

## CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Denbigh on Tuesday 16 July 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

## PRESENT

Councillors P.A. Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing; E.C. Edwards, Lead Member for Safeguarding our Communities; M.A. German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment; R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire, D.M. Morris, Lead Member for Communications; J.A. Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion; W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management, and E.W. Williams, Leader and Member for Economic Wellbeing.

Observers: Councillors D. Jones, M.M. Jones and R.E. Jones.

## ALSO PRESENT

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

## APOLOGIES

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader informed Members of the death of Councillor Peter Douglas who had died in the early hours of the morning. The Leader paid tribute to Councillor Douglas' work for both the Authority and the Rhyl area. Members were asked to stand in silent tribute.

The Leader welcomed Janet Barton, a student on work experience in the County Clerk's Department, to the meeting.

## **264. URGENT MATTERS**

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

- (i) Minutes: Joint Arrangements - AONB - Membership update
- (ii) Part II Item 11B Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Organisation - Update

## **265. MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 113)**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 2 July 2002 were submitted.

Item 5 Joint Arrangements: With regard to membership of the AONB, the County Clerk said the following had been nominated by their Groups / expressed an interest: Councillors A.E. Roberts and R.L.I. Williams (Independent Group); G. Jones and S. Drew (Plaid Cymru); D.M. Holder (Conservative) and R.W. Hughes (Non-Aligned).

With regard to the membership requirements in respect of Joint Arrangements with other authorities for Executive Functions, the Chief Executive informed Members that the legislation on such arrangements had not yet been changed and that the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities had not yet commenced the consultation process on possible changes.

**RESOLVED** that Members appoint Councillors A.E. Roberts and R.L.I. Williams (Independent Group); G. Jones and S. Drew (Plaid Cymru); D.M. Holder (Conservative) and R.W. Hughes (Non-Aligned) to the AONB.

Item 4 Denbighshire Mediation: Councillor R.W. Hughes stressed that the Authority had procedures in place for dealing with grant applications and that the existing procedures should be followed by all applicants. Councillor G.M. Kensler said she was not opposed to the granting of funding for the Denbighshire Mediation Service and agreed with the statements expressed by Councillor Hughes.

Item 15 Property Acquisition Strategy - West Parade, Rhyl: Councillor E.C. Edwards asked whether Denbighshire was providing the budget for Rhyl Going Forward and reminded Members of the needs of both rural and urban areas. The Corporate Director: Resources said some budget provision for Rhyl Going Forward had to be included.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 2 July 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

**266. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES (CABINET 2002 - 142)**

Councillor P.A. Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet's consideration of a range of options as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

Councillor W.R. Webb expressed his support for the report and informed Members that the Partnership Council had discussed the matter the previous day. He agreed Denbighshire should move forward with the options but that matters should not be rushed.

**RESOLVED** that Members agree the options recommended for further consideration as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

**267. REVIEW OF CHARGING IN APPROPRIATE CAR PARKS IN DENBIGHSHIRE (CABINET 2002 - 143)**

Councillor M.A. German presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the introduction of charges at various car parks in Denbigh, Llangollen and Ruthin and to confirm the intention, when capital resources allow, to instal CCTV cameras and other improvements at Barker's Well Lane Car Park, Denbigh and to introduce charges at the car park once the improvements had been carried out.

Councillor G.M. Kensler referred to the comment made by Rhyl Town Council that only one level of parking charge should apply throughout the County. Councillor Kensler suggested that parking charges in every town should be considered on merit and that charges should also be linked to traffic management.

Councillor E.C. Edwards referred Members to paragraphs 2.1 and 4.6 of the report and asked that paragraph 8.2 of the Recommendation be deferred as charges at Crispin Yard, Ruthin should not be introduced at this time until details of possible charging at the new car park on Park Road, Ruthin had been explored and discussed with the Local Members, the Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire, the Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment and the Assistant Director: Culture. It was possible that residents would wish to park on the new car park and the issue of parking permits should be considered. Members agreed to defer the introduction of charges at the Crispin Yard, Ruthin car park on that basis.

Councillor P.A. Dobb asked for clarification on the issue of parking permits. The Head of Highways said information on permits and charges for car parking would be the subject of a press statement.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

- (a) approve the introduction of charges in the Post Office Lane (Denbigh), Hall Street (Llangollen), and Troed y Rhiw (Ruthin) car parks;
- (b) approve the introduction of charges at Rhos Street (Ruthin) car park, and
- (c) confirm the intention, when resources are available, to instal CCTV cameras and make other improvements at Barker's Well Lane multi storey car park (Denbigh) and to introduce charges at the car park following those improvements.

**268. DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (CABINET 2002 - 144)**

Councillor M.A. German presented the report seeking authority to seek and appoint members of the public on to the Denbighshire Local Access Forum.

Councillor G.M. Kensler queried whether any wider consultation with Community Councils was possible. The Chief Executive said that whilst not every Community Council was represented on DALC it nonetheless spoke for the majority. It was possible for Community Councils which were not members of DALC to put forward nominations in response to the proposed public advertisement.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

- (a) approval is given to contact those organisations on the list attached to the report to nominate persons for consideration to appointment to the LAF;
- (b) approval to advertise for public candidates to apply to the County for consideration for appointment to the LAF;
- (c) delegate to the Chief Executive the function under regulation 10 of the Countryside Access (Local Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001 No 4002 to appoint the secretary to the LAF;
- (ch) appoint the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development and Environment as the Denbighshire Member to the LAF, and
- (d) delegate to the Cabinet Members for Sustainable Development and Environment and for Promoting Denbighshire jointly power to appoint other members to the forum that satisfy the criteria for selection provided by the regulations and guidance for the formation of a LAF.

**269. HOUSING RENTS AUTHORISATIONS (CABINET 2002 - 145)**

Councillor P.A. Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet authority to delegate the nomination of officers to sign correspondence, issue notices and represent the Council in the County Court upon Council Housing Rents matters pursuant to the Housing Act 1985 to the Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet delegate the nomination for officers to sign correspondence, the issue of notices and representation of the Council in the County Court upon Council Housing Rents matters, pursuant to the Housing Act 1985, to the Chief Executive.

**270. PROPERTY BASED SYSTEMS (CABINET 2002 - 146)**

Councillor D.M. Morris presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the allocation of budget in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 for the acquisition, implementation and maintenance of a number of property based information management systems within a coherent data storage infrastructure.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the overall strategy of the joint procurement;
- (b) agree to review the capital plan to determine projects for the current and next year and submit a revised capital plan to Council for approval, and
- (c) agree the revenue budget implication of £42k in 2003/2004 be considered as part of the next year's budget setting process

**271. POLICY AND PRIORITIES (CABINET 2002 - 147)**

Councillor E.W. Williams presented the report seeking Cabinet consideration of the appendix attached to the report which set out the policy and priorities proposals for the medium term and the 2003/2004 budget round and for recommendation to Council.

Members discussed the document in detail.

Councillor P.A. Dobb suggested: the health partnerships should be included within the last Priority in A; first item in B - the need for European and other funding to be pursued; Priority C, first item on page 3 - the recruitment of more modern apprentices and graduates, ensuring gender equality; Priority D point one be revised to read "prioritise spending in 2003-04 and later years on services ..."

Councillor J A Smith asked for the inclusion of assessment of children in need to be included in the last item within A.

Councillor G.M. Kensler said she supported option 1 for the Authority's mission statement, with the inclusion of "sustainable" in the statement. Councillor Kensler: suggested the second and fourth item within Priority A could be amalgamated. Priority B - removing the capital receipt figure and replacing with "maximise capital receipts". Implementation of single status by 2003/04.

Councillor R.W. Hughes suggested: that a target be included in item 3 of Priority B. Councillor Hughes queried the detail included in priority D whereas earlier priorities were more general but asked that a reference to tourism be included.

Councillor W.R. Webb suggested removing the example in item three of Priority B, and also the figure to be generated within the capital receipts be omitted.

Councillor E.C. Edwards said it was important that Denbighshire staff should be deployed in the right areas of work, that some restructuring could be necessary and the number of agency staff employed should be considered, with agency employment costs of over £1m to the Authority. Councillor W.R. Webb agreed, and said that he had asked for over 12 months for staff in post figures for the Authority but these had still not been provided. Councillor E.C. Edwards suggested working closely with the Authority's partner, the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, to ensure its continued improvement and modernisation.

The Chief Executive commented on some of the points made by Members:-

Capital receipts - £3m was achievable and disposals were required to fund the Authority's other assets.

Tourism - stimulates the local economy by attracting tourists.

Member training - should be retained as development of Members was important to the Authority.

Recruitment of young people - the employee age profile was rising and recruitment issues therefore had to be addressed

Single Status - not an easy task to achieve this by March 2005 but it would be achieved sooner if possible.

Llangollen Eisteddfod - more visible presence required.

The Chief Executive summarised:-

Priority A2 and A4 to be merged.

Priority A3 to include children in need service

Priority B to attract more tourists

Priority D more visible presence at other venues in addition to the Llangollen Eisteddfod.

After further discussion the items above were agreed. It was further agreed by Members to delete the example in B3 - the reference to school places.

After discussion of the Mission Statement, it was agreed to recommend Councillor D.M. Morris' suggestion of a new statement to Council, "Denbighshire: here for you - together, we will deliver".

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet approve the draft proposals attached to the report, as amended above, including a new Mission Statement Option, to read “Denbighshire: here for you - together, we will deliver.”

**272. PRESENTATION BY MAYFIELD ARTS AND MEDIA CONSULTANTS ON THE NEW SCALA FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Members received a presentation by J. Ron Inglis and Sue Todd on the New Scala Feasibility Study. Their brief had been to produce imaginative but realistic proposals to enhance and develop the artistic and cultural facilities provided by the Scala, having regard to alternative development options, the need to establish an artistic / cultural vision for the facility and the likely costs and sources of funding.

Three site options had been considered: the existing site on the High Street, the Library site which would mean relocation of the Library and Offa’s Tavern. All the sites were in Denbighshire County Council ownership. Other sites were not considered viable at this stage. The presentation highlighted the following points detailed in their main report:-

Consultation and Research:-

- Cinema and community arts
- Flexible performance and social facilities
- Entertainment and community resource
- Prestatyn and North Wales
- For local people and visitors
- Education and regeneration of the town centre

Site visits were important to give an idea of comparable facilities in other areas.

Proposals - Development Options:-

- 1 Cinema and small studio theatre
- 2 Shared space for cinema and drama
- 3 Cinema only
- 4 Do nothing

1, 2 and 3 include a meeting room, cafe/bar and a foyer with sales kiosk.

Potential Facilities:-

- Modern standard cinema
- Flexible live performance and activity space
- General purpose meeting room(s)
- Social facilities - cafe and bar
- Education and training facilities
- Fully accessible and safe destination

Benefits of Option 1 at the Scala site:-

- Fits in with the Denbighshire County Council cultural strategy
- New local cultural facilities
- Sustainable combination of facilities
- Complements other regional facilities
- Regenerates a prominent High Street site

Way Forward - Key decisions to be taken by Denbighshire County Council:-

- What should be developed
- Where the venue should be located
- Who owns and operates the venue
- Capital and revenue costs
- How the development might proceed
- Where funding might be obtained

Recommendation - Option 1.

Councillor G.M. Kensler thanked the Consultants for their presentation and informed Members that a paper on the Scala Cinema would be on the Agenda for Cabinet on 30.07.2002.

At this juncture (11.30 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

**273. DENBIGHSHIRE'S INTERNATIONAL LINKS (CABINET 2002 - 148)**

Councillor E.W. Williams presented the report seeking Members' agreement to take steps to establish a more formal relationship with Alto Adige/Südtirol in Italy in the context of international links already developed by Denbighshire.

Councillor R.W. Hughes supported the report and said ECTARC were keen to work with Denbighshire to seek funding for young people to go on exchange visits to Italy. Councillor Hughes suggested a forum was required to discuss established links and progress made. The Leader agreed and said he would provide a report to a future meeting of Cabinet.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree to establish a more formal relationship with Alto Adige/Südtirol in Italy, and that a report on established links and progress made be provided for Cabinet.*

**274. URGENT ITEMS (CABINET 2002 - 149)**

There were no Urgent Items.

**275. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (CABINET 2002 - 150)**

No questions had been received by the closing date.

**276.. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

***RESOLVED** under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

**277. MINUTES OF THE CABINET (CABINET 2002 - 113) - CONTINUED**

Item 13 - Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Organisation: The Corporate Director: Resources updated Members on two meetings he had attended with Councillor W.R. Webb, the Senior Management Accountant and the County Clerk with the other partners and the Board of the Wirral and North Wales Purchasing Organisation.

The partners in the Organisation had agreed to employ separate consulting accountants to review the accounting issues and to see whether a buyer could be found for the business.

It had been agreed that Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council will chair the meetings with Conwy County Borough Council as Deputy Chair. The Wirral would be the lead authority in appointing consultants and terms of reference had been agreed by the authorities' officers.

The Leader said he had written to the Leader of Flintshire as agreed at the last Cabinet meeting and had received a reply.

Councillor W.R. Webb said a vote of no confidence in the Organisation's general management had been carried at the meeting. Councillor R.W. Hughes stressed the need to protect Denbighshire's position and agreed that whilst progress had been made at the meeting, the fundamental issues were not being thoroughly addressed.

The Corporate Director: Resources offered to write to the partners detailing concerns that ongoing issues were not being addressed.

The County Clerk reminded Members that 18 months previously a decision to remain with the Organisation had been taken. However, not all partners had been supportive of criticism of the organisation at that time but Flintshire County Council had an obligation as Lead Authority to the other partners.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the information and agree the Corporate Director: Resources write to the Chief Finance Officers of the other partners to outline the concerns of the Authority.

**278. WAIVER OF GRANT CONDITIONS, LLANGOLLEN GROUP REPAIR SCHEME - PHASE 2/1  
(CABINET 2002 - 151)**

Item withdrawn.

**279. PFI (CABINET 2002 - 152)**

The County Clerk gave a verbal update on the situation and said one or two matters still required resolution. The National Assembly for Wales had also queried one or two matters. A telephone conference was due to be held later in the day where more progress was to be made. Additional reports would be made to County Council on 23 July 2002 to ensure every angle was covered.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

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