
First Crosville, Chester	Chester - Ruthin - Denbigh (Sundays only)
George Edwards & Son, Bwlchgwyn	Eryrys - Wrexham
GHA Coaches, Wrexham	Ruthin - Mold - Chester
	Llangollen - Wrexham
	Denbigh - Nantglyn
	Denbigh - Corwen/Llangollen

Llew Jones
M&H Coaches, Denbigh

Oares Coaches, Brynford
Voel Coaches, Dyserth

Melin y Wig - Llangollen
Wrexham - Llangollen - Barmouth
Pentredwr - Llangollen
Bala - Corwen/Denbigh
Corwen - Llanrwst
Denbigh - Mold
Denbigh - Tremeirchion/Cefn Meiriadog - Rhyl
Denbigh - Nantglyn - Saron
Denbigh - Holywell
Rhyl - Presthaven Sands (summer only)

Service no.	Route	Operator	Commercial or subsidised	Daytime frequency (Monday to Saturday - unless indicated)
X5 555 5 5	Llangollen - Wrexham	Bryn Melyn GHA Coaches Arriva Midland North Arriva Midland North	Commercial Commercial Subsidised Subsidised	Every 30 minutes Every 30 minutes Evenings - hourly Sundays - every 2 hours
B5 X10	Ruthin - Mold Ruthin - Mold (-Chester)	GHA Coaches First Crosville	Subsidised Subsidised	Every 1 -2 hours Sundays - 2 journeys
11/11A	Rhyl - Holywell - Flint - Chester	Arriva Cymru	Commercial (evenings and Sundays - subsidised)	Every hour Evenings and Sundays - every 2 hours
12	Llandudno - Colwyn Bay - Rhyl	Arriva Cymru	Commercial	Every 15 minutes Evenings and Sundays - every 30 minutes
14	Denbigh - Mold	M & H Coaches	Subsidised	Every 2 hours
50-53/151 -2	Rhyl - Denbigh - Corwen - Llangollen	Arriva Cymru (Denbigh - Corwen also Bryn Melyn and GHA Coaches)	Commercial Commercial Subsidised	Rhyl - St Asaph - 3 per hour Rhyl - Denbigh - 2 per hour Denbigh - Corwen - every hour All sections of route - evenings and Sundays - irregular
70	Llanrwst - Betws-y-Coed - Corwen	Llew Jones	Subsidised	2 journeys per day
94	Barmouth - Dolgellau - Bala - Corwen - Llangollen - Wrexham	Arriva Cymru Arriva Cymru GHA Coaches	Subsidised	Monday to Saturday - 8 journeys) Sundays - 4 journeys)

The Taith Regional Transport Strategy has identified strategic bus routes, the details of the services are as follows:

Tender prices for supported services have increased in recent years at a rate in excess of inflation. In financial year 2001/02 the increase in prices was approximately 20%.

A Quality Bus Partnership has been formed with Arriva Cymru for bus services on the Rhyl - Prestatyn coast road corridor.

2.3 Bus Provision for New Developments

All major new developments or redevelopments are examined in respect of encouraging the use of public transport. As a minimum developers will be expected to ensure that the whole development is within 400 metres walking distance of a bus route. Suitable pedestrian routes are to be provided to the nearest bus stops. Bus shelters will be needed where there is none currently, subject to there being sufficient footway width to instal one. Developers will be expected to contact any commercial bus operators to discuss serving the new development. Where there are no adequate bus services the developer may be expected to contribute towards all or part of the cost of a new service.

2.4 Existing Plans for Local Authority and Operator Investment

As part of the LTP the County Council has plans to extend the Quality Bus Partnership approach to other commercially operated services and to improve infrastructure on supported service routes. Council investment on QBP routes will be complemented by operators investment in new vehicles as appropriate. Other operator investment plans are commercially confidential.

2.5 Concessionary Fares Schemes

The County Council introduced a concessionary fares scheme from 1 April 2002 that provides free travel on local bus services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The groups that are entitled to a concessionary pass in line with national guidance are:

- men aged 65 or over;
- women aged 60 or over;
- a person who is blind or partially sighted;
- a person who is profoundly or severely deaf;
- a person who is disabled or with an injury having a substantial and long term adverse impact on ability to walk;
- a person without arms or long term loss of the use of both arms;
- a person with a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning;
- a person who is unable to be granted, if an application was made, a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, pursuant to section 92 of the Act, (physical fitness) otherwise than on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

The Council is party to the Cerdyn Cymru scheme. This allows pass holders to travel free of charge on most local bus services throughout Wales.

The Council in partnership with local bus operators and the Employment Service has also introduced a scheme that offers reduced fares for job seekers. The scheme offers a single fare of 39p during the time spent by job seekers on Gateway for travel to/from training or employment. It is available on Mondays to Fridays for local bus journeys commencing before 18.00 that start or end in the county.

2.6 Unconventional and Voluntary Services

There are three major unconventional transport schemes in the County, these are shared hire car services, Rural Car Schemes and North Denbighshire Dial-a-ride.

Shared hire car services operate on routes where there are insufficient numbers to justify the provision of a conventional bus service. Currently there is one service operating between Rhualt and St Asaph.

The Council works in partnership with the WRVS to provide Rural Car Schemes for elderly and disabled people in areas where there is limited public transport. Six schemes operate in the County at Clawddnewydd, Corwen, Denbigh, Llandegla, Llangollen and Ruthin/Llanarmon-yn-Ial. The schemes are managed by the WRVS, with volunteer drivers using their own vehicles and giving their time free of charge. A mileage rate for use of their private cars is agreed between the Council and the WRVS.

The North Denbighshire Dial-a-ride operates in an area including Rhyl and Prestatyn and stretching as far south as Trefnant. This provides a door-to-door service for people who are physically unable to use conventional public transport.

The latest patronage figures are for the 2000-01 financial year. The numbers of passenger journeys were as follows:

WRVS Rural Car Schemes		
Clawddnewydd		54
Corwen		674
Denbigh	1997	
Llandegla		269
Llangollen		318
Ruthin/Llanarmon-yn-Ial		693
Total		4005
North Denbighshire Dial-a-ride		5284

In addition to these schemes the Council is actively promoting the development of community based transport in partnership with the voluntary sector. Trials were undertaken based on the provision of a

minibus for community use in Llangollen, Ruthin and Prestatyn and opportunities for extending the coverage of the Dial a Ride service are being investigated.

2.7 The Role of Taxis in Public Transport

The Council views the role of taxis in public transport as catering for travel needs at times when there are no bus services operating. At this stage no needs have been identified to encourage taxi sharing on a formal basis. The major issue with taxis is the cost especially when hired by one passenger on their own. There is scope for extending the current system of local bus service fares concessions for senior citizens and people with disabilities to include travel by taxi. The Council will be looking to the National Assembly to provide funding for this to be introduced.

3.0 Vision and Objectives

In outlining the vision and setting objectives for bus travel in Denbighshire account has been taken of the National Assembly's Transport Framework, the EPT Committee's Policy Review of Public Transport, the Taith Draft Regional Bus Strategy and the Council's own Local Transport Plan.

3.1 Background

The Council intends that its Bus Strategy will support the National Assembly for Wales' aims to achieve a better and sustainable transport system as outlined in The Transport Framework for Wales. The strategic aim defined in the Framework is to create a transport system that is:

- more accessible to all people, including people with disabilities, young people and those at a social disadvantage;
- able to provide access and mobility to support commercial activity and facilitate implementation of the economic vision for Wales;
- better integration between different modes, and with land-use planning with care for the environment as a basic principle;
- safer and health promoting;
- more efficient in its use of resources.

With regard to bus travel and public transport generally the Framework includes:

An emphasis on improvements to all forms of public transport to improve its availability and the quality of interchanges by providing:

- links to all major settlements in Wales including from rural areas;
- an attractive alternative to the car;
- a consistent quality;
- operation on a clock face timetable with guaranteed interchange, where appropriate, through ticketing and better information;
- better personal security and comfort;
- better accessibility for disabled people to vehicles and infrastructure;
- innovative solutions to our problems, where appropriate;
- convenient access to timetable information and development of real-time information systems to inform people whether services are on time or not and what road conditions are like;
- the improvements which bus and rail users really need and can afford;
- better integration with taxis and community/voluntary transport.

The Assembly's Environment, Planning and Transport Committee undertook a policy review of public transport and made a number of recommendations. The recommendations concerned with bus travel and involving local authorities were:

- that a quality kite mark be developed as part of the work being undertaken on quality partnerships and contracts, initially covering bus services and extended to include community transport and other modes;
- that the Assembly, local authorities and transport operators should address historic levels of under investment in public transport;

- that the Assembly and local authorities working together with operators, passengers and other stakeholders take forward the following priorities, as funding allows;
- extend the concessionary fare scheme to include community transport and taxis on a limited basis and consider the opportunity to support travel by young people;
- pilot “all mode” information centres across Wales;
- develop interchanges between modes of public transport;
- develop community transport as part of the mainstream of provision;

The Taith Draft Regional Bus Strategy set an overall vision to support the development of a transport system in North Wales that will:

provide for the present and future transport needs of North Wales by promoting transport investment related to land-use planning, economic, environmental, social and accident-reduction objectives.

Taith's aims for bus travel in North Wales are:

- to support a public transport system that meets the needs of all of the region's residents;
- to enhance the quality of bus services within the region;
- to extend the multi-modal infrastructure of the region;
- to support sustainable improvements to the level of commercial and economic activity of the region.

The Denbighshire Local Transport Plan has key strategic objectives which are to:

- improve the quality of life for all residents;
- to be responsive to the need to provide equality of opportunity;
- to work in partnership with all sections of the community to strengthen the economy and enhance the environment.

Objectives for transport in Denbighshire for the period of the Plan and the following 10 to 15 years are:

- to retain and improve the quality of the County's countryside, historic towns and villages;
- to reduce traffic intrusion in town centres and residential areas;
- to support the economic regeneration of the County, in particular, to promote tourism in a sustainable fashion in order to relieve problems of traffic congestion along the coast, and to address problems of accessibility for rural residents and businesses;
- to improve safety on the County's roads;
- to cater for the travel needs of those people without cars;
- to support efforts to relieve social deprivation through improving access to employment opportunities;
- to influence future travel desires through the planning system and by providing alternatives to the private car;
- to promote integration between modes, in particular between cycling and public transport, and between bus and rail.

3.2 The Vision

The County Council's vision for bus travel in Denbighshire is:

to work with the National Assembly, the bus operators, the voluntary sector and through Taith to create high quality bus services that, together with community transport provision, meet the basic accessibility needs of the whole community.

3.3 The Bus Strategy Objectives

The Bus Strategy objectives are:

Service Levels

To maintain a minimum level of service in accordance with defined standards subject to suitable levels of finance being available.

Reliability

To work with the County's bus operators to reduce sources of unreliability on the highway, where feasible, to assist in meeting the reliability requirements laid down by the Traffic Commissioner.

Integration with Other Modes

To seek to achieve seamless travel between all modes of public transport, having particular regard to through ticketing and co-ordinated timetables.

Integration of Education and Social Services Transport

To identify and implement measures to enhance the efficiency of the Council's procurement and delivery of passenger carrying transport services and maximise travel opportunities for the public.

Development and Integration of Community Transport

To work with the voluntary and community sector to meet the basic accessibility needs of the whole community, where these cannot be provided by conventional bus services.

Social Exclusion

To ensure that all members of the community have access to education and job opportunities, as well as health, retail and leisure facilities, irrespective of whether or not a car is available.

Passenger Safety and Security

To improve safety and security to ensure that passengers can then use the system without fear of crime.

Economic Development

To promote the economic development of the County by ensuring that employers can draw on an adequate pool of labour and to guarantee access to enhanced job opportunities for all sectors of the community.

Accessibility

To develop a public transport system that is accessible to all members of the community.

Quality

To provide a good quality bus system that will attract passengers by choice.

Innovation

To promote innovation in bus services to create a contemporary image of the bus in Denbighshire.

4.0 The Strategy

The following strategy outlines how the Council will meet its objectives for bus travel in the County. The elements of the Strategy are:

4.1 Service Levels

The Council will maintain a minimum level of service in accordance with the following standards subject to suitable levels of finance being available. Where a service is not operated commercially the Council will provide financial support for its operation.

1. Shopping/general day time travel

For all settlements having a population of 500 or more - a minimum of one service per day on at least five days per week will be provided.

For all settlements having a population of 200 or more - a minimum of one service per week will be provided.

For settlements with less than 200 population a minimum of a fortnightly shoppers bus service or an alternative form of public transport will be provided.

The bus service will provide a return facility arriving at the nearest town or district centre(s) between 0930 and 1330 allowing a stay of 2 -3 hours and returning between 1130 and 1530.

2. Travel to/from employment

For all settlements having a population of 500 or more - a bus service will be provided operating on Mondays to Fridays, as a minimum, to the nearest town or district centre(s) or major employment centre to arrive between 0745 and 0900 and to return between 1645 and 1800, or in accordance with the employment times of major employers.

3. Evening travel

For all settlements having a population of 1,500 or more - a bus service will be provided to the nearest town or district centre(s) or leisure/entertainment centre arriving after 1800 and providing a return trip after 2100 on at least one day per week, subject to evidence of continuing demand.

4. Sunday and Public Holiday travel

For all settlements having a population of 1,500 or more - a bus service will be provided, subject to evidence of continuing demand.

Any individual bus journey which usually carries four or fewer passengers will not generally be provided, though provision may be made by means of a shared hire car or shared taxi, or other unconventional means of transport. These options will also be considered to provide public transport for areas more than 500 metres from a bus route.

The areas of greatest socio-economic deprivation, Rhyl West/South-West and Denbigh Upper, will be the subject of special review to ensure that bus services cater for the particular travel needs of these areas.

The existing bus service network will be reviewed in the light of the minimum service levels outlined above when the results of the 2001 Census are published, this is anticipated for mid 2003.

4.2 Reliability

The Council has reviewed the options for providing bus priorities. Congestion in the County is not as serious a problem as in major urban centres such as in South Wales. The scope for installing bus lanes is limited but to give buses some priority and to enhance reliability selective vehicle detection is being introduced at traffic signals in the two main urban areas, Rhyl and Prestatyn. The scheme is intended to be fully operational during the course of 2002-03.

4.3 Integration with Other Modes

The Council has promoted integration particularly between bus and train for some years. Through ticketing is available between train services and bus services to Llangollen. Further through ticketing opportunities will be promoted particularly for travel via Rhyl station and the Vale of Clwyd. Negotiations will commence when the new train operating franchise for Wales and the Borders has been announced. Initially the through ticketing will be for travel from train to bus. However, as smart card technology is introduced through ticketing from bus to train will be developed.

The Council will work with the new Wales and Borders train operator to co-ordinate bus and train timetables where there will be benefits in terms of enhanced through travel opportunities.

Key interchanges have been identified at Rhyl, Prestatyn and Corwen (of regional importance) and of local importance at Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen. A major remodelling of Rhyl Bus Station, that is adjacent to Rhyl Railway Station has been completed. A programme of improvements to the interchanges is proposed subject to funding.

4.4 Integration of Education and Social Services Transport

The Council has successfully integrated public transport, education, health and social services transport procurement. As an example, an innovative agreement has been formed involving the Council's Client Services (Social Services) and Highways and Transportation Departments together with the NHS Welsh Ambulance Service and a private sector bus operator. The partnership was formed in January 2002 and makes use of a multi functional accessible minibus. On weekdays the vehicle transports clients to and from a Denbighshire County Council Social Services Day Centre. In between these journeys the vehicle works on behalf of the NHS Welsh Ambulance Service, providing non emergency patient transport services. On Saturdays, the vehicle operates the Park & Ride service in Rhyl, a service previously operated by a conventional step entrance minibus.

Opportunities for integration in this fashion will continue to be developed.

4.5 Development and Integration of Community Transport

There are public transport requirements that cannot be met cost effectively by conventional bus services, usually due to a relatively small number of people wishing to make a particular journey. In such circumstances services have been and will continue to be provided at low cost by the voluntary sector and in close contact with local communities.

The Council considers that such services are already sufficiently well integrated with mainstream public transport. However, it is acknowledged that there remains scope to increase the provision of such services.

4.6 Social Exclusion

The Council will continue to place emphasis on providing access to job opportunities through its work with the Employment Service and major employers, both in terms of identifying the need for changes to bus services to ensure that buses match work start and finish times, and fares initiatives such as the fares concession for job seekers on Gateway.

Leisure travel opportunities of those without access to a car will continue to be promoted through initiatives such as the Clwydian Ranger network of bus services. Regard will be paid to both the times of travel and cost, the latter being addressed through the use of one day ranger tickets.

The Clwydian Ranger network of services operates on Sundays and Bank Holidays and has been developed to offer car-free access to the Clwydian Hills AONB and Mynydd Hiraethog. These consist of summer only services running between:

- Prestatyn, Rhyl, Denbigh, Ruthin and Loggerheads Country Park;
- Wrexham, Llangollen and Loggerheads Country Park;
- Chester, Mold and Loggerheads County Park;

- Prestatyn, Rhyl, Denbigh, Llyn Brenig and Bala.

A low cost day ranger ticket is valid on these routes and existing Sunday bus services. It also offers discounts for key visitor attractions. The network of services is promoted jointly with Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council with support from the Countryside Council for Wales.

4.7 Passenger Safety and Security

The Council aims to improve passenger safety and security through the increased provision of CCTV in town centres. A review of street lighting at bus stops will be undertaken. It is also proposed to investigate options for the provision of bus shelters with solar powered lighting.

The introduction of real time information, subject to funding from the National Assembly, will support others to efforts to improve passenger security by reducing the time passengers need to wait at bus stops.

4.8 Economic Development

The Council is undertaking a study of the public transport needs of employers based at St Asaph Business Park and Glan Clwyd Hospital encompassing both existing travel patterns and the needs arising from development proposals. A primary aim will be to identify the optimum structure of public transport provision for existing and future employment accessing opportunities. The study will also investigate the need for a demand responsive passenger transport system to meet individual travel needs.

The Council works in successful partnership with the Mental Health Care Group Ltd. And Arriva Cymru to improve significantly the delivery of suitable and affordable passenger transport for a key employer in rural Denbighshire enabling it to access a larger labour market. Opportunities will continue to be investigated to extend these benefits with other employers and bus operators.

4.9 Accessibility

The Council intends to improve access to bus services. This is being achieved through the introduction of wheelchair accessible level floor buses either through Quality Bus Partnership agreements with commercial bus operators or using its powers as a tendering authority. All services in the County currently are operated by DPTAC* standard vehicles or those with level wheelchair access.

Work is being undertaken on raising substandard kerb heights at bus stops and installing raised kerbs at bus stops to enable level boarding of buses. on the supported route network. The Corwen-Llangollen and Llanbedr DC-Ruthin-Llandyrnog-Denbigh routes have been treated and similar exercises are intended for forthcoming years. This will complement proposals for similar upgrading on commercial routes through the Council's contribution to QBPs.

For those elderly and disabled people in rural areas who live too far away from a bus service or shared hire car scheme, or are unable to use buses through disability, illness or frailty the Council will continue to provide a social car scheme.

4.10 Quality

Quality Bus Partnerships

QBPs will be formed between commercial bus operators and the County Council with the intention of making improvements which will include:

- reviewing the timing and routing of existing services to provide co-ordinated timetables;
- rationalising and standardising fares;
- progressive movement to the operation of low-floor wheelchair accessible buses;
- co-ordinated publicity and promotion, including more extensive use of at-stop information;

- upgrading of facilities at bus stops, including installing more shelters;
- introduction of priority to buses using selective vehicle detection (SVD) at traffic signals, where necessary;
- introduction of bus stop clearways;
- raising of substandard kerb heights/use of bus stop boarders.

The first QBP has been introduced for the coast road corridor through Rhyl and Prestatyn. Further QBPs are proposed for future years for:

- the A525 corridor between Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Glan Clwyd Hospital, St Asaph and Denbigh;
- the Rhyl town services routes;
- the Rhyl-Rhuddlan-Dyserth-Prestatyn route;
- the Llangollen - Wrexham route.

In the southern half of the County most bus services are operated with financial support from the County Council. As the Council controls this network of routes it is not considered necessary to form QBPs. However, a similar approach is being adopted regarding the upgrading of services, information and infrastructure.

Bus Users Surgeries

The Council, together with Arriva Cymru and the National Federation of Bus Users has introduced bus surgeries as a means of establishing two-way communication with bus and non-bus users. Surgeries have been held for a half day in each of Denbigh and Prestatyn. This approach will be extended to other communities in Denbighshire.

* DPTAC standards have been developed by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in order to improve accessibility for passengers with mobility handicaps. The standards include features such as maximum step heights on buses, seat spacings and provision of handrails within buses.

4.11 Innovation

The Council wishes to introduce innovative technology to bus services in the County in the form of real-time information (RTI) and smartcards.

RTI aims to provide fully updated and accurate information for the bus network. Intending passengers are better able to plan and undertake journeys. The electronic system also creates an image that puts buses on a par with other modes of transport that are commonly perceived to be of higher quality, for example, real time information is in use at all major airports and principal railway stations.

RTI will be introduced initially through the use of displays at bus stops. Following this a telephone-based real-time information system will be developed for individual bus stops.

The introduction of real-time information and the need to provide a system for tracking vehicle location will offer the opportunity for bus operators to introduce real-time control of their services and therefore enhance reliability of operations.

Funding for the implementation of RTI is being sought through Taith bids for National Assembly Transport Grant.

The introduction of smartcards aims to overcome the perception of public transport being expensive because most journeys have to be paid for separately in cash at the point of use. They will also be of considerable value in terms of gathering data about bus passenger journeys.

Smartcards are being introduced from 1 April 2002 for concessionary travel passes for senior citizens and people with disabilities with Transport Grant financial support from the National Assembly. In this

first phase it is intended to concentrate on concessionary travel to ensure more accurate recording of travel and reimbursement to operators as well as gain experience of using smartcards.

It is intended that the validity of smartcards will be extended to cover travel for all bus journeys by the end of 2006. The potential for use for other purposes outside public transport will also be considered.

4.12 Publicity

The Council intends to make significant improvements to public transport publicity in order to increase awareness of public transport. The Council has traditionally published an annual comprehensive timetable and route map incorporating all local bus services, express coach services and train services. It is proposed to make this a twice yearly publication to reflect seasonal and other changes to bus services.

An Internet based journey planner is provided and will be developed further.

Interactive bus enquiry points are to be introduced in town centres throughout the County, the first has been installed outside Llangollen Tourist Information Centre, with subsequent installations made in Rhyl and Prestatyn. It is intended to have similar enquiry points installed in each of the County's major towns by the end of the LTP period, subject to securing suitable locations.

The Council will continue to contribute to the Traveline Cymru all-Wales telephone public transport information service.

The Council's Highways and Transportation Department through its work with the Personal Services Directorate and voluntary groups representing people with visual impairments is extending public transport information services to cater for people with restricted vision through making available timetable and other information in large print and on cassette tapes on request.

5.0 Programme

The programme for capital investment in bus services for the period up to April 2006 covers the following areas:

- upgrades to key interchanges to provide the minimum facilities as outlined in Section 2.1;
- the introduction of QBPs;
- implementation of real-time information;
- introduction of smartcards.

All the investment will require external funding, in particular from the National Assembly through Transport Grant. The programme of upgrades to key interchanges, implementation of real-time information and introduction of smartcards will be co-ordinated through Taith.

The programme for the introduction of QBPs is proposed as follows, subject to funding through the Clwyd Coastal Area Package Bid:

2003 - 04 A525 corridor Rhyl - Rhuddlan - Glan Clwyd Hospital - St Asaph - Denbigh;

2004 - 05 Rhyl town services routes;

2005 - 06 Rhyl - Rhuddlan - Dyserth - Prestatyn route;

No suitable source of funding has yet been identified for implementation of the Llangollen - Wrexham route QBP.

The detailed implementation over the five year period will be formulated following consultation on the Draft Strategy.

6.0 Targets and Monitoring

The Local Transport Plan, which was published in August 2000, contained targets for buses. These are as follows:

- to increase the number of passengers travelling on services subject to Quality Bus Partnerships by 10% over a five year period;
- to double the take-up rate of concessionary fares passes within five years;
- to double the number of timetable display cases at bus stops within a five year period and to ensure that every settlement with a population of 50 inhabitants or more has at least one display;
- to ensure that each of the Council's main settlements has at least one interactive bus enquiry point within the next five years;
- to work with bus operators to ensure that within five years all buses used on local bus services in Denbighshire meet DPTAC standards as a minimum or are wheelchair accessible.

The Transport Framework for Wales has identified indicators to measure the success of the Framework. The indicator that specifically refers to buses is accessibility to bus services or essential services. The Assembly has indicated that it will work with local authorities to develop the indicators. This is welcomed as currently the Council does not possess data that can be used to estimate the number of households living within a certain distance of a bus route.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 5 June 2002

SUBJECT: Diversion Public Footpath No. 15 in the Community of Llanferres

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To authorise the County Clerk to proceed to make an Order under Section 257 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert part of Public Footpath No 15 in the Community of Llanferres shown between points A and B on the attached plan to a different line shown marked between points B to D to C and A as shown on the said plan.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Aberduna Quarry is subject to an extant Planning Permission Code No. 21/1998/709/98/MA granted on 26th April 2002. Before mineral extraction can take place in this area authorised by this permission the footpath needs to be diverted to a new route unaffected by quarrying operations. The owner of the Quarry has applied to divert the footpath as shown on the attached plan and has asked that the application be dealt with as a matter of urgency for operational reasons. The planning permission cannot be implemented unless a Public Path Diversion Order is made because the grant of planning permission does not authorise interference with a public right of way. The diversion put forward has been approved by the Head of Highways and Transportation.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost of making the Order to be borne by the Applicant for the Order

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no direct cost implications from this proposal unless objections are received which are not withdrawn

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The local member Councillor Don Holder, Llanferres Community Council, various public utilities and user groups are currently being consulted about the proposal and the outcome of the consultation will be reported verbally at the above meeting

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet authorises the County Clerk to proceed to make the appropriate Order under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. If objections are received which cannot be resolved, that the Order will be referred back to Cabinet to decide whether or not to submit the Order to the National Assembly for Wales for confirmation.

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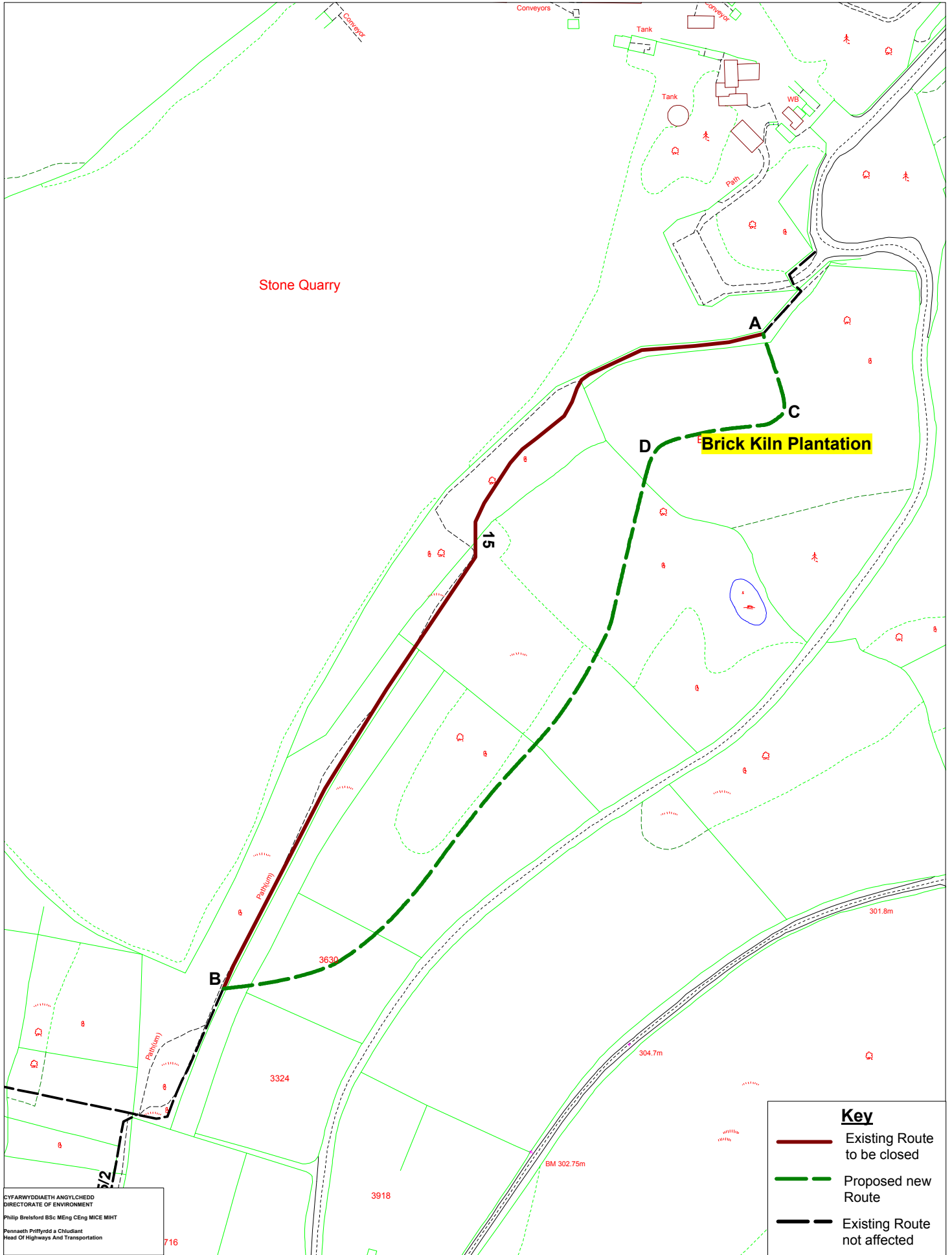
Denbighshire County Council
License LA 09008L 2001

Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 257

Application to divert part of Public Footpath 15 at Aberduna Quarry in the Community of Llanferres



Scale 1:2500



Key	
	Existing Route to be closed
	Proposed new Route
	Existing Route not affected

CYFARWYDDIAETH ANGYLCHEDD
DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT
Philip Brelsford BSc MEng CEng MICE MHRT
Pennaeth Prifffyrdd a Chludiant
Head Of Highways And Transportation

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REPORT TO: CABINET
REPORT AUTHOR : LEADER
DATE : 5 JUNE 2002
SUBJECT : AREA PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS

1 Decision Sought

To agree the creation of 2 additional Area Area Partnership Managers for the Central Area and in the north either at Rhyl or Prestatyn and to agree the additional funding for these posts.

2.Reason for Seeking Decision

2.1 Council has approved the creation of 4 Area Partnerships. Each area partnership will require a dedicated Area Partnership Manager to co-ordinate the Councils service delivery at local level. There are currently 2 Area Partnership Managers in post.

2.2 Given that there are 4 areas with only 2 area partnership managers currently in post, there is a need to appoint an additional 2 managers to bring the team up to full complement. I propose that we should aim to make both appointments from September, and fund this from contingency.

3. Cost Implications

Two posts at PO3 (points 39 -42) £70,500 - £76,200. Cost implications in 2002-2003 are estimated at circa. £36k.

4. Consultation Carried Out

Chairman and Members of the Modernising Panel. The Panel recommended that a minimum of one additional post be created but that the success of this venture requires a comprehensive coverage and therefore the proposal is for 2 officers to reflect the Panel's views.

5. Financial Controller Statement

No specific budget provision exists for this expenditure. The level of funding for 2003/2004 will need to be considered as part of the budget setting exercise during the Autumn together with the spending implications for the current year.

6 Implications On Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

Consistent with the Council's mission to work in partnership with all sections of the community, to strengthen the economy, provide relevant services and enhance the environment and also consistent with the corporate policy on community governance.

7. Recommendation

7.1 Subject to appropriate budgetary provision being available, to phase in the introduction of additional 2 Area Partnership Manager posts as outlined.

CABINET MEMBER: LEADER

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To appoint a Member to represent the County Council on the Welsh Books Council for the three year period 2002 - 2005.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 A request has been received from the Welsh Books Council for the County Council to appoint a Member to represent the Authority for the period 2002 - 2005.

2.2 For Members' information, Denbighshire's current representative on the Welsh Books Council is Councillor M.LI. Davies.

2.3 The role of the Member is to help communicate Denbighshire's Library, Education and Welsh Language Strategies, and to promote within the Council support for Welsh Language resources and provision to support schools and library users.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Approved duty. Denbighshire makes an annual grant of approximately £5,000 to the Welsh Books Council.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no additional financial implications from this proposal.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Councillor Davies has been consulted and is willing to be re-appointed, subject to Cabinet's decision.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The work of the Cabinet has impacts on several strategies as covered in 2.3 above.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That one Member be appointed to represent the County Council on the Welsh Books Council for the three year period 2002 - 2005.

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E W WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: NORTH WALES FIRE AUTHORITY - MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY AND OF ITS COMMITTEES

1. DECISION SOUGHT

To appoint four Members to serve on the North Wales Fire Authority and from amongst that membership to nominate two Members to serve on the Executive Panel and one Member to serve on the Best Value Committee of the North Wales Fire Authority for the year 2002/2003.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 A request has been received from the Clerk to the North Wales Fire Authority for the County Council to appoint four Members to serve on the Fire Authority and from amongst that representation, to nominate two Members to serve on the Executive Panel and one Member to serve on the Best Value Committee of the North Wales Fire Authority for the year 2002/2003. Both appointments to the North Wales Fire Authority and nominations to serve on the Executive Panel are made on an annual basis.

2.2 For Members' information, Denbighshire's current representatives are Councillors M.LI. Davies, N. Hugh-Jones, D. Jones and D.M. Morris with Councillor N. Hugh-Jones appointed to serve on the Best Value Committee and Councillors D. Jones and D.M. Morris appointed to serve on the Executive Panel of the Fire Authority.

2.3 Named substitutes were also appointed as follows -

Fire Authority Representatives -	M.LI. Davies	(M.M. Jones)
	N. Hugh-Jones	(T.M. Parry)
	D. Jones	(W.G. Thomas)
	D.M. Morris	(no name given)

Executive Panel Representatives -	D. Jones	(W.G. Thomas)
	D.M. Morris	(N. Hugh-Jones)

Best Value Committee -	N. Hugh-Jones	(no name given)
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3. COST IMPLICATIONS

Approved duty.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no additional financial implications from this proposal.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

Consultations have taken place with the four current County Council representatives and all are willing to be re-appointed, subject to Cabinet's decision.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING CORPORATE

N/A

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That four County Council representatives be appointed to serve on the North Wales Fire Authority for the year 2002/2003;
- 7.2 That from amongst the County's representatives, two Members be appointed to the Executive Panel and one Member be appointed to the Best Value Committee of the North Wales Fire Authority for the year 2002/2003; and
- 7.3 that named substitutes for the above representatives be appointed if desired.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 5 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: A CONSERVATION AREA ARTICLE 4(2) DIRECTION FOR DENBIGH

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To ask Cabinet to confirm the Article 4(2) Direction for Denbigh Conservation Area.
- 1.2 In accordance with the procedures set down in the Town and Country Planning (General Development) Order 1995, the Article 4(2) Direction must be confirmed by the issuing Authority within 6 months of the date of issue (20 December 2001). The Authority must take account of the public response to the notice.

2. REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 At the Full Council meeting of the 7 December 1999, officers were authorised to prepare and issue an Article 4(2) Direction for the Denbigh Conservation Area. The purpose of the Direction was to withdraw permitted development rights for dwelling houses within the Conservation Area boundary. This was to ensure that work grant aided under the Townscape Heritage Initiative was not subsequently altered inappropriately.
- 2.2 Before issuing the direction the conservation area boundary had to be extended to match the Townscape Heritage Initiative boundary. This was the subject of a report to Full Council on 4 April 2000.
- 2.3 This particular function is not one of the Planning functions reserved to Council by the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements [Functions and Responsibilities] [Wales] Regulations 2001 and hence must be decided by Cabinet.

3. COST IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER'S STATEMENT

- 4.1 There are no current financial implications resulting from the proposal.

5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 The Article 4(2) Direction was issued by placing a notice in the local press on 20 December 2001.
- 5.2 Officers received 5 telephone calls asking for clarification and one letter of support as a result of the notice.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 The Article 4(2) Direction will assist with the implementation of the Housing Renewal Area Scheme in Denbigh.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Cabinet confirms the Article 4(2) Notice without modification.